



JOINT MILITARY TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Chair:
Major General David J. Mikolaities

Co-Chair:
Dr. Andrew Breuder

Co-Vice-Chair:
SSG Rich Frost

Thursday, March 17, 2021 – 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Meeting Minutes

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| <p>Welcome, introductions, roll call, overview of stated missions and objectives 9:00-9:05</p> | <p>Members: Sheena Bice (SB), Staff Sgt. Frost (RF), Kristen Ferullo (KF), Gen. Dave Mikolaities (DM), Col. Richard Oberman (RO), Rob O’Hannon (ROH), Linda Stone (LS), Nancy Triantafyllou (NT) Non-Members: Courtney Castro (CC), Paul Kiernan (PK), Craig Urquhart (CU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dave Kenney (DK) - sitting in for Paul Lloyd ● Megan Frost (MF) - Care Coordination Program of NH ● Danni Bultemeier (DB) | |
| <p>Agenda Item</p> | <p>Discussion</p> | <p>Action Steps</p> |
| <p>Review/approval of September and December meeting minutes 9:05-9:10</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did not meet quorum for a vote | |
| <p>Reports from other tasks forces 9:10-9:20</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Justice Involved Veterans Task Force - For past few months, gathering data with the VA. Making a lot of efforts toward data collection because that drives decision making process. Group has been meeting since spring of 2016. ● Data Task Force - Is going to have members sit in on other task forces. Staff Sgt. Frost had been working with Mike Rogers BDAS around Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Final question in the past had been “Are you affiliated with the military?” Needed that question on there because there are programs now that are focused on military youth; worked with Mike Rogers to ensure that question remained because there was a chance it would be removed. Mike successfully advocated for the question to remain. ● Prevention Task Force - Has been a strong partner to JMTF, considering the work that JMTF proposes and subsequently providing feedback. | |

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| <p>Receive input from each member on programs and resources as well as trends and needs they are experiencing, especially items that impact our 7 stated objectives</p> <p>9:20-9:30</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KF discussed deployment resources for families (i.e., if kids are having a difficult time with parent/s being deployed, can reach out to KF). Schools are opening up and trying to come up with opening plans for this year. Looks like most schools are looking at being back in-person next year. Families should start thinking about what this means for them. If there are educational needs out there (i.e. special education, or education loss), can reach out to KF for help. ● MF advised that on March 15th, more funding became available for those struggling to pay rent or utilities. Can reach out to community action programs for help with back-rent and utilities. ● DB advised VA has opened up COVID vaccines to every veteran; no longer age-based. ● LS clarified that wherever they get the first vaccine, they have to receive the second vaccine at the same location. In White River, they are trying to schedule the first and second dose as close together as possible to ensure that they are still on-base for the second shot. ● DK has been working with someone who had a problem with a main beam in his home. He found a construction company, but they are struggling with funding. DK noted that in researching funding, he did not see anything to assist with funding for structural issues that come up. The individual had to go to his primary lender and apply for a home equity loan. DK stated that this highlights one of the gaps that still exist in services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KF asked DK to email her because she and Amy Cook are working around this issue. ○ MF acknowledged this gap; not much assistance for home repairs. Has worked with Southern NH Services around weatherization services. However, if there is major structural damage to the home, they can't do weatherization work until damage is repaired. ○ RF discussed Chaplain's Emergency Relief Fund that exists in the National Guard. Suggested talking to someone in the Navy or Marine Corps if those programs don't exist in those branches. ● ROH - have been distributing Naloxone kits. Have about six cases (12 boxes to each case; each box has two doses of Naloxone). Would like to get these out as soon as | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Megan Frost will send the email to Staff Sgt. Frost about additional funds for rent/utilities ● Danni will send a note about veteran vaccines to Paul K. ● Rob O'Hannon will email Staff Sgt. Frost about possible Naloxone kit distribution at Drug Take Back Day |
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| | <p>possible because they expire in November 2021. If anyone would like them, email ROH, Robert.ohannon@dhhs.nh.gov. There are a limited number of kits, but if Rob cannot fulfill someone's request, he will give info for the nearest Doorway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RF - Drug Take Back Day is coming up. RF requested ROH email him about the Naloxone kits in case they are interested in distributing at that event. | |
| <p>Lived Experience survey status 9:30-9:35</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governor's Commission issued strategic plan with the help of JSI in 2018. That plan is being updated. GC was adamant they wanted to gather info on lived experience to inform the next round of the strategic plan. ● JSI requested input for a lived experience survey from each task force. This is anecdotal input that will be aggregated to a single report. \$500 to help implement the survey. ● JMTF's response was to work with service providers to speak on behalf of their clients vs. going directly to the individuals because JMTF doesn't have the capacity to ensure confidentiality. ● SB asked whether broad answers from providers will supply the information the survey is looking for. RF advised that broad answers can provide insight on trends. ● NT would like to see JMTF focus more on the Unit Risk Inventories (URIs) data to help inform task force decisions. RF agreed this could be a great source of data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will need to talk with a different unit to get URI information/data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff Sgt. Frost will work with appropriate department to access URI data |
| <p>Purple Star - discussion of all recommendations that have been approved thus far 9:35-9:40</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DM - Biggest thing going forward is consolidating data to update the 2020 fact sheet for 2021, because it drives funding initiatives. JMTF is driven by three things: Service members, veterans, and their families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Military families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Purple Star Program. RF was just notified the Purple Star program has been approved for two years instead of one. ▪ Received a grant to provide daycare for 70% of the force at select locations so service members have daycare on drill weekends. ▪ RF will send out an email update on Purple Star. ○ Veterans - Ask the Question Campaign, did for two years ○ Service Members - Received a quarter million to go after service member health and wellness. DM suggested that when we are back in-person, they | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nancy, Rob O'Hannon, and Staff Sgt. Frost will meet separately to discuss funding for substance use treatment ● Staff Sgt. Frost will send out email update on Purple Star when he has more details |

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| | <p>provide a tour of where Col. Oberman sits so everyone can see the resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DM requested input from everyone so that they know what is needed to support service members and veterans. Gaining funding/resources is not the challenge; knowing where to apply the resources is the challenge. If people have recommendations, reach out to Staff Sgt. Frost. ● DK asked if the childcare funding is now built into the budget. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Separate from the annual budget. A one-year pilot that was just re-approved for another year. Initially proposed as multi-year programs; approved for three total years, but has to go back to Governor and Council each year. | |
| <p>Update on master list for current member initiatives 9:40-9:50</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Did not discuss agenda item | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● |
| <p>Update on funding recommendations 9:50-10:20</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NT suggested asking for funding to cover substance use treatment costs (e.g., copays, outpatient, inpatient). This would help provide treatment options for those covered by TriCare. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ROH - Access to Recovery was a federally funded grant from 2015 to 2017. Concept was making services available for those who wanted to get into recovery but struggled. Designed to help individuals design their own treatment. Encouraged people who were looking for help to keep coming back. Worked on a voucher system. ○ NT, ROH, and RF will set up a time to have another conversation about this. ○ Paul mentioned Block Grants. NT noted that individuals with no insurance or low insurance reimbursement rates are given the lowest priority. ● | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● |
| <p>Update on 2021 goals - a focus on service member initiatives</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New fiscal year starts 7/1/21, so need to update goals for new FY. ● Suggested updates: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● |

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| <p>10:20-10:50</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Servicemen and Women Increase the availability of Wellness programs and services available to servicemen and women state-wide to include all dimensions of wellness. o Promote and advocate for services to support servicemen and women’s basic needs and prevent onset or continuance of behavioral issues (housing, financial counseling, employment services, etc.) o Families Promote, advocate for, and support community services that provide protective factors for youth impacted by military service in their families. o Provide support and services for military spouses or partners during times of need such as deployments, training periods, etc. o Veterans Promote and advocate for increased access to treatment services that help veterans address their substance use concerns. o Increase access to recovery support services for veterans and help address common obstacles that hinder long-term recovery. ● LS said that financial education should be provided to all target populations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o NT Chaplain has approved funding for financial education. o MF advised that financial counseling programs are available through her agency to all service members and their families. ● RF advised that even if services already exist for these goals, they should still focus on disseminating the information about them. Information dissemination can be a barrier to program utilization. RF suggested having a conversation in the future about how these programs are promoted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o KF talked with Amy Cook about having a cohesive book of resources for families, providers, those who work with families, so that all of the information was collected in one place. KF suggested having the conversation together so that they can divide and conquer this task. o SB brought up the challenges with dissemination of information for the North Country. ● SB asked how can we better support service women specifically? Sub-goal is to figure out how to specifically support women who are actively serving and veterans. ● DB discussed the wellness program at the VA and needs for veterans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Have been building the wellness program slowly. Has been helpful for veterans who have been struggling with recovery from substance use disorders. | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Regarding substance use and homelessness, discussed the need for shelters that allow companion animals (where the individual may not meet all the criteria for a service animal). o Not enough transitional housing for veterans. o Need assisted living options for veterans. o Need options in each region so there is a centralized location where veterans can go for a sense of community and housing options (i.e., very few options in the North Country). ● RF/DM asked for feedback on these goals within the next two weeks. RF will then create an updated draft and circulate to the JMTF. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A vote is not necessary to accept a final version. Group agreed to accept a final version without a vote after a period of feedback/conversation. ● RF said he would like to reach out to the Partnership. ● JSI will send a fact sheet out to the group members that are not here and solicit feedback. PK urged committee members to keep these conversations going offline. | |
| <p>New business or discussion 10:50-11:00</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ROH shared a resource on a resiliency study by CIGNA https://cignaresilience.com/. Study found that resiliency is decreasing especially between 18-23 year olds as a result of isolation during COVID. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agenda item for June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Discuss dissemination of information, how programs and resources are promoted |

Next Meeting: June 17, 2021

Call-In Information: