ND Cares Coalition May 9th, 2019.

Chair Connie Sprynczynatyk opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction by all members of the coalition.

Members on the phone were Dave Klein, Cindy Miller, Kellie Weiand, Shawn Smothers, and Laura Anderson.

Members present were Connie Sprynzynatyk, Alison Traynor, Mitch Barta, Joyal Meyer, Nicole Berman, Darcie Handt, and Joe Faller, Marlys Morgenstern, Pat Flannigan, Tom Burnside, Summer Hanson, Paula Heitmann, Pam Mack, Carlotta McCleary, Lisa Johnson, Mathew McCleary, Laurel Grams.

Pam Mack began by discussing the P&A legislative grid which was shared with all in attendance and sent to all coalition members by email. She discussed the following significate bills that may affect Military members, Veteran services and family:

HB1034 expands the authority and capability of long term care association’s organizations to deliver home care services. Fiscal note attached.

HB1099 Delegation of administration of routine meds to QSP, adult foster homes, res. hab., etc.

HB1174 Homestead tax credit; continued authorization

HB1194 Medical Assistance tribal health care coordination agreements; Medicaid Expansion

HB1259 Misrepresentation of a pet as a service animal; individuals using therapy or emotional support animals as service support animals, which they are not.

HB1298 Accessibility of the state capitol

HB1332 Carrying concealed firearm on school property by qualified individuals

HB1359 Medicaid pilot project for hyperbaric oxygenation treatment

HB1366 Use of crossbow by person who is blind, paraplegic, or has lost the use of one or both arms

HB1374 DHS pharmacy benefits management program

HB1378 Supported decision-making; allows for an alternative to guardianship

HB1397 Vehicle reg. fee exemptions, credits for motor vehicle sales & use taxes, aircraft excise taxes for disabled vets

HB1406 Income tax credit for the employment of individuals with DD or MI

HCR3018 Urge Congress to provide veterans coverage for hyperbaric oxygen therapy; multiple heath care reasons being used for the hyperbaric chamber; VA is doing pilot program, one state is CA, and our Federal Senators are also supporting this initiative

HCR3047 Study re state & fed. Veterans’ programs

SB2006 Tax Comm. $ and disabled veterans’ tax credit

SB2012 Dept. of Human Services funding; Medicaid Pharmacy Expansion; percentage of poverty level from 200% to 250%; Allow for expanded community supports for persons with TBI, Substance Use, etc…allows for medicaid reimbursement for community services for adults and children (1915i); money for inflation purposes; LTC area, expansion on how the Dept of Human Services can use funding for Autism; legislation requiring DHS moving the LTC provider system from a retrospective to prospective payment system; Aging services side the Dept did receive 5 FTE’s and additional operating money to expand their Aging and Disability Resource Link(ADRL).

Behavior Health Division received additional funding for Substance Use Disorder Voucher, peer support, school behavior health grants, expanded free through recovery, suicide prevention;

Field Services, study to look at the lack of comprehensive psychiatric acute care access; we know there are pockets in ND that do not have support. Look at things like tele-med. Funding provided for the two homeless programs. Mobile crisis teams were fully funded. Expansion in the (CARES Team) crises response team out of Grafton. Social service redesign, part of DHS planning process, bringing social service eligibility in house.

SB2028, SB2030, SB2031 failed but were rolled up in the DHS budget.

SB2014, P&A budget, Olmstead Commission, moved from DHS to P&A with an FTE.

SB2179 Financial institution reporting of abuse, neglect, exploitation of vulnerable adults with confidentiality

SB2187 Tax exemption for motor vehicles used to transport the elderly or disabled

SB2298 $ to DHS to implement 1915i state plan amendment for youth; moved to DHS budget

SB2313 relating to duties of DHS & creation of a children's commission

HCR 4014 Study re implement. of the recomm’s of the HSRI study of ND’s behavioral health system

Laura Anderson mentioned that the division received authority to certify peer support specialists. This allows this service to be reimbursed through Medicaid. Medicaid will also reimburse outside the 1959 population. Suicide dollars and FTE will move from the Dept of Health to the Behavior Health division. License to medication units; currently methadone is only available through the 3 licensed facilities.

Darcie discussed SB 2016 Office of the Adjutant General budget. Fully funded Tuition Assistance. 600k to pursue expansion of Camp Grafton South.

HB1101 Granted authority to accept funds to support Service members, Veterans, Family.

HB1053 Military Retiree exempt from State income tax

SB2195 175k to assist with the burial costs of spouses and family members at the State Veterans Cemetery

Dave Klein briefed that there was some funds given to the ND Housing and Finance for the Housing Incentive Fund, there will be public notice comment period soon. Additional federal funding coming up. Will have some educational events coming soon; more information to follow.

Shawn Smothers talked about how nursing facilities can provide community based services. Darcie asked about Veterans receiving care other than Lisbon. Shawn said there are one or two other facilities that can accept Veterans. Darcie also asked what the barriers are to expand this.

Cindy talked about Firstlink. New pilot program in Cass and Clay County a Community Addiction Navigator, working with providers with who has openings in beds and what each other is doing. Just got back for the American Association of Suicide ology Conference, great information, updates on National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, trying to get a 3 digit code to dial. Still needing additional call centers. Have been texting since October 2018, usage increasing. Next year is our 50th Anniversary. Follow up, or call back, is going extremely well. 15-18 hospitals are signed up for this service.

Allison talked about attending the American Association of Suicide ology Conference. Working on moving to DHS. Working with the Suicide Coalition.

Connie thanked Pam for her effort to conduct the weekly legislative conference calls.

Nicole talked about the current Military Peer Support training that is currently going on.

Paula talked about VBA opening up benefits to those navy veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Also talked about the changes to Appeals Modernization Act; now 3 options, should speed up process.

Summer talked about increased utilization, about 33k Veterans are utilizing the Fargo VA health care, up about 6% this year. Lost user calls are going out to Veterans that have not been utilizing their benefits. Outreach events to get the word out. Planning in July to go to MAFB on July 11 & 12. Minot Community Based Outreach Clinic is adding two new teams to accommodate requests.

Joyal talked about meeting with ND Cares folks to get information out to DPI on Suicide Prevention. Talked about getting on the agenda at the ND Roughriders Conference held for teachers. Amy Ruff will contact them.

Pat talked about working an official partnership with Dept of Health and Dept of Behavior Health to conduct ASIST Training and ACE-SI with the hopeful intent to expand the training. Hope to expand to DPI and Tribal entities. Working on a Family Advocacy program in the National Guard. Currently Active Duty has this, trying to get in the National Guard.

Mitch talked about the current contract company was re-awarded the contract for 5 more years. Provided the Z-card handout with the resources Military One Source has to offer and free resources. Eligibility for Veterans is expanding to beyond more than 1 year, more information coming.

Lisa talked about SB2016 increasing the NG tuition waiver; working on this will impact schools. Working on several hundred military courses that can be used as college credit. ND is looking at how to give military credit experience to general educational courses, not just to course of study. Working with all college registrars for acceptance.

Carlotta talked about just finishing up the Consumer Family Network Conference. This month is Mental Health Month. Green ribbons are around the Capital and downtown Bismarck. Youth and Family Conference June 30th – July 1st in Bismarck. Mental Health America has a SAMHSA grant being used to run peer support services.

Loral talked about the MAFB hosted an event, with speaker Elizabeth Smart, great event, well received under the resilience umbrella.

Marlys talked about her role and duties with the Dept of Labor. Also talked about the Hire Vets Medallin Program, mostly for employers, federal recognition as a military friendly business.

Darcie talked about the Military Spouse Licensure that gives 30 day licensure to spouses who have a license in a different state can carry to ND.

Strategic plan update/change was to Military Culture. Have already met the requirement to teach to two classes or courses. Tweaked the object to enter into MOU’s with Universities for easier access to the Universities. Continue to work with FirstLink to update the resources database. Pam talked about one of the new FTE’s in Dept of Human Services duties is to coordinate and pull together resources. Expansion of the Support Network Communities and Businesses along with regional expansion. Some rebuilding is needed within the regions; helping to ensure they know what is available in their regions. Engagements information is needed; if you are meeting with groups and discuss ND Cares, please let us know so we can track these events. Social media is up and running. Some expansion is needed in certain regions that currently have no ND Cares Community or Businesses. Current budget update, 74% currently spent, and on track for the Biennium.

Joe talked about the website changing to the State government platform. This move should take place in the next 30 days. Discussed newsletter; if you have any stories, please let me know. The last ND Cares Teleconference was not well attended but a good outcome. Two businesses linked up to share how they support their Military/Veteran employees and Family.

Next coalition meeting will be scheduled for September 2019. Suggest after Labor Day; 2nd week of September? Health Conference scheduled on September 13th.