



NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

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CITY OF MEDORA & BILLINGS COUNTY COMMUNITY TRAINING

The City of Medora and Billings County jointly hosted the 2nd iteration of ND Cares Community Training on October 5th, 2017. More than 60 attendees from across Human Services Region VIII filled the Medora Community Center to hear guest speakers present information on the programs and services available to Service Members, Veterans, Families, and Survivors. Attendees included Veterans, Family Members, law enforcement personnel, ambulance staff, and city and county officials.

The DeMores Elementary School opened the event by marching into the room with flags held proudly in their hands. They then led attendees in the reciting of the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Denis Joyce, Veteran, provided opening remarks on behalf of the City of Medora and the North Dakota National Guard Adjutant General Major General Alan Dohrmann provided opening comments as well.

Event speakers included regional, state and federal program representatives from the North Dakota Department of Human Services, FirstLink of North Dakota, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), the Community Based Outreach Clinic (CBOC) – Dickinson, Vet Center – Bismarck, the Billings/Stark County Veteran Service Office, the Region VIII Human Service Center



Scott Decker, Mayor of Dickinson; Major General Alan Dohrmann, N.D. National Guard Adjutant General and Ms. Carla Steffen, Medora City Auditor, discuss the need for future events like this.

– Dickinson, the Family Assistance Center, and the Military Outreach Team for the region.

Ms. Carla Steffen, city auditor, and Ms. Marcia Lamb, county auditor, took the lead in securing the venue and arranging for businesses (Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Historic Little Missouri Saloon & Restaurant, KLJ, and Highland Engineering) to sponsor the event with a lunch, snacks, refreshments, and door prizes. Their efforts supplied attendees with a welcoming and social atmosphere. They definitely set the standard of quality for future events to attain.



DeMores Elementary School children proudly hold flags during Pledge of Allegiance.

Factoid

In North Dakota, there are approximately 52,000 residents who identify themselves as Veterans of the U.S. Military. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, this group accounts for 9.6 percent of the state's adult population.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT ND

There has been numerous Military related community events being conducted in North Dakota. We love to share those events on our website, so please send us the details/flyer/announcement of your event and we will get it posted.

One event that we would like to highlight is "The Arts Partnership - Cultivating the arts in our community." It was conducted in November at City Hall in West Fargo on November 16th, 2017.

The art show had 18 submissions, which were judged by a

panel of 3 judges. The submissions came from area Veterans. The event allowed the Veterans to tell their story the way they felt comfortable expressing themselves. Veterans heal in many ways...this was a great way to help some navigate the trail, on their journey back home.

ND Cares Communities

39

For listing go to
[ndcares.org/community/
CurrentNDCaresCommunities/](http://ndcares.org/community/CurrentNDCaresCommunities/)

ND Cares Businesses

Fortis Energy Services
Little Missouri Saloon &
Dining
Minot State University
Theodore Roosevelt Medora
Foundation
Highlands Engineering &
Surveying, PLLC
Xcel Energy-Fargo
Xcel Energy-Grand Forks
Xcel Energy-Minot
ND League of Cities

2018

Tele-Conferences

Who: Steering Committee
Members

All POC's
(Community &
Business)

What: Teleconferences

When: April 19 & October 18

Where: Via Phone
Dial in information
will be published

Why: Exchange ideas
Address issues

Were on the web:
NDCARES.ORG

ND Cares
PO Box 5511
Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

Phone: 701-333-2015
E-mail: ndcares@nd.gov
Website: ndcares.org

FORTIS ENERGY EMPLOYER SUMMIT

Fortis Energy Services officially partnered with the ND Cares Coalition on November 6th, 2017, during their 2nd annual Employer Summit held at Minot State University. Fortis Energy Services will be a vital link in a statewide network dedicated to educating residents and employers about the needs and challenges faced by those who have served and to honor current and former military members, their families, and survivors.

The Fortis' Employer Summit is designed to create regional awareness on state and national Veteran employment initiatives and capitalize on potential industry partnerships, which may enhance Veteran recruitment and retention. In addition, existing industry-level initiatives designed to increase employment opportunities are shared among the attendees in an effort to bring our Veterans back into the North Dakota workforce.

It is in this spirit that ND Cares will continue its partnership with Fortis by cosponsoring their Employer Summit and by helping other employers translate their desire to hire veterans into meaningful recruitment action.

ND CARES 2017-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

ND Cares priority remains Behavioral Health. The focus is on the promotion of emotional health, prevention of mental disorders, prevention of substance use disorders, treatment, and recovery support.

On September 14th, 2017, 25 members of the ND Cares Coalition engaged in a strategic planning process. Three key themes arose from the day's discussions:

- Partnerships and capacity-building
- Training and education
- Internal and external communication

Goal 1. Convene in a collaborative process to provide a robust, readily accessible information portal for Service Members, Veterans, Families, and Survivors (SMVFS.)

- Objective 1.1 Solicit and receive regional responses to our inquiry for automated databases.*
- Objective 1.2 Develop a single resource database.*

Goal 2. Educate and engage partners at the local, state, and tribal levels around priority issues (e.g., substance abuse, suicide prevention and resource gaps).

- Objective 2.1 Expand each of the eight regional ND Cares support networks by integrating diverse local entities.*
- Objective 2.2 Engage non-coalition State entities/individuals on ND Cares priority issues.*
- Objective 2.3 Engage Native American entities/individuals on ND Cares and to learn and share information on priority issues.*
- Objective 2.4 Incorporate military culture training within professional undergraduate/post-graduate professional programs.*
- Objective 2.5 Build a social media presence.*

Notes from the Staff (Joe and Darcie)

Joe and I wish each of you a Happy Holiday season and a joyful New Year. We are thankful for all of your past efforts in supporting the Service Members, Veterans, Families, and Survivors and we look forward to hearing about what you have planned for the future. Time is precious, but, we need to stay connected with you to sustain and grow our Network of Support. Thus, in effort to reconnect, it is our plan to publish this newsletter twice a year and conduct regional tele-conferences twice a year. We are here to discuss issues and support our Network in whatever way we can, so please call or email us anytime versus waiting for the tele-conference. Our Coalition's strength is truly the passion you bring in caring for our military community. Thanks for being a part of ND Cares!