ND Cares Coalition September 12th, 2019.

Co-Chair Cindy Whitesell opened the meeting with a welcome and introduction by all members of the coalition.

Members on the phone were Jerome Billups, Dale DeKrey, Lonnie Wangen, David Francavilla, Paula Heitmann and Nicole Frohlich.

Members present were MG Al Dohrmann, Katie Fttsimmons, Mitch Barta, Joyal Meyer, Kelli Weiand, Nicole Berman, Marlys Morgenstern, Darcie Handt, and Joe Faller.

Lonnie provided an overview of the ND DVA grants program. They currently have a Hardship Assistants grant, Post War Trust Fund helps fund this program. The application process is completed by the VSO or Social Worker who can help the Veteran or the Spouse of the Veteran. Must be a ND resident, Income limits, for 1 individual, starts at $1300/month and $1500/month for 2 person household, adjusted by multiple items. Can be used for dental, optical, hearing aide, medical transportation, overnight housing, a housing deposit, and other services. Hyperbaric grant services and TBI/hyperbaric oxygen treatment can qualify for this. Impact grant, a one-time type program to be used to fill in a crack for multiple uses. There are two different hyperbaric grant programs currently that are separate of each other; The VA program and the ND Dept of Human Services. Donations can be made to the Impact Foundation to help support the Post War Trust Fund on the ND DVA website.

David talked about Urgent Care for Veterans through the Mission Act. Every Veteran can go to Urgent Care up to 3 times. Following the 3rd visit the Veteran will be charged a co-pay. Care in the Community, which replaced the Choice Program, is doing a wonderful job of signing folks up. He also discussed the Community Clergy Training that will be conducted in Fargo ND on September 19th. The idea is that 30% of the Veterans go to their Clergy first before seeking medical or VA assistance. We want to arm the Chaplains with military culture to help assist the Veteran population. Darcie added that we would like to schedule a second class in the western part of the state. David congratulated and thanked ND Cares as they are a premier Community Engagement Group. You are an example for others to learn from.

Darcie started by bringing up Veterans Courts; Lonnie briefed that he is doing an exploratory committee to see where they are at from the 2010-2013 progress they made. He then talked about evaluating how many are involved in the program. Also will look at the Clay county program to see if that is something they can use here. He also talked about who will be part of the exploratory committee. Darcie talked about Legal Services of ND, who are looking to re-tool, may want to reach out to them as they may fit your exploratory committee. MG Dohrmann talked about putting together a timeline to support this initiative. Also talked about putting a team together to meet with the ND Chief Justice for his input and support.

Darcie talked about what’s the numbers, to lack of providers, in the Minot, Grand Forks area to help support the efforts to bring Airmen to ND. Currently, many are excluded from coming to ND, based on access to (specialty) care for the Service Member or family member.

Darcie brought up a discussion about creating a long term relationship with Psych Armor Institute? They could build us a page so ND has a location that can load some of their videos picked specifically by the coalition to be viewed by our coalition and participants. This would be established by providing a monetary exchange with Psych Armor. Current categories’, provided by Psych Armor, were reviewed by attending coalition members. Cindy asked if a link would be placed on our website to reach the courses ND Cares has chosen as a priority? Darcie said yes. MG Dohrmann talked about finding a donor to help support this program. The coalition members agree this would be beneficial and should be pursued. Psych Armor, goes beyond just Veterans, but also for Service Members, family, educators, providers and others.

Nicole talked about what the state is doing for Peer Support Training. They are in the process of hiring a Peer Support Administrator position. They will be responsible for building the certification process in the State. Specific to 1959 there will be public hearings as part of this process; check the DHS website for dates. 290 peers will be trained in the state this week. Program will go live on July 1st. Darcie asked if there is any more on military (Veteran) peer support training specifically. A second class is being considered for this group. Mitch added that Military One Source has peer support also.

Darcie brought up KAT advertising (closed circuit programming). DHS currently uses this, and asked if this would be something that ND Cares could help support this effort in particular on the reservations. We believe that Alison has also used this in Suicide Prevention. Discussion about utilizing the DHS PAO to support this effort in creating content for this effort. Also talked about utilizing their contract to include a message from a Military Member. ND Cares should pursue this effort.

ND Suicide Prevention Coalition update. Established as an unincorporated entity, relationship established with the ND Community Foundation for funds, fund raising guide established, executive board established. Looking at an annual conference in January. Currently building the structure, social media and website. Efforts are towards Advocacy, Communication, Collaboration, and Education(A.C.C.E.). Discussion also led to a discussion about what individuals do before committing suicide. Data has shown that individuals will bring their pets to a kennel prior to committing suicide so the effort may be to reach out to kennels and train their employees.

The Behavior Health Conference is November 13-15. The First Ladys’ Recovery Reinvented is on November 12th and will be held at the Bismarck Event Center. Agenda and speakers are being finalized. Looking for speakers on Harm Reduction and Recovery Based Support.

Updates from participants:

Dale talked about their mental health summit in Minot was attended by 150 participants. Started the dialogue to using the public health approach to suicide prevention. Standing Rock is conducting a summit on October 15th. Darcie asked a question about the VITAL VA program, Dale will look into it and get back to him.

Mitch talked about two new counseling programs under Military One Source; parenting support program and a Veteran transition program.

Kelli talked about tomorrow is the retiree day at the Minot Air Force Base, Monday in Washburn, Wednesday at the Workforce Conference, Thursday Rolette county wellness fair, October 24th Minot Stand down, sometime in December a turkey bingo.

Katie talked about the NDUS meeting with task forces. Mental Health centers across the state are busy. UND center fully staffed. NDSU is looking to replace a counselor.

MG Dohrmann asked that everyone start looking at the legislative process. Begin sharing information utilizing the most comprehensive collaborative approach. BG Huber will begin her new position as the DAG; may have her be the representative on ND Cares.

Darcie talked about the Memorandum of Support to integrate Military Culture in the University System. The memorandum is complete and will be making its way to NDUS. On the 25th I will be going to New Town to conduct military culture training. Gate City Bank is the sponsor for the Chaplain training in West Fargo. At the Fargo VA Cemetery dedication a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to ND Cares for our effort supporting the VA. Please share with us any information or flyers we can add to facebook. Our budget for last biennium was $150,000; we executed 76%. Our budget for this biennium will be $130,000. As a reminder our business tiers allow for donations; we reviewed our current businesses. Donations so far are $16,262. Does not come to ND Cares; some goes direct to fund events or $9,000 has gone to the NG Foundation Fund.

Darcies last day is October 4th.

Cindy thanked Darcie for his efforts and partnerships he has brought to the coalition. Best of luck in whatever you go and do.

MG Dohrmann also thanked Darcie for his efforts.