

Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council



**Service Members, Veterans and their Families
(SMVF)**

Subcommittee Annual Report

2020

Introduction

Per the Blue Star Families Comprehensive report, roughly 0.5% of the American public has served on active duty at any given time since 9/11; this number is expected to continue to decline as a result of continued voluntary service and evolving technology. While the smaller number of Americans in martial service alone is not a cause for concern, the resulting decrease in understanding between the military and the broader U.S. society presents significant challenges for the future of American defense.

For over a decade, researchers have been calling for communities to increase their capacity to support military-connected community members (Bowen, Orthner, Martin and Mancini, 2001). With almost 70% of military families living off-installation, they are increasingly reliant on their local communities for support and resources that meet their needs. This year's survey findings suggest that more than showing appreciation of service and demonstrating understanding of military life, it's military family cultural competence – respondents' perceptions of community awareness, community appreciation, community understanding, community support, and community respect of military-connected families – that is the foundation upon which military families' sense of belonging to their local civilian community may be based. Military family resilience is, in large part, contingent on an effective, culturally competent support network within the community (Unger, 2019).

National Guard and Reserve families feel local civilian support agencies are not effective in addressing their needs. Many National Guard and Reserve family respondents live more than an hour from a military installation, making local resources important. However, nearly half feel their local civilian support agencies are not effective in addressing their needs. In addition to increasing resources in the community, in open-ended responses, Reserve family respondents also indicate improving Tricare/VA/health care as another way their local civilian communities could best support them. Many local agencies do not have employees that can bill Tricare due to not having a licensure that Tricare supports.

Military and veteran family respondents who perceive that civilians in their local communities have greater military family lifestyle competence feel a greater sense of belonging to that community. Forty-seven percent of military family respondents feel their local civilian community has limited military family lifestyle cultural competency (MFLCC). MFLCC includes community awareness, appreciation, understanding, support, and respect of military families and their service. Similarly, 40% of military family respondents do not feel a sense of belonging to their local civilian community.

Suicide is one of the most urgent health problems facing America today, and it is the focus of the DoD Office of the Inspector General's Top Management Challenges for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. While the World Health Organization estimates that 2% of individuals in developed countries have had suicidal thoughts or attempts in a 12-month time period, among this year's military family respondents, 4% of spouses and 6% of service members indicated that they had seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. Similarly, 4% of those respondents who were spouses of veterans and 9% of veteran respondents reported the same. Collected for

the first time this year, 6% of National Guard family and 3% of Reserve family (service member and spouse) respondents reported these thoughts.

Although there is a need for greater MFLCC among individual community members, private and nonprofit organizations that provide programming or resources in the local civilian community can prioritize cultural competence to effectively serve military-connected community members, focusing on MFLCC as a preventative capacity-building effort instead of a response to issues. Organizations, corporations, and philanthropies can begin by understanding the role formal and informal support networks play in the lives of military families. While informal networks are the more common means of support, culturally competent formal networks organized by private or nonprofit programs or resources, schools, religious organizations, and civic groups can set the conditions for these crucial supports to develop. Cultural competence is a well-established cornerstone to effective support; extending this same expectation to military and veteran family experiences sets the conditions for their success and a stronger community overall. Kansas must bill a stronger support system for our SMVF population.

History

The SMVF Subcommittee was established to strengthen collaboration and partnership opportunities, ensure alignment of processes and outcomes, and to increase the effectiveness of State and local efforts to address SMVF issues. The sub-committee has continued to identify resources and address the broader behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members and their families. It has also work toward increased collaboration among providers in the community behavioral health system the VA and other provider networks that focus on veterans, service members and their families. The sub-committee will help build an integrated care safety net for our SMVF population.

In January FY2020 the subcommittee voted in new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Bylaws were written under the new leadership, small break off groups formed to complete FY2019-20 goals if possible, and new goals developed April FY2020. New leadership also worked to recruit members from across the state that have knowledge of the SMVF population, knowledge of resources and willingness to work to create a broader safety net across the state of Kansas and mitigate care gaps. Currently the SMVF subcommittee is comprised of a Chairperson, Vice chairperson, Secretary and 16 members from across the state.

In March FY2020 the SMVF subcommittee underwent a leadership change from KDADS; Matt McGuire resigned from his position as CIT/Veterans Program Coordinator for the state. The liaison position was filled in June FY2020.

Andrea Clark accepted the position of CIT/Veterans Program Coordinator in June FY2020. She met with the full SMVF subcommittee in July FY2020. Although she only recently began as the liaison to the SMVF subcommittee, she has still reached out to SMVF leadership, and is working on SMVF Crisis Intercept mapping as well as assisting with SMVF subcommittee reporting documentation.

Mission

To ensure that servicemembers, veterans and their families are involved in improving access to behavioral health services which are relevant to military culture in collaboration with key provider organizations and other stakeholders.

Vision

There is an expanded and identifiable network of service providers and community supports to adequately meet the behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members, and their families which includes training provider staff about key elements of military culture and organization as well as ongoing engagement of veterans, service members and family members in eliminating barriers to treatment and in creating flexible treatment and recovery options.

Membership

Subcommittee members now represent a variety of individuals, agencies and community partners who work with the SMVF population, active service members, have veteran status, and/or a family member of a service member/veteran. Examples include but are not limited to representation from Community Mental Health Centers, Veterans Services, Child Welfare Agencies, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), University Partners, Law Enforcement, Veteran Service Organizations both local and State representation. A membership list with area of the state they represent is provided.

2019-20 GBHSPC Veterans Subcommittee Membership

Chair: Shereen Ellis, Aetna Better Health of Kansas

Vice Chair: Kathy Shepard, Four County Mental Health

Full Membership

NAME	ORGANIZATION	Area of Representation
Andrea Clark	KDADS	Full State
Charles Bartlett	KDADS	Full State
Gary Henault	KDADS	Full State
Chairperson Shereen Ellis	Aetna Better Health of Kansas	Full State
Co-Chairperson Kathy Shepard	Four County Mental Health	Five Counties in South East Kansas
Secretary Janell Stang	WSU Community Engagement Institute	Full State
Chris Bowers	Washburn University & Commander VFW	Full state
Shari LaGrange-Aulich Gary LaGrange	SAVE Farm & Konza Prairie CMHC	Full State
Lori Bishop	Executive Director Flint Hills Volunteer Center/RSVP	Northeast Counties
Crystal Dalmasso	DCCCA	Full State
Christopher Ellis	Ashgrove & Commander American Legion	Neosho County
Jason Hess	SACK	All counties in Central and Western KS
Wes Cole	GBHSPC	Full State
Larry Salmans	Senator (Retired)	Full State
Stephanie Davis	Topeka VA	Shawnee County
Steve Christenberry	Veteran	Shawnee County
Steve Roth	Topeka Police Department	Shawnee County
Timothy Marlar	VSO State Representative	Full State
Lisa Chaney	Greenbush	Full State
Tony Nutz	NAMI	Central Kansas

FY2019-20 Goals and progress

- Create a website called, LiveConnectedKS.org/com.net
 - SMVF met with Wichita State CEI to create website and Facebook page. Project was put on hold due to funding.
 - Website request was blended into prevention project and funding has been identified.
 - Website will be built and usable FY2020-21
- Request all schools to ask if the student has a parent or guardian that is currently or has served, establish where the data is being stored and how to access and give information to community partners including but not limited to CMHCs, LHD, and MCOs
 - Subcommittee was able to locate school data from the Education Department
 - Subcommittee identified if CMHCs, LHD or other agencies want the data they can contact the Education Department directly to receive reports from each school that does complete the questionnaire
 - Encouraged Education Department to stress importance of collecting data on SMVF population at enrollment
- Have PsycArmor training on KStrain.org, make aware to and all CMHCs, LHD, PD, Sheriff Departments, hospitals, FQHCs, EMS, MCOs, Hotlines and any other later identified organizations that the training is there and free of charge.
 - Letter has been developed and given to KDADS for approval and distribution
 - Identified courses that train providers in military culture and recommended
 - Placing trainings on KStrain.org is not necessary and all trainings are free on PsycArmor
 - SMVF subcommittee request funding of \$12,000 to be paid to PsyArmor in order to create a data base that will track who has taken what courses and which agencies have SMVF Cultural Competence status
- Identify all upcoming events, summits, conferences, and trainings being offered in 2020 and put on an events calendar.
 - This will be on going and kept on the LiveConnected Website being developed
- Identify Mental Health 1st Aid Trainers and train at least 20% of the VSO, VFW, and Legion members across the state
 - Letter developed and given to KDADS for approval and distribution
 - Funding request of \$4,500 to cover training cost to train 100 members of a VSO or VFW across Kansas

Report completed by

Shereen Ellis, LSCSW

Chair of the SMVF subcommittee

Service Members, Veterans and Families Subcommittee Charter

Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council

Mission: To ensure that servicemembers, veterans and their families are involved in improving access to behavioral health services which are relevant to military culture in collaboration with key provider organizations and other stakeholders.

Vision: There is an expanded and identifiable network of service providers and community supports to adequately meet the behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members, and their families which includes training provider staff about key elements of military culture and organization as well as ongoing engagement of veterans, service members and family members in eliminating barriers to treatment and in creating flexible treatment and recovery options.

Purpose: The SMVF Subcommittee was established to strengthen collaboration and partnership opportunities, ensure alignment of processes and outcomes, and to increase the effectiveness of State and local efforts to address SMVF issues. The sub-committee will continue to identify resources and address the broader behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members and their families. It will also work toward increased collaboration among providers in the community behavioral health system the VA and other provider networks that focus on veterans, service members and their families. The sub-committee will help build an integrated care safety net for our SMVF population.

Membership: Membership on the Subcommittee will be balanced to reflect the following: stakeholders, veterans, service members and family members of veterans and service members, behavioral health service providers, representatives from the community mental health system, state agency prevention staff, educators, and other stakeholders, including veterans service organizations. The Subcommittee will designate a chair or co-chairs and a secretary. A state agency liaison will be appointed from KDADS to provide staff support to the Subcommittee.

Sub-Committee Composition:

Members of the workgroup must have a stake in behavioral health and represent diversity within the State. Committee members will initially commit to serving one, 4-year term, but may serve up to two additional two-year terms if desired. Membership shall not exceed 20 active members.

Leadership roles and individuals within these positions will be established by a nomination process within the group upon establishment of membership. Leaders are accountable for project oversight, management, coordination, and reporting to the chartered workgroup.

The leadership structure of the subcommittee will include a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. The Chairperson will serve a two-year term and will facilitate meetings including

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agenda development in collaboration with the KDADS liaison, meeting announcements and distribution of minutes. The Chairperson will maintain a membership roster highlighting beginning and ending term dates for members. The Vice-Chairperson will be responsible for facilitating meetings when the Chair is not present. After two years, the Vice-Chairperson has the option to assume the Chairperson role if desired. The Secretary will be responsible for developing a template for meeting minutes, for recording these minutes or identifying a designee to do so, and for sharing the minutes with the Chairperson for distribution and review.

Accountability:

Reporting and completion of chartered roles and objectives is the responsibility of the chartered workgroup leadership team. All members of the group are responsible for timely and active involvement and participation.

Attendance:

Members of the subcommittee must commit to attending at least 75 percent of all meetings either in-person or virtually. Members can be removed from the subcommittee if attendance requirements are not met. The KDADS liaison and Chairperson will make the final decision to remove members from the roster.

Membership

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	TERM
Andrea Clark	KDADS	503 S. Kansas Avenue Topeka, KS 66603 Office: (785) 296 – 6495 Andrea.Clark3@ks.gov	Continuous Position
Charles Bartlet	KDADS	503 S. Kansas Avenue Topeka, KS 66603 785-296-	Continuous Position
Gary Henault	KDADS	503 S. Kansas Avenue Topeka, KS 66603 785-296-8840 Office Gary.henault@ks.gov	Continuous Position
Chairperson Shereen Ellis	Aetna Better Health of Kansas	1903 South Shore Dr. Vassar, KS 66543 620-820-9485 EllisS3@Aetna.com	Ends January 2022
Co-Chairperson Kathy Shepard	Four County Mental Health	kshepard@fourcounty.com	Ends January 2022
Secretary Janell Stang	WSU Community Engagement Institute	316-779-4014 janell.stang@wichita.edu	Ends January 2022
Angela Gabel	Kansas Air Guard	190 th KS Air Refueling Wing 785-861-4792 Angela.gabel@us.af.mil	End July 2024

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Shari LaGrange-Aulich Gary LaGrange	SAVE Farm & Konza Prairie Community Health Center-BH	saulich@kpchc.org lagrange1@cox.net	Ends February 2024
Lori Bishop	Executive Director Flint Hills Volunteer Center/RSVP	2601 Anderson Avenue, Suite 200 Manhattan, KS 66502 785-776-7787 lori@flinthillsvolunteercenter.com	Ends April 2024
Crystal Dalmasso	DCCCA	8901 E Orme St Wichita, Ks 67207 (316) 209-0278 cdalmasso@dcca.org	End December 2024
Christopher Ellis	Ashgrove & Commander American Legion (Erie)	19055 Ottaawa Rd Erie, KS 66733 620-515-6562 Cellis63b@googlemail.com	End June 2024
Jason Hess	SACK	jason@hradac.com	Ends January 2023
Wes Cole	GBHSPC	scole@micoks.net	Continuous Position
Larry Salmans	Senator (Retired)	620-623-0295 senatorsalmans@yahoo.com	Continuous Position
Stephanie Davis	Topeka VA	Stephanie.Davis12@va.gov	Ends January 2022
Steve Christenberry	Veteran	panhead55@hughes.net	Ends January 2022
	Topeka Police Department		Ends
Timothy Marlar	VSO State Representative	109 Wheatridge Drive Newton, KS 67114 (316) 288-9496 timothy.marlar@gmail.com	Continuous Position
Christopher Bowers	Washburn University & VFW Commander (Topeka)	1700 SW College Ave Topeka, KS 66611 785-670-1983 Chris.bowers@washburn.edu	End July 2024
Lisa Chaney	Greenbush	947 W 47 Hwy PO Box 189 Girard, KS 66743 P: 620.724.6281 M: 620.778.3266 lisa.chaney@greenbush.org	Ends February 2024
Tony Nutz	NAMI	601 N Farmington Dr Dirby, KS 67037 316-558-1888 Tnutz94255@aol.com	End January 2024

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SMVF Subcommittee Leaders

- Shereen Ellis, Chair
Aetna Better Health Of Kansas
Parent to a Kansas Army National Guard Veteran and Legion Commander
- Kathy Shepard, Co Chair
Four County Mental Health
- Janell Stang, Secretary
Community Engagement Institute, WSU
- Andrea Clark, Liaison
KDADS



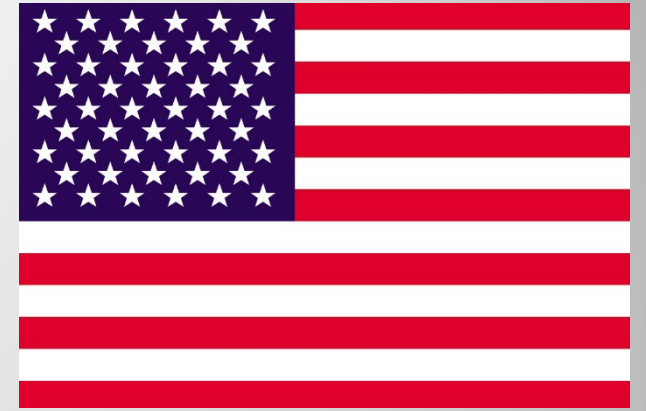
Overview

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FY20 Year in Review

- January 2019 the subcommittee voted in a new Chair Shereen Ellis, Vice Chair Kathy Shepard and Secretary Janell Stang
- Bylaws were written and approved for the SMVF subcommittee under the new leadership
- New members were recruited to join the SMVF subcommittee that have strong leadership roles in Kansas as well as strong ties to the SMVF population
- Matthew McGuire stepped down as liaison in March 2019
- Andrea Clark was hired June 2019 as the new liaison
- SMVF subcommittee was able to have a direct impact on the SMVF population by helping VSOs to be able to open back up to serve members only during the COVID shut down.



Review FY19 Goals

- Create a website called, LiveConnectedKS.org/com.net
- Ensure that all schools are asking at enrollment if the student has a parent or guardian that is currently or has served. Establish where the data will be stored and how to access and disseminate information to community partners including but not limited to CMHCs, LHD, and MCOs
- Place PsycArmor training on KStrain.org, make aware to and advertise to all CMHCs, LHD, PD, Sheriff Departments, hospitals, FQHCs, EMS, MCOs, Hotlines and any other later identified organizations that the training is there and free of charge.
- Identify all upcoming events, summits, conferences and trainings being offered in 2020 and put on an events calendar.
- Identify Mental Health 1st Aid Trainers and train at least 20% of the VSO, VFW and Legion members across the state



Resource Requests for Action

- SMVF subcommittee request funding of \$12,000 to be paid to PsyArmor in order to create a data base that will track who has taken what courses and which agencies have SMVF Cultural Competence status
- Funding request of \$4,500 to cover training cost to train 100 members of a VSO or VFW across Kansas in Mental Health 1st Aid

SMVF Subcommittee Membership FY21



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Charles Bartlett	KDADS
Gary Henault	KDADS
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Questions ??



THANK YOU !!