

Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force Meeting

Minutes/Notes of April 11, 2018

OPENING: The meeting of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force was called to order at 9:15 am on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at the Newburgh Unity Center, Newburgh, NY by Larry Neumann. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Larry Neumann welcomed all present.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission statement was recited by Larry Neumann.

The mission of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force is to address the needs of those who served by having relevant agencies meet collectively, regularly and cooperatively, to ensure the timely administration of services and referrals in order to achieve an end to Veteran homelessness and meet their immediate and long term needs.

PRESENT: Many veteran and human service agencies of Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties were represented. The guests/presenters are listed below. There were a total of 44 in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS, Opening Remarks and Review of last month's meeting:

Welcome from Russ and _____. 550 kids registered for Saturday classes. Classes offered range from literacy to technology. Their mission is to show a path to employment. We were invited to stop by any Saturday and see the bedlam. Kids accompanied by parents each Saturday. He offered a tour after meeting.

Roundtable Introductions

GUEST SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS

Angela Jo Henze: Suicide Prevention "You Be the One" (#BeThe1Too) - Veteran Victory Center, Newburgh - PowerPoint Presentation - Member of the Orange County Suicide Prevention Task Force. A new initiative to look at the newest population they are worried about, white middle aged males. Currently there are many other groups being served. Geriatric services for older adults in Orange County. MHA has text for teens and other programs for the young.

For white middle aged men, a common theme is hopelessness. Not even one person acknowledges them. Time is 3am and 3pm. Look at some barriers and ways to prevention. 19% suicide rate. Use alcohol to cope. Not all males went to substance abuse. It was more the isolation. The process: feeling hopelessness to suicide thoughts, to suicide plan, to suicide. White males are less likely to get assistance. Why? Stigma.

One way to prevent is to take care of oneself. Untreated behavioral health is a issue. When a family member is going through a mental health problem, the family also needs to seek treatment.

As human service workers, are you comfortable asking the question "are you thinking about suicide?" Making referrals to the necessary resources. Get familiar with the resources available. One tool is the MHA Helpline. Important to get their support system involved. Trainings available: Safetalk - Gatekeeper training, 3 hours. Applied Suicide Prevention training - 16 hour. Training is available in Orange County.

Question: How can you identify when you are on the phone? You can hear it in the tone.

Comment: Store a couple of numbers on your phone. When you are faced with the crisis, you don't want to scramble for the numbers/resources. It is best to have immediate access to the numbers.

Crisis and person has a weapon - what is the best thing to do? Think about your safety first; "while we talk can you put the gun down?" Don't really want to alarm the person. "Die by cop" is always a concern. OC Sheriff

offer active shooter training. Part of conversation - "what can I do to get you put the gun down?" Call the local number for police vs. calling 911.

Dutchess County Vet2Vet are providing 700 gun locks with the prevention number. Many veterans have guns. The lock helps because the hotline number is visible and may have veteran question what he is doing.

Dawn Lyn-Mathieu - Whispering Winds Equestrian Facility/Fundraiser: Larry introduced Dawn and her idea of raising funds for Vet2Vet. The state funds the program. Dawn wanted to provide assistance directly to the veterans. Larry wanted recognize what she makes possible for veterans with special needs.

Three years ago, started with an event on September 11. First year, raised \$750 and last year they raised \$4,700.

The event is on Sunday, July 8th. This year, 3rd annual t-shirt, sponsorships will be available, vet2vet 2018@yahoo.com. The goal this year is to have the radio station and channel 6 at event. Suits for soldiers will have a drop box. Invitation to have HVVTF agencies come out and provide information. Funds to go to Orange County Vet2Vet. Come out and enjoy and help with reaching out to more people.

Questions: Will you take donations of raffle baskets? yes. Also, the farm will give 50% of the day's entry fees. Discussion: Larry mentioned that many of the programs are on the chopping block. If the program does not get funded, who will be there for the veterans? The facilitators are out there connecting with the veterans. He thanked Dawn for her continued support.

VETERAN SERVICE AND COUNTY UPDATES:

- **Dutchess County**
 - **Vet2Vet: Adam Roche, Program Manager, Vet2Vet Veterans' Peer Services**
 - 3 groups – attendance was low because of the weather
 - movie trip to see Black Panther
 - Dr. Hunter gave a class on moral injury
 - Dutchess county veteran task force 2nd Thursday of each month starting May
 - April 21st - Horse farm - Warriors BBQ
 - Dutchess County Veteran Highway April 29 Field Day on the Highway - BBQ
 - Just did a Veteran First Aid & CPR class
 - April 13- Wounded Warrior event
 - 5th CIT training for law enforcement -
 - Came out with a brochure for police officers to local veterans
- **Orange County**
 - **VSO: Christian Farrell, Director - Orange County Veteran Services**
 - Saturday, May 5th OC Veteran Picnic and Resource Fair (845) 291-2469 to reserve table; expecting 300/400 veteran
 - Honor Flight - April 14 - 89 veterans going 22 WWII - send off at 6:30am at airport.
 - Patriot Flight.org - flight leaving from Albany - April 23
 - **Vet2Vet: Larry Neumann, Program Coordinator -**
 - Overview of Veteran Benefits workshop - 3rd Friday of each month - Dept of Labor Newburgh - poor attendance, please put word out, needs to have a count. (845)291-2470 to register. Nicole Embry (845)331-2000 ext 7721. Warwick public library might be an alternative location. Traveling to Newburgh may be another issue.
 - HVVTF - website coming soon. Calendar - Larry - send him updates to add to the calendar.
 - every other Wednesday - veteran music workshop - Cornerstone

- Veteran Appreciation Day - Dutchess Stadium - Need sponsors
- Veteran movie - "The Bomb"
- **Rockland County**
 - **Vet to Vet: Ismael (Izzy) Quintana Jr., Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
 - Lost an icon, best veteran advocates, former Rockland Cty veteran services commissioner, Vietnam Vet and Purple Heart recipient - March 28 Vet2Vet was present to provide consolation for the county veterans; send off of veteran Jerry.
 - Rockland Country Freedom Ceremony for female veterans
 - Military Behavioral Training - RCC -starts Saturday
 - Carry the Load event - true meaning of the Memorial Day - Bridges and Vet2Vet - travel to various towns
- **Putnam County**
 - **VSO: Karl Rohde, Director, Putnam County Veterans Service Agency**
 - **Vet2Vet next month will have rep**
 - Saturday morning veteran family movie day
 - 3 events at Renegades games - food, soft drinks, possible ice cream bar
 - 3rd Wednesday of the month - Ken burns series, Vietnam
 - Vet2Vet invited Nicole (VA) and she visited all senior centers in Putnam County
 - Purple Heart - scratch off - to get money to go to veteran support agencies
 - Jamboree - VFW
 - VFW/MIA ceremony -
 - In the process of fundraising for a project to hand out a medal to every WWI veteran of the 1919 conflict. Would like to issue medals.
 - Honored this July 21st - first annual WWII parade
 - Memorial Day - Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings - Stand guard from 6am - 6pm to keep vandals spray painting - retire American flags
 - Newsletter - info
- **Sullivan County**
 - **VSO: Howie Goldsmith, Coordinator, Sullivan County Veteran Service Agency and Sullivan County Veteran Alliance**
 - VA Town Hall -
 - 20th POW annual service
 - VFW post color guard last 2 Gold Star moms
- **Office of US Representative Sean Patrick Maloney**
 - Cullen Lyons/Khristian Silvis, Veteran and Military Advocate
 - Veteran advisory meeting Mt St. Mary Aquinas hall tonight
 - April 28th Veteran History Training Dominican center

TASK FORCE HOMELESS CASES Status:

- **WestCOP SSVF: Open/New Case Report - Tenesia Terry**
 - Referred Veterans:
 - **Dutchess** - 4 - 1 unreachable; 2 shelter; 1 female in vehicle - living in car for a year;
 - 1 temporarily housed at hotel; 1 female in vehicle - family coming to get her; 1 unreachable at the time; 1 new referral with child
 - **Orange County** - 11- 2 temporary housing; 1 Newburgh ministry; 4 honor; 1 dom; 1 car; 2 unreachable;
 - **Ulster County** - 2 at Samaritan village
 - **Discussion:** veterans that chose to be homeless.

UPCOMING EVENTS/ROUNDTABLE

Shara Abraham – Received email about grant available for funding activities and veteran employment services. She is offering to partner with another agency to apply for grant, but cannot be lead agency.

Fernando Ahumada - community capital - small business loans - outside the box - federally funded. Welcome applications from interested veterans.

Gerald Rafferty - Vocational systems foundation - employment - Graduate community heroes project. He is interested working with the local veteran labor groups.

West Point - community volunteers - Open house - Mt St. Mary at Stewart

United Way - completed the first Community Hero class. Next training in June dates will be forthcoming.

Veteran Breakfast club at Lexus Diner 8am Friday mornings

VFW donation breakfast 10:30 to 11:30 every Sunday morning

Honor flight - Saturday morning

April 26th Monticello Town Hall

May 5th - College day - education for veterans - captive audience.

April 18th - Wounded Warrior – training graduation and presented dogs to veterans.

HONOR - Point in Time report - homeless count 480 - 17 veterans 12 unsheltered

Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am by Larry Neumann.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2018, 9am Location:

Minutes taken and typed by: Millie Rivera-Velez

Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Larry Neumann