

## GOALS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

The Veterans Subcommittee of the Governor's Council last met on June 23, and at each meeting we host several veterans to present on the issues they have or are facing, that the group may be able to address.

We currently have two work groups, one on military culture training and dissemination and one on development of a resource directory for Kansans with veteran population, bh and sa resources, VA and other BH resources available in one location (a map possibly.)

These are the goals of the subcommittee, see the attached Strategic plan with all of these outlined.

1. Identify veterans in the state that are served in the behavioral healthcare system, (see recommendation to Council Below for action)
2. Identify resources that are available to veterans and families in the state,
3. Identify and disseminate current credentialed training that is available to BH providers on military culture, military 101 (native, African and other military cultures if possible), and
4. Incorporate suicide prevention efforts into all stages of work of the subcommittee. (see recommendation to the Council below for action)
5. Infuse Peer Support into the #2 resource directory and #3 military culture training.

### Veterans Subcommittee Recommendation on Goal 1:

On April 9, this recommendation was made to the Governor's Council to take on and move forward with state agencies that collect mental health and substance abuse data. Gina Meier-Hummel, KDADS, assured us that their applicable databases would be adapted to collect this piece of data from behavioral health providers. We recommended that all services providers, including Community Mental Health Centers, professionals contracted with CMHCs, state psychiatric hospitals, Addiction Professionals, Psychiatric Treatment Facilities, Inpatient service providers, nursing homes for mental health, and other behavioral health service providers request the following information on any intake form or data collection system used when assessing an individual for treatment purposes. This data would be able to be shared as a larger statistic on the number of veterans being served in the public behavioral health and addictions services system in Kansas.

The Screening tool from the Veterans Administration for community providers on "How to Screen for Military Service", it is a toolkit, and would fulfill the need to identify veterans being served in Kansas. The web site is at [http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/screening\\_howto.asp#sthash.6yyBglQo.dpbs](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/communityproviders/screening_howto.asp#sthash.6yyBglQo.dpbs), example below:

### VA Screening Questions

#### **Military Screening Questions:**

- Have you ever served in the military?
- Do you have a close family member who has served in the military?

#### **If he or she has served in the military you might consider following up with questions such as:**

- What dates did you serve and when did you separate from the military, if you have?
- Have you ever served in the National Guard or Reserve components? ([Learn more.](#))
- What branch and rank were you? ([Learn more: Branch and Rank.](#))
- What job did you have when you were serving?
- Were you ever deployed? ([Learn more.](#))
- Did you ever serve in a combat theater?
- Are there other things you would like to tell me about your military service?

#### **Tip - Asking whether your client has close family members who have served in military can:**

- Lead to a deeper understanding of your client's family context.
- Allow you to assess whether family functioning could benefit from connection with relevant resources. ([Learn more.](#))

#### Veterans Subcommittee Recommendation on Goal 4:

Given the fact that every day, 22 veterans commit suicide, the subcommittee is adamant that suicide prevention, intervention and education and awareness must be included in all areas of work for the Council. However, the subcommittee recommends that the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee be the lead in the topic of suicide prevention for all Kansas, including veterans. The Veterans subcommittee offers all of our resources, expertise and effort to assist the suicide prevention committee in this effort. This proposal was submitted to the Suicide Prevention Subcommittee and adopted by such on May 13, 2014.

The remaining Subcommittee Goals are updated below:

#2 Goal Identify resources that are available to veterans and families in the state. This work group has not met or communicated. At this point, WSU staff who are on the subcommittee are working to identify the information needed to fill the "map" directory, and how to upload it. This workgroup will meet and determine next steps at the September 15 meeting.

#3 Goal Identify and disseminate current credentialed training that is available to BH providers on military culture, military 101 (native, African and other military cultures if possible):

- The work group has performed a survey of providers (BH and SA) to determine their experience with and use of some 16 military culture provider trainings on the attached list. In addition, each of the work group members reviewed the list and gave their own experience and ratings of the trainings.
- The MILCUL101 initial list is now complete (see attached). The work group will develop a dissemination plan at their September 15 meeting of the entire subcommittee.
- Continued additions to the list: Several workgroup members are researching information to identify military culture trainings around native, African-american and other cultures to add to the list.
- Continued work on the list: Several workgroup members who provide peer support services are working to ensure peer support trainings are included in the list, and whether the trainings listed incorporate peer support.

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