

Carroll County Veterans Coalition Meeting Minutes

12.19.2023

1. Introductions

Jen Thomas	C3PH- Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator
Emily McArdle	C3PH- Young Adult Outreach (taking meeting minutes)
Gary Bent	Veterans Case Worker for ServiceLink
Mark Allen	Commander of Ossipee VFW
Jennifer Walton	Navy and Corpsman Veteran
Yanitza	Clear Path for Veterans New England
Selwa Yatim-Badra	MSW, CSAC, National Veterans Services Coordinator at Summit Behavioral Health, Tactile Recovery Program

2. Activity

- a. Draw, write or say what gives you confidence.

3. What do you want to focus on in the next couple of months?

- a. Consensus to work on current projects before adding more.
- b. Collaborate with other Veterans Coalitions around the state, especially the Lakes Region Veterans Coalition and those bordering Carroll County (and in the Fryeburg/Kezar Falls/Cornish areas of Maine). The Lakes Region is the most established coalition (they recently went to a nationwide veterans coalition conference in CO). They're trying to create one main website for the coalitions with tabs for each county and trying to expand and get more/new veterans involved in their events. Could collaborate with them for events. Could also create a state-wide event for all the Veterans Coalitions in NH.

4. Updates

- a. Mark and Jen W.- Participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony with the Daughters of the American Revolution in Wolfeboro, found a female WWI grave in Ossipee to lay a wreath. Hosted the Ossipee VFW Christmas Raffle.
- b. Gary- A couple of new veterans are participating in the Veteran Directed Care Program through Service Link and the VA to help keep veterans in their homes with their family for as long as possible. Did a charity event with Delta Dog to

help get more service dogs for young veterans. Reminder to thank active-duty service members who are home for the holidays.

- c. Selwa- First NH veteran from Manchester is participating in the Tactile Recovery Program (flew to Arizona and then will participate in their partial hospitalization program, which they offer housing for). If you know of any veterans that are struggling at this time of year, reach out to her: Selwa.yatim-badra@summitbhc.com. The VA covers treatment costs and Summit Behavioral Health/Tactile Recovery Program covers transportation, so veterans don't have to pay anything out of pocket.
- d. Yanitza- Clear Path for Veterans New England is based out of Fort Devens MA. Their Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) grant covers all of NH and is for homeless or at-risk homeless veterans to help them get back to work (help with resume, attire for interviews, interview role-play, etc.).
- e. Logo Contest

- i. Winner – Bekah Peterson



- ii.
 - iii. Will use that logo from now on and will put it on merchandise for the online store to collect funding.
 - iv. Barn Door Screen Printing could also help make the logo or create other merchandise if needed.
- f. Veteran Coalition Leaders Meeting
 - i. Working on building state-wide website
- g. Funding
 - i. Merchandise Store
 - ii. S.W.A.M. Grants
- h. Website

- i. Collaboration with other veteran groups
 - ii. Our own website- Planning on being able to update it quickly with activities in the area that come up with a calendar/event list.
 - iii. Received second part of our grant- Could use grant to create a newspaper ad with events.
 - 1. Mark- Conway Daily Sun charged “church rate” of \$63 a day for a quarter page black and white ad.
 - 2. Other papers: Granite State News in Wolfeboro, Laconia Daily Sun, and The Weirs Times.
- i. Resource list
 - i. Thoughts or edits? Will update it with Mark’s edits.
- j. Continued reach out:
 - i. S.W.A.M
 - 1. Hoping to involve them in our meeting or collaborate with them for some type of activity around here.
 - ii. Boy Scouts
 - 1. Hoping to collaborate with them. Mark and Jen W. will reach out (already do Flag Retirement Ceremony with the Girl Scouts and are working on involving the Boy Scouts).
 - iii. Kingswood Youth Center- Always up for doing activities. Jen T. will give the logo contest winner the gift card, Gary will also do pizza party for them for participating in logo contest.
 - iv. Adult Day Center
 - 1. Lots of veterans attend the Adult Day Center and may be interested in being involved with the coalition- Beth, the Engagement Coordinator, will keep them up to date.
 - 2. Adult Day Center has a great facility that can be used off-hours for parties or conferences for free.
- k. Larry B at Legion, meeting
 - i. Suicide prevention planning for the area- Larry is working on a flyer and garnering interest, Jen T. will get more info.

- l. Connect to other youth programs?
 - i. Big Brothers and Big Sisters- Trying to connect veterans to kids, if you know anyone that wants to volunteer, let Jen T. know (jennifer.thomas@graniteuw.org). Volunteering doesn't have to be a big commitment and doesn't cost anything.
 - m. Importance of raising awareness with schools on military families
 - i. Mental health
 - ii. Finances
 - iii. Schedules
 - iv. Looking to see what schools do- What do they know about working with kids who have family members that are active-duty, in the Reserves, National Guard, or are veterans? Do schools ask the question?
 - n. Talk to providers about asking the question and what they know/do to support veterans. Mark is interested in helping/reaching out to providers too, Jen T. is hoping to start reaching out in January.
5. Planning
- a. Contact The Summit Project about bringing the Memorial Case to Carroll County.
 - i. Potential locations- Settlers Green, North Conway Community Center, New England Ski Museum, or North Conway Grand Hotel.
 - ii. Could also have Memorial Case for the one-day event activity in March.
 - iii. Contact info for Greg at The Summit Project: greg@thesummitproject.org
 - b. Spring activity
 - i. Event ideas:
 1. Host an informational breakfast.
 2. Big fair at Schouler Park (consider whether the facilities are accessible) or MWV Adult Day Center (free) with tents and resources, Gary could get a Black Hawk helicopter to come and may be able to help with food trucks.
 3. Other potential locations/partners: Burnt Timber Brewery in Wolfeboro, Makers Mill, or the Tamworth Distillery.

- ii. Could have providers do short presentations about what they do and where to find them for more info, have resource tables set up.
 - iii. Invite VFW, American Legion, Swim with A Mission, Delta Dog, Easter Seals Veterans Count, The Summit Project, and Lakes Region Veterans Coalition.
 - iv. Consensus to do event in March.
 - v. Could make the event into a fundraiser and do a raffle or 50/50 raffle. Jen T. will check with Caleb about fundraising.
 - c. Partnering with businesses/providers
 - i. Goals:
 - 1. To increase awareness of challenges of veterans/military families.
 - 2. Make connections/network.
 - 3. Improve level of knowledge on resources/referrals and military culture.
 - d. Suicide prevention training?
 - i. QPR Training- Can be geared towards veterans/military families, 2–3-hour training for acute intervention.
 - ii. Mark, Jen W., and Gary are interested.
 - e. CALM training?
- 6. Resources
 - a. Adult Day Center
 - i. Beth Hennessy - ehennessy@mwwadulthoodcenter.org
 - b. PsychArmor
 - i. [Psycharmor](#)
 - c. Apprenticeships
 - i. [Earn As You Learn, Hire Skilled Workers | ApprenticeshipNH](#)
 - 1. Chris Lalmond - clalmond@ccsnh.edu
 - d. Adult Education
 - i. Crystal Sawyer - csawyer@nhadulthood.org
 - e. Clear Path
 - i. [Clear Path for Veterans | You Found Your Place \(clearpath4vets.com\)](#)

7. Activities – any that you know of, new or old?
 - a. Ongoing
 - b. Pop-up
8. Close
 - a. Thank you.
 - b. Next Meeting
 - i. January 23, 2024, at 1000 hrs.