**ND Cares Coalition Meeting Minutes**

**September 5, 2024**

Chair Shelly Sizer opened the meeting at 1:00 PM, CST. There were 14 people in attendance.

May Anderson from Protection and Advocacy reported they were really focused in on assistive technology outreach to individuals and doing voter training. In addition to working with children who may have difficulty in the education system they are also working on making sure people in the criminal justice system have access to mental health treatment while providing education for people in the community.

Senator Dick Dever mentioned the legislature is resurrecting the Veterans Caucus and reported that the AMVET hosted the very successful Stand Down. Over 100 attended to visit between 35-40 tables of resources. Quilts of Valor is looking for nominations from the community of veteran who could use a quilt. There is no requirement other than being a veteran, you don't have to have served in combat to receive a quilt.

Summer Hanson from the VA reported on the VA’s work to outreach to Post 911 veterans contacting around 75 new post 911 veterans every month and processing an influx of military treatment facility transfers including a case of a veteran and her veteran son who needed treatment. The VA was able to get him into dual mental health/substance abuse treatment in St. Cloud. Summer also reported that the VA currently has 50 veterans on active case management.

Jeffery Diemert from Legal Services of North Dakota reported that he assisted 20 veterans so far and currently has 14 open cases. One success story he relayed was of a veteran receiving an eviction notice that applied to her roommate and not to her. The veterans paid the roommate, but the roommate was not paying the landlord. Jeff was able to put in a notice of appearance on the case and speak with the attorney representing the landlord, and we were able to come to an agreement that allowed for her not to be included on the eviction. So, she didn't have that on the record, and we were able to find her housing immediately after.

Marian Jordan of Military OneSource reported that she is working with Social Service of Minnesota, on their new grant called the Rural Aging Action Network primarily for individuals older 55 plus including veterans to help them get connect to services. She is interested in attending more events to provide resources and speaking engagements. Michelle Panos offered to help Marian participate an any events that are on the agenda or any in the future.

Kelli Weiand of Military Outreach reported that tomorrow she and Cindy Whitesell will present Minot YMCA with an ND Cares Business Partner certificate. She will have a resource table a the Out of the Darkness walk in Minot on Sunday and is participating in the Oil & Gas Mental Heath Summit in Watford City on the 17th. She will also have a resource table at showing of the Ripple Effect in Minot, Kenmare and Crosby. The Together with Veterans suicide prevention summit will happen on the 30th.

Cindy Whitesell reported that she manned the ND Cares table at the North Dakota State Fair outside the military affairs beef luncheon sponsored by the North Dakota Beef Association. She the new base leadership at the Beef Association luncheon and made a strong connection with them as all the new command has turned over now.

LTC Ann Willoughby reported that the North Dakota Nation Guard suicide prevention staff will also be represented at the oil and gas mental health event in Watford City. The professional development topic for the Guard will be suicide prevention. At the armory in Bismarck, they will show a film called Moving America’s Soul on Suicide on the 30th. She also reported that the referrals to the Army’s substance abuse program are lower than last year which is good news. The Father/Daughter will be in Bismarck at the Heritage Center on Saturday. There are record attendees scheduled. There is one on Sept. 21st in Fargo and one will be planned of next year in Devil’s Lake. They are making plans for Halloween events around the state as well as Christmas events. We have family service centers in Bismarck, Minot Devils, Lake, Grand Forks and Fargo are meeting with the officers in charge and Military Affairs committees. She would like to get the Bismarck Military Affairs Committee going again. There will be Yellow Ribbon events for the 142nd Engineer Battalion and for Bravo Battery of the 188th who just came back from overseas. Please like the SMFS and Youth Facebook pages and look for events where the community can partner.

Todd Remington of the Bismarck Vet Center reported that Dr. Schmidtgall and Miss Hofert are no longer with the Vet Center and position announcements closed on the 26th. They will be participating at the pow wow at United Tribes Technical Center or Technical College in Bismarck. He provided resources at the Sturgis Bike rally where they brought 3 mobile vet units. There was a 102-year-old WWII vet who they helped get into a veterans’ home in Ohio. Wreaths Across America is December 14th.

Pam Sagness with ND Dep. Of Health and Human Services reported that the Behavioral Health and Children and Family Services Conference is coming up the week of the 16th of September. They are also working on their budget as well as continuing to work on the Human Service Centers becoming Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers. Minot has been identified as the first one and the Fargo region has submitted a request to be considered the 2nd. They want to make sure that the front door is welcoming and children and Family Services, veteran services, all of that will be part of that work. Each HSC is undergoing a self-assessment to see what service it would provide, and which will be provided by community partners. Each will we slightly difference. She also reported that for the first time in several years, there is a decrease in both our suicides and overdoses so nice to see those outcomes after many years of strategies and implementing work.

Michelle Panos reported that there are still 58 business partners but talked about the upcoming presentations for the University or Jamestown, Legal Services of North Dakota (LSND) and tomorrow’s presentation for Minot YMCA. Under the Broadcasters Association contract, we added a radio spot for LSND working on a TV spot. Additional spots will go out for the stand down in Minot and for the TWV Suicide Prevention conference. For the Governors Challenge update Michelle reported that Tammy Monsebroten and Kora Dockter will be speaking at the upcoming Hospital Association Conference, ND Cares will have a table of military culture resources at the Bakken Oil & Gas Suicide Prevention Conference and at the Behavioral Health Conference. We are working on a short video asking providers to consider joining the TRICARE healthcare system. In the area of lethal mean safety, we have a new Myths & Facts document about mental health and firearms. Michelle also talked about updating the ND Military Data Book in time for the legislative session.

The next Coalition Meeting is December 5, and the next Executive Committee Meeting is October 3.

The meeting ended 1:44 PM.