

ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting
August 6, 2020



Attendees: Connie Sprynczynatyk (virtual), Pam Sagness (virtual), Jon Wymer, Cindy Whitesell (virtual), Davina French (telephone), Brian Waters (virtual), BG Jackie Huber, Michelle Panos

Absent: Dr. Breton Weintraub, Joyal Meyer, MAJ Shawn Flemmer, Lonnie Wangen, David Becker

1. Opening. Connie opened the meeting.

2. Minutes. Minutes from the February 6, 2019 meeting were accepted as written.

3. Together with Veterans – Gina Brimmer of WICHE discussed the Rural Veteran Suicide Prevention Program, Together with Veterans. This program is an initiative of the VA Office of Rural Health that focuses on areas of concentration for veteran suicides and provides funding for three years to help the community or region decrease the number of suicides. The program is veteran and community driven (majority of committee must be veterans), collaborative with local resource partners, and evidence-informed in that prevention strategies are grounded in best practices. The ND Cares executive committee recommended we determine the area of North Dakota with the highest concentration and set up initial meetings with that community, DHS and the Suicide Prevention Coalition to discuss the community's potential participation in the program.

4. Old Business

- Michelle reported that the number of ND Cares businesses and communities remains 19 and 48.
- During the Community Reconnect Update Michelle reported she scheduled visits to Jud and Wishek. She will also visit the Service Dog Training facility in Jud and report back on how ND Cares can help promote their work.
- The FirstLink update is nearly complete. The new list of business from the Secretary of State was received. Michelle stated she is working with the NDNG's data staff to look for new service providers and those no longer in business, and forward the information to FirstLink.
- Michelle reported she had an initial discussion with Kora Docktor of the ND Suicide Prevention Coalition about messaging for the upcoming anti-stigma campaign that ND Cares will run all year long via the ND Broadcasters' Association contract. The next step is to speak with the Behavioral Health Division. ND Cares will work with NDNG's public affairs staff on Suicide Prevention Month messaging.

5. New Business

- The committee discussed the membership of the ND Cares Coalition given that contacts at some partner agencies have changed. Recommendations were discussed and agreed upon.
- Although not relevant to all members on the call, Michelle mentioned the NDNG Retiree webpage has been updated. Retirees may now find pertinent information and associated forms, many of which can be filled out and submitted on the website itself. The NG is currently seeking feedback on the revisions prior to the National Guard Retiree meeting in September where it will be relaunched.
- Michelle discussed the potential uses for the \$2500 grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation.

- For potential topics for the next ND Cares Coalition meeting, Connie recommended Pam Sagness give an update on the additional behavioral health services proposed by the 1915(i) State Medicaid Plan Amendment currently under federal review.
- Each committee member provided an update.

6. Upcoming Events

- Michelle briefly described the Clear Sky Heroes Park and Street Naming Dedication event in August and explained this is a “one-time” event and will not take the place of the Global War on Terror annual ceremony occurring at Fraine Barracks on September 11.

7. **Closing:** Connie closed the meeting at 11:52 a.m.