



Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022

Time Scheduled: 4:00 p.m. **Started:** 4:03 P.M. **Ended:** 5:17 P.M.

Location: Osceola County Sheriff's Office Complex
2601 E. Irlo Bronson Memorial Highway
Kissimmee, FL 34744
Training Rooms: B & C

Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance: Chaplain Mary McNutt

Invocation: Chaplain Mary McNutt

1. INTRODUCTION:

2. CALL TO ORDER:

A. Vice Chairman Nicholas Amen called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

3. ROLL CALL: Completed by: Deputy Benjamin Coleson

Committee Members Present:

Ms. Rosemarie Morales, Mr. Armando Perez, Mr. Nick Amen, Mr. Gary Spear, Dr. Lewayne Johnson

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. Bill Mangan, Mr. Hector Rodriguez

Speakers and Presenters:

Dr. Kara Boyer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Deputy Coleson asked the board to approve the minutes from the May 4th and May 24th meetings. The board approved the minutes unanimously.

5. WE SALUTE YOU:

A. Deputy Coleson and Sheriff Marcos Lopez presented We Salute You Honoree, Carlos Martinez, with a certificate.

1. Carlos Martinez is a retired Army veteran with 23 years of service in the Intelligence field. He continues to give back to his community and supports all military and first responders as a continuation of his military service

6. HOUSEKEEPING:

- A. Deputy Coleson asked the board to discuss rescheduling the August 30th meeting. Dr. Johnson made a motion to schedule the meeting for August 25th. All the board members favored the motion and agreed to the August 25th date.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Deputy Coleson turned the floor over to Dr. Boyer, Deputy Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health Services at the Orlando VA, Lake Nona, to speak about services offered at the VA:
1. Primary Care Mental Health Integration Team- Can talk to someone in mental health with their primary care provider. Can be served by primary care provider if their needs are minimal.
 2. Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program (BHIP)- Team comprised of psychiatrists, clinicians, nurses, social workers, and pharmacists who work together to serve patients.
 3. Can transition from BHIP to specialized services such as Psychosocial Recovery Centers, Day programs, and Intensive Outpatient Group Therapy for veterans with PTSD, BPD, etc.
 4. TRUST- Program for veterans with PTSD. Consists of Individual and group therapy and Evidence based practices such as Cognitive Processing Therapy, EMDR, and Prolonged Exposure Therapy specific to PTSD.
 5. Virtual Intensive Outpatient Program for veterans with PTSD. There is one other in the nation.
 6. Only VA in Florida with full eating disorder program. Veterans have a diverse population with eating disorders.
 7. Substance use programs- Outpatient clinic and virtual program.
 8. Mental Health Intensive Care Management (ICMR)- Patients are seen in their home. Promotes community engagement.
 9. Domiciliary Care- Comprised of group and individual therapy and case management. Veterans can be connected to VSOs, housing programs and other resources. Low barrier program that treats all conditions and does not have a specific timeline.
 10. Acute psychiatry Inpatient Unit- 40 beds. Voluntary and involuntary commitment. Typical stay spans 3-7 days. Now admitting detox from alcohol.
 11. Only VA in nation to develop At Risk Monitoring and Outreach (ARMOR)- Comprised of many programs such as REACH VET to monitor veteran's wellbeing. Suicide Prevention Team monitors veterans on high-risk list. Veterans who are engaged in mental health care are shown to have lower rate of suicide. Guardian team available for all providers if they have veteran at risk. Post Discharge Engagement Team monitors veterans who have been admitted to VA and community veterans. Shared medical appointment where nurse, psychiatrist, pharmacist, etc. all meet at once.
 12. Lisa Heard asked Dr. Boyers if individuals need to be enrolled to be seen. Dr. Boyers answered yes, they need to be enrolled. They will check their DD214. Once enrolled they can be seen. The VA offers same day services.
 13. Dr. Johnson asked how homeless veterans find out about services. Dr. Boyers advised they do counts where they go into community, and they can be enrolled while out in the field. Dr. Johnson asked who he can contact to partner with. Dr. Boyers advised she can be contacted.
 14. Chaplain McNutt asked if the VA was aware of the Veteran's Standdown Event held by the Mercy Foundation and asked how to get information out. Dr. Boyers advised she can give points of contacts who can attend. Chaplain McNutt asked if they have similar events at the

VA. Vice Chairman Amen advised the VA has put together a resource list that can be accessed via QR code.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Vice Chairman Amen revisited attending Veteran's Court hearings. He advised that he would look into whether the board will be able to attend hearings at the VA due to privacy issues.
- B. Deputy Coleson advised he has provided the board with Veteran's Court hearing dates.
- C. Vice Chairman Amen revisited planning a Veteran's Standdown event.
 - 1. Dr. Johnson advised the Mercy Foundation is not planning one, however St. Cloud will hold one on Veteran's Day. Mercy Foundation will be holding one next year. He advised that they did not have a good turn out with veterans, however they had a good turn out with vendors.
 - 2. Vice Chairman Amen discussed whether they should form a subcommittee of 3-4 members or should the entire board get an agenda together and gather resources for the event.
 - 3. Dr. Johnson advised the ideal avenue would be a small team comprised of 3-4 individuals to do the planning and bring ideas to board to decide how to move forward.
 - 4. Vice Chairman Amen asked if they will be able to this due to Sunshine Law. Sergeant Nicholson answered no, it must be discussed in a public forum.
 - 5. Ms. Morales advised it would be better to piggyback off St. Cloud and see what they have
 - 6. Vice Chairman Amen advised he will work with the VA.
 - 7. Dr. Johnson suggested they partner with St. Cloud.
 - 8. Deputy Coleson advised the Sheriff's Office will be holding a Veteran's Day event. They can combine the two.
 - 9. Dr. Johnson advised St. Cloud will hold theirs on Veteran's Day and asked if the Sheriff's Office event will be on the same day. Deputy Coleson advised it will be held on the same day.
 - 10. Vice Chairman Amen asked if all veterans are welcome to the Sheriff's Office event. Deputy Coleson advised they are going through the invitation process.
 - 11. Dr. Johnson asked what time St. Cloud's event is. An audience member advised 10:00 A.M.
 - 12. Dr. Johnson advised they can have a tent at both events. Sergeant Nicholson advised the VICTOR board may be at the Saint Cloud event. They can gather resources and have other people outside of the board facilitate due to Sunshine Law.
 - 13. Dr. Johnson advised he will talk to community organizer at St. Cloud to see what part they can play. And they can also maintain the Sheriff's Office event.
 - 14. Sergeant Nicholson advised that it shows online St. Cloud's event will be held November 10th.
- D. Vice Chairman Amen discussed board members visiting local businesses for support. Deputy Coleson advised they have been provided with a copy of the 501c3.
 - 1. Vice Chairman asked for clarification about the topic since he was absent last meeting. Ms. Morales advised the board visiting business to put together funds for community.
 - 2. Vice Chairman Amen asked if there was any more talk about printing flyers to advertise VICTOR. Deputy Coleson advised they can provide the board with a letterhead of the Sheriff's support to ask businesses for donations. Sergeant Nicholson advised they can make flyers as well. Vice Chairman Amen asked if the board could have a draft of the letterhead by next meeting. They can write in name of business. Sergeant Nicholson said yes, and they can put the VICTOR logo at the top.

- E. Vice Chairman Amen advised he will work on getting more faculty from the VA lined up to speak at future meetings.
- F. Vice Chairman Amen revisited working on promotional ideas for VICTOR. Ms. Morales advised they needed to choose a color for their polo shirts and designing a flyer. Vice Chairman Amen asked for a motion to decide a polo shirt color. Ms. Morales motioned for sheriff green. All the board members were in favor.
 - 1. Vice Chairman Amen discussed what pants they will wear. Ms. Morales made a motion for tan khakis. Mr. Spear seconded. The board favored the motion.
 - 2. Deputy Coleson advised they must draft a memo for the Sheriff's approval.
- G. Dr. Johnson arranged a video presentation of his interview from Spectrum News 13 on Why it is important to honor veterans on the 4th of July.
- H. Dr. Johnson advised he works with the VA, VFW, and American Legion to identify veterans in need of help. He advised he just referred someone to transition house.
- I. Vice Chairman Amen advised the female homeless veteran population is under reported. They do not want to ask for help in fear of their children being taken away. Dr. Johnson advised he spoke with Congressman Soto last week about their issue. The Congressman is in process of drafting a deal to prohibit DCFS from taking away children under these circumstances.
- J. Vice Chairman Amen opened discussion for the New Business topics on the agenda.
- K. Hometown Heroes Banner Project recognizes veterans and first responders past and present. The city displays banners honoring them. Chairman Nick Amen asked if they have contact info. Deputy Coleson advised he would look into it. The board had no further comment.
- L. Vice Chairman Amen read "Central FL Veterans in Desperate Need of Mental Health Treatment" by Darlene Jones. The board had no discussion.
- M. Dr. Boyer advised the VA opened the Suicide Prevention Grand Challenge.
- N. Valor Medical Service Dogs provides all medical service dogs free of charge. The board had no discussion.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- A. Daryl Bass advised he wanted to speak about the American Legion and VFW. He retired from the Sheriff's Office in 2011 and served in Vietnam. He advised the VFW is the oldest veteran service organization in the world, and operates throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and in six countries.

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Mr. Spear asked if the board may receive a copy of the draft of the Sheriff's support prior to the next meeting. Deputy Coleson advised he can send them a draft and they can discuss it at the following meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 P.M.

12. NEXT MEETING:

- A. Tuesday, July 26, 2022

Hector Rodriguez

OCSO Staff Member

Chairman