

Governor's Advisory Council for Veteran Services

Arrowheads Community Club, Building 9-65

Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, Pennsylvania 17003

November 14, 2018

Aging Committee

Ms. Samantha Cossman
Co-Chair

Aging Committee, Samantha Cossman and Joan Stakem (Co-Chairs)

Subcommittee met on: 9/19 and 10/17 by conference call; 11/14 in-person

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Samantha Cossman	PDA (PA Link)
Joan Stakem	DMVA
Brian Natali	DMVA
Tim Cleveland	Tioga Co. Veterans Affairs
Kit Watson	American Legion
James Fearn	DHS (OLTL)
Ben Laudermilch	DHS (Housing)
Christopher Kemmerer	DCNR (State Parks)
Larry Furlong	Fish and Boat
Jamie Dunlap / Sarah Merritt	PA Council on the Arts

Aging Committee

☐ **Adult Day**

- In design phase; further discussion within this committee tabled until 07/19

☐ **County Home Partnerships**

- Now referred to as Expanding Veterans LTC Partnerships; meeting on 11/8

☐ **Opportunities for Aging Veterans, their Family Members and Caregivers (community involvement, socialization, outdoor activities)**

- Workgroup progress includes new members added (BJ Cherry of PDA who oversees senior centers and Kit Watson of American Legion)
- State Parks – Lackawanna State Park and Gino Merli Veterans Home event; state park educator anticipates for events and increased partnership in the future

Aging Committee

❑ Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans

- 2018 PA Link Veterans Day message emailed week of 11/5-11/9 to PA Link partners statewide.
 - Focused on Veterans Registry and Crisis Line
- Promoting communication and collaboration between County Directors of Veterans Affairs and Area Agency on Aging Directors.
 - Initial message sent by PDA and DMVA on 9/24/18
 - Maintenance phase of project started October 1st
 - 3 e-intros to date (Cumberland, Mifflin and Juniata counties)
- 2018 Benefits and Rights for Older Pennsylvanians booklets provided for CDVAs June conference and for VSO accreditation conference in October.

Aging Committee

☐ Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans

- Veteran Community Partnerships:
10/15/18 call – PA Link Program Office and VCP Coordinators. Outcomes =
 - By 12/31/18, make connections between VCPs and PA Link Regionals and Lead Coordinators
 - Schedule 2019 call for status check, and to discuss joint project ideas
- Introductory call between Alzheimer’s Association PA Chapters and DMVA/VSOs held August 21; Outcomes =
 - Definite need for education on both sides due to lack of familiarity
 - Desire from Alzheimer’s. Association for similar meeting with VA reps
 - Potential for Alzheimer’s presentation during 2019 VSO conference
- Educate SNF/Rehabs/Senior Living Communities on Aid and Attendance Scams.
 - Workgroup discussing potential of revitalizing “Don’t Pay for Your Benefits”

❑ Reducing Veteran Homelessness

Joint Committee met via webinar on 9/4 and 11/6

Workgroups have been developed to focus on the following areas and are charged with meeting routinely in order to provide updates to the joint committee

- Transitional Housing
- Cross-system Collaboration and Resource Inventory
- Adult Day and LIFE programs

☐ Reducing Veteran Homelessness

Workgroup members:

Kelly Tuteurice, Belinda Albright, Angela Smoyer, Julie Seby, Uyen Nguyen, Beth Gerber, Susan Cree, Samantha Cossman

Cross-system Collaboration and Resource Inventory Workgroup

Vision statement: Foster current and new cross system collaborations that can inform the causes of and solutions to Veteran homelessness across the lifespan while helping to expand and promote up-to-date resource inventories.

Current Project: Assemble a directory of key statewide resources for homeless veterans

Phase 1: For each county in PA, outline the following resources:

- County Director of Veterans Affairs office
- Coordinated Entry system contact information (for general access to homeless services in county)
- Contact information for any/all SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) programs operating in the county
- VA Homeless Services point of contact for the VA medical center/s serving veterans in the county
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
- PAhousingsearch.com website

Phase 2: Look at potential of adding in regional/localized resources for counties that have them

❑ Reducing Veteran Homelessness

Transitional Housing Workgroup

Workgroup members:

Michael Wehrer, Ben Laudermilch,
Madra Clay, Tom Peters

Tentative Vision statement: Use transitional housing as a short-term bridge to permanent housing. Service-intensive transitional housing is only offered to those Veterans who have indicated a preference for it prior to moving to a permanent housing destination.

Current Project: Shorten time in transitional housing; identify new resources for permanent housing. These conversations are just beginning.

Next Steps: Gauge VA central office support for shifting to permanent housing including rapid rehousing.

- Create community asset map of all homeless programs serving veterans (emergency, transitional and permanent) in PA.
 - Measure average length of stay; Measure services used; Measure number times veterans are offered permanent housing; Delineate between types of transitional housing being offered to veterans; Measure demand for permanent supportive housing

Successes/Challenges: VA expectation of full utilization of transitional beds (grant per diem); Are privately funded transitional housing providers adhering to the housing first model?

Brought on Tom Peters of Veterans Multi-Service Center as new workgroup member

❑ Reducing Veteran Homelessness

Adult Day / LIFE Workgroup

Workgroup members:

Brian Natali, Sharon Coyle,
Ed Beck, Tom Applebach,
Kevin Longenecker, Dowel Lomax,
James Fearn

Recent meeting between DMVA and OLTL (DHS) about LIFE

DMVA seeking to more fully understand the LIFE program, including all costs and products/services included

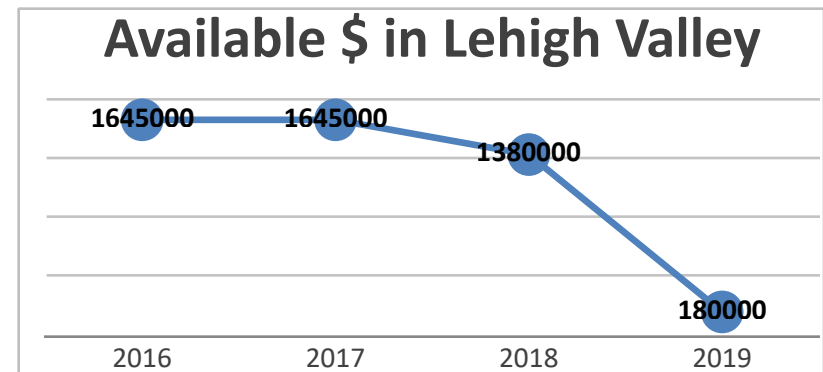
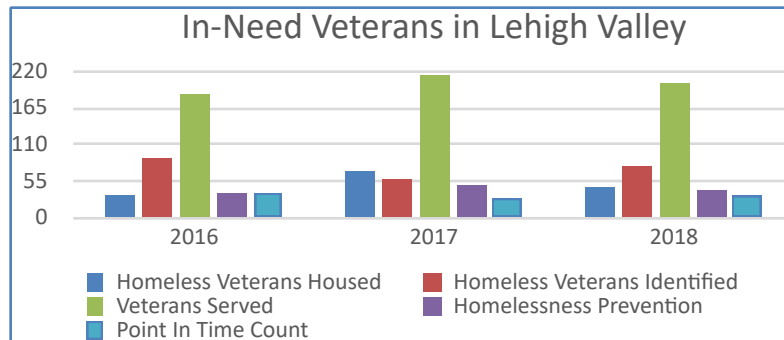
DMVA trying to tour and speak with all LIFE locations in PA

Each LIFE program is a little bit different, offers something slightly different

Ensure that veterans are well-educated consumers about the care program they select

Ensure veterans are maximizing the VA benefits that they earned and deserve, but understand that the VA cannot serve every veteran due to eligibility criteria - LIFE may be an alternate option for some to receive the care they need in community

❑ Reducing Veteran Homelessness



Loss of VA-SSVF Funding to the Lehigh Valley

- In-Need/Homeless Veterans in LV has generally held steady
- VA funding reduction: ~90% in three years; Loss of two providers (one remaining)
- Funding requests underway in counties, cities and municipalities. Requests were made prior to notification of \$1.2M cut for FFY19.
- Request being prepared for PA General Fund support and also to foundations and trusts
- Can GAC-VS support annual funding request for LV?
- Suggestions?

Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee

Mr. Kory Auch
Chair

Agenda:

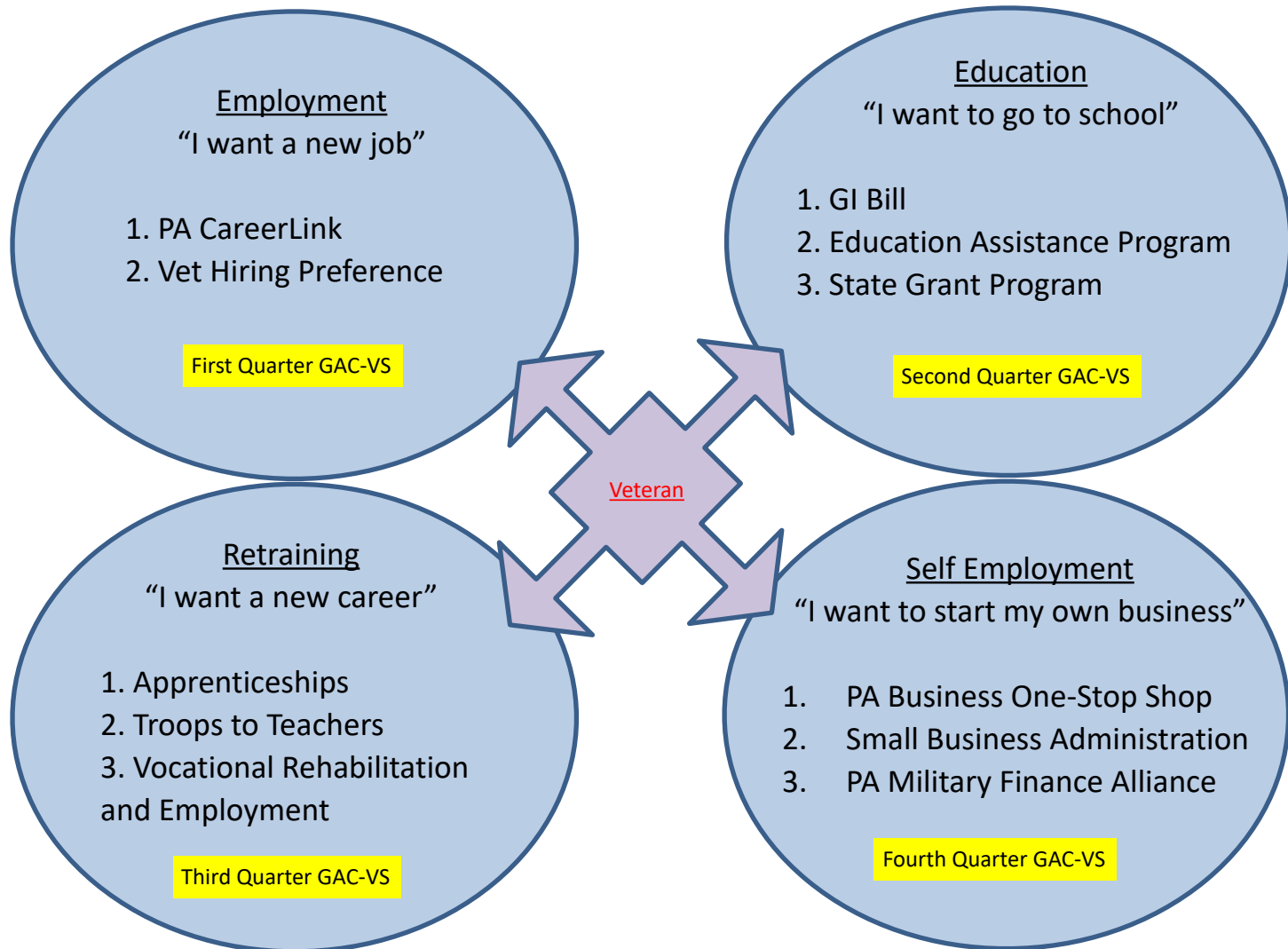
- Committee Members
- EEWFD Program Review Schedule
- Committee Efforts
- Program Reviews

Education, Employment/Workforce Development Committee (EEWFD), Kory Auch (Chair)

Members:

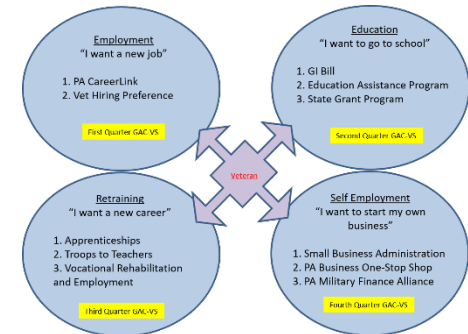
Name	Affiliation
Kory Auch	Chair / Office of Administration
Jeanne Block	Department of Labor and Industry
Christine Hawk	Department of Education
Bruce Foster	State Veterans' Commission
Cory Bender	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Bryan Lentz	State Civil Service Commission
Larry Furlong	Fish and Boat Commission
Tina Kotsalos	Department of Banking and Securities
Thomas Applebach	County Directors for Veterans Affairs
Scott Sheely	Department of Agriculture
Shelly Forte	Office of Administration
Mike McManus	Department of Community and Economic Development
Randy Wright/Billy Lanham	Veterans' Employment and Training Service

EEWFD Program Review Structure



Committee Efforts:

- Solidifying Program Review Approach & Rhythm
 - Enhance Awareness and Understanding for All
- Veteran Unemployment Indices
 - L&I Center for Workforce Information & Analysis
- Farming/Agriculture ... “Growing Veterans”
 - National Farmers Veteran Coalition meeting
- “What do I want to do next” Committee Membership ...



Small Business Administration

Concept

- {program description}

Participation

- {what agencies are doing, etc}

PA Key Data/Trends

- {metric/trend}

Key Changes/Initiatives

- {changes coming/laws/etc}

“I WANT TO START MY OWN BUSINESS”

1. PA Business One-Stop Shop
2. Small Business Administration
3. PA Military Financial Alliance

PA Business One-Stop Shop

Concept

- One-Stop Shop to Start or Grow a Business
 1. business.pa.gov
 2. 1-833-722-6778
 3. Dedicated Office housed in DCED
-
- PLAN, REGISTER, OPERATE & GROW

PA Key Data/Trends

- 75,000+ Website Users since Launch
-
- 6,000+ Inquiries Received by Phone and Email
-
- DCED Establishes Veteran Reporting Requirements in October

State Participation

1. Community & Economic Development
2. Labor & Industry
3. Revenue
4. State

Federal Participation

- Small Business Administration (SBA)

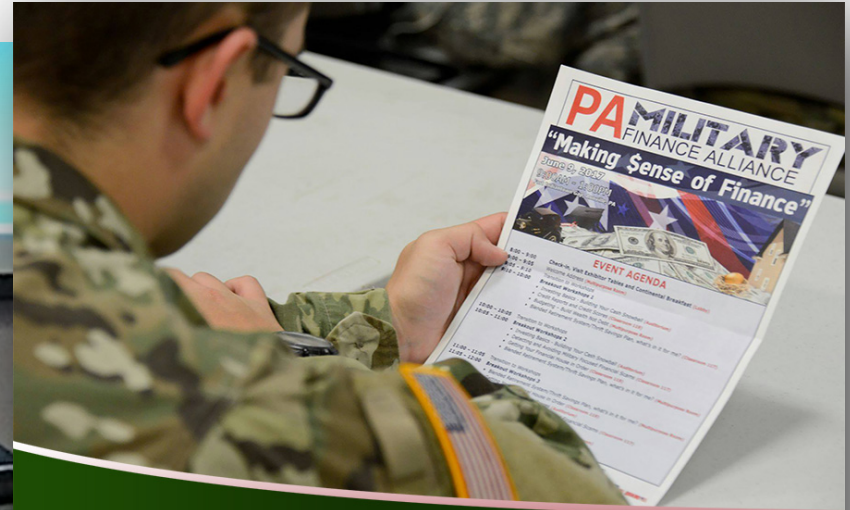
Key Changes/Initiatives

- Phase II – **Approved** September 2018
 - Customer Profile/Portal
 - Registration Wizard
 -

Legislation

- Act 107 of 2018 – **Signed** October 2018
 - Unanimously approved by legislature to establish the program into law.

Making \$ense of Finance Events



"The seminar was very useful and beneficial and I am leaving with a lot of useful resources so that when I go home I can do more research on my own."



"Every soldier and their spouse should come to this. I wish I had this ten years ago!"



PA Military Finance Alliance

Concept

- Live events to provide financial education to service members, veterans and their families
 - Why? Financial problems are most common reason for security clearance denials and revocations

State Participation

- PA Military Finance Alliance members:
 - USO, BBB, DMVA
 - PA National Guard, PA Dept of Banking and Securities, Attorney General's Office, Army Community Service, Advantage Credit Counseling
 - PA Military OneSource

PA Key Data/Trends

- 10 Making \$ense of Finance events since 2014
 - Total of 931 members attended
 - Largest audiences were at locations where leadership made attendance a priority/mandatory

Key Changes/Initiatives

- Focus on buy-in from leadership
 - Mandatory participation
 - Incentives
- More veteran focused events
 - Participate as part of existing event/conference
 - Identify opportunities to expand

Health and Behavioral Service Committee

Introduction of New Chairperson
Director Joel Mutchler, PIRO
DMVA

Health and Behavioral Service, Rick Hamp, (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Joel Mutschler	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Mike Stelacio	State Veterans' Commission
Jodi Skiles	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Angela Keen	VISN 4
Belinda Albright	County Directors for Veterans' Affairs
Robert Rounce	Department of Health

Fairweather Lodge Updates

Venango County – Funded by OMHSAS for this SFY

One member moved out and one member was asked to leave.

One Veteran opened a bicycle repair shop using the shed space on the property

The Lodge Coordinator is raising \$ for new windows and a roof repair.

Erie County (x2) - Funded under the Money Follows the Person (MFP) concept

Several referrals that did on work out

The two lodges have a census of 6 Veterans and 2 vacancies at this time

All 6 Veterans have jobs

Cumberland/Perry (Newville) – Funded by OMHSAS this SFY

Nothing Significant to Report

We are seeing a number of housing options being opened by county and community Partners. These housing options usually target a specialty population. The new SOR grant Funding that the commonwealth is receiving will focus on persons with addiction challenges

Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs will represent DMVA on this group
Joel Mutschler, Director for the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach will be the alternate.

Dr. Darryl Jackson, Chief Medical Officer and SA Hamp represent the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on the CCBHC steering committee. Veterans are being tracked as a priority population during intake and we are starting to track some data that should help us with basic information on emerging Veterans needs.

Mental Health First Aid – Nothing significant to report

We continue to build partnerships with community organizations that are able to provide services to our Veterans with behavioral health challenges and co-occurring conditions such as Substance Use Disorders.

- New Vitae Wellness and Recovery in the Lehigh Valley (Allentown/Quakertown)
- Retreat Premier Addiction Treatment Centers – Lancaster, PA
- Strive Healthcare/Veteran-First Responder (VFR) Healthcare – Greensburg, PA
- Just For Tomorrow (JFT) Recovery House – Lemoyne, PA
- York County Prison Veteran POD – York, PA
- Allegheny County Prison Veteran POD – Allegheny, PA
- Veteran's Recovery Home – York, PA

Dr. Darryl Jackson, Chief Medical Officer and Mr. Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs will represent DMVA on this group.

Joel Mutschler, Director for the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach will be the alternate.

Service Member, Veterans and their Families Wellness Initiatives – We continue our efforts to leverage new and innovative partnerships and programs to help keep our service families well while remaining agile and flexible when responding to crisis situations. Information is power in this initiative and we continue our efforts to become subject matter experts in this information sharing arena.

Mental Health First Aid – We have not been able to leverage and specific funding to support Mental Health First Aid for Veterans and their families during this State Fiscal Year (SFY). We are sharing many training opportunities that are hosted by community partners throughout the commonwealth. We have seen an increase in these training and awareness opportunities.

Regional Outreach Initiative – DMVA is moving forward with its Regional Outreach Initiative. We will focus on being the information broker for resources that include local, regional, state, and federal partners to include community partners and Veteran Service Organizations.

Veteran Homelessness – Homelessness among our military and veteran population continues to be a challenge. We are tracking a number of initiatives by sister Departments and agencies that are aimed at helping us address this area of concern. Pennsylvania continues to receive significant funding from the Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) program. Providers are changing but the resources remain stable to address this challenge within the commonwealth.

Joel Mutschler, Director for the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach will represent DMVA on this group. Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs will be the alternate

The CDC has shared best practices on “Promising Policies and Practices to Address Tobacco Use by persons with Mental and Substance use Disorders”. The practices highlight strategies that some states have used to address tobacco use in behavioral health treatment settings. There are other evidence-based strategies that have been shared with our working group. <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/disparities/promising-policies-and-practices/index.html>.

Veterans have historically smoked at higher rates than the civilian population

21.6% versus 15.1%

Highest among subgroups who are:

Ages 18-25 (56.8%)

Poverty Level (53.7%)

Psychological distress (48.2%)

income <\$20,000 (44.3%)

Not completed High School (37.9%)

Hispanic (34.0%)

The 2019 Pennsylvania State Strategy Session (PA-SSS) for 2019 will be announced soon.

The 2019 National Conference of Tobacco or Health will be held from 27-29 August in Minneapolis, MN.

Joel Mutschler, Director for the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach will represent DMVA on this group.

Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs will be the alternate.

Opioid Use Disorder Warm Hand-Off v2.0



We will continue to partner with The Department of Health (DOH), The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), the Department of Human Services (DHS) and various other State Departments, Community Support Organizations and Non-Profit Partners to combat Opioid Use within the Commonwealth.

Housing: Pennsylvania is the recipient of a \$15 Million dollar grant program that will fund 8 pilot projects in urban and rural communities throughout the Commonwealth. This program is designed to help individuals with OUD to become and remain engaged in evidence-based treatment interventions while providing them with the necessary supportive services to maintain housing stability. Veterans remain a priority population in this initiative.

Veterans in Crisis Outreach: \$350,000 in funding requested by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be utilized to support the development of regional programs focused on the education, prevention or identification of Opioid Use Disorder for Pennsylvania Veterans, their families or caregivers. The program will provide identification of resources available for referral and will include a collaborative effort that leverages local, state and federal government partners, our Veteran Service Organizations and other service provider across the Commonwealth.

Veteran Service Officer Awareness Training: \$50,000 in funding requested by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will be utilized to provide training to our Veteran Service Officers on the Opioid Crisis and our Warm Hand Off protocols.

Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs will represent DMVA on this group. Joel Mutschler, Director for the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach will be the alternate.

Problem Gambling Consortium



DMVA has accepted an invitation to sit as a member of the commonwealths Problem Gambling Consortium. Members of this consortium include the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), PA Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), the PA Lottery Commission, The Department of Agriculture (AG), the PA Gaming Control Board, the Council on Compulsive Gambling of PA and Rural PA.

This consortium meets quarterly and concentrates on emerging issues for specialty populations within the commonwealth. Areas of interest include accessibility to treatment, language barriers, outreach, treatment, prevention, training.

Joel Mutschler, Director for the Bureau of Programs, Initiatives, Reintegration and Outreach will represent DMVA on this group. Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs will be the alternate.

Health and Behavioral Service, Rick Hamp (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Mike Stelacio	State Veterans' Commission
Jodi Skiles	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Angela Keen	VISN 4
Belinda Albright	County Directors for Veterans' Affairs
Robert Rounce	Department of Health

Women Veterans Committee

Ms. Jodi Zucco
Chair

Women Veterans Committee, Jodi Zucco (Chair)

Subcommittee conducted conference calls on Subcommittee conducted conference calls on 9/27/18 and 11/8/18. Town Hall and Expo 10/27/18

VA Planning Calls Town Hall and Expo: Weekly beginning 9/20/18. AAR 11/6/18.

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Jodi Zucco	Office of Attorney General, U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Retired
Constance Snavelly	State Veterans' Commission, U.S. Army Retired
JoAnn Tresco	ServiceMembers and Family Support Branch, PA Army National Guard (PAANG) Veteran Retired
Audrey Bergstresser	Vietnam Veterans of American, Inc.; Chapter 542, Service Officer, U.S. Army Retired
Lisa Kaye	County Directors for Veterans Affairs, U.S. Army Veteran
Patricia Conroy	Women Veterans Program Manager, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center
Althea Circillo	Mentor, Veterans' Court of Dauphin County
Rhonda Smith	Air Force Veteran – Veteran small business owner

Mission: ***Women Veterans Outreach, Women Veterans focus in Annual Veteran Symposium, Identify emerging needs, Identify Gaps in benefits, programs and services for Women Veterans***

Critical Need: Identify Issues of Unique Concern to PA Women Veterans

Barrier: Lack of Input from our Target Population (in excess of 60,000 female veterans)

Mitigation:

- Develop and Disseminate a Questionnaire
- Town hall Meetings and Expos
- Supplemental Information, Academic Research and Studies

Questionnaire:

- Survey link open 4/19/18-6/18/18
- 761 surveys, hundreds of comments
- General Conclusions consistent with National reports and our Briefings

10/27/18 Town Hall and Expo (VA Medical Center Philadelphia):

- Moderation and Briefings provided by Committee
- DMVA Logistical Support and Keynote Speaker
- Extensive and Varied Outreach Support

Next Town Hall and Expo (Pittsburgh):

- Veterans Multi-Service Center (VMC) and VA Support
- Date TBD
- Theme “I’m Not Invisible”

Judiciary Committee

Mr. Ryan Yoder
Chair

Judiciary Committee , Ryan Yoder (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ryan Yoder	PA Department of Corrections (DOC)
Nicholas “Chip” Gilliland	PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Richard Podguski	PA Board of Probation and Parole
Terry Stokes	Veterans Court Advocate- PA VFW
Ward Adams	GAC-VS (Member at Large)
Carl Feldman	Department of Human Services

Allegheny County Veteran Reentry Program

- Initial meeting held September 21, 2018.
- Explore a continuum and linkage of veterans related reentry resources for offenders returning to Allegheny County.
- Population = Max Outs, Released from SCI's (specifically Mercer VSU), with possible expansion.
- Provide Proof of Concept, Business Process, etc.
- Obtaining initial dataset via VRSS to develop detailed selection criteria, (risk, sentence type, etc.).
- Outreach to AOPC to invite a Veterans Court representative to our committee.

Pennsylvania Counties with Veteran Treatment Courts

Updated to include Westmoreland County

County	Year Established	Veteran Population	Total Population	Vet Population
Allegheny	2009	87,809	1225365	7.17%
Beaver	2013	15100	186847	8.08%
Berks	2010	29256	414812	7.05%
Butler	2012	12949	186847	6.93%
Cambria	2013	12679	134732	9.41%
Carbon	2017	5977	63594	9.40%
Chester	2011	29963	516312	5.80%
Clinton	2016	3341	39233	8.52%
Dauphin	2011	19941	273707	7.29%
Delaware	2012	32677	563402	5.80%
Erie	2015	21359	276207	7.73%
Fayette	2012	11551	132733	8.70%
Lackawanna	2009	17302	211321	8.19%
Lancaster	2012	33000	538500	6.13%
Mercer	2014	10251	112913	9.08%
Montgomery	2011	48393	821725	5.89%
Northumberland	2011	9236	92541	9.98%
Philadelphia	2010	69602	1567872	4.44%
Washington	2011	17475	207981	8.40%
Westmoreland	2012	32024	355458	9.01%
York	2012	34007	443744	7.66%

SCI Muncy's Veterans Service Unit Grand Opening Ceremony

- On November 19th, 2018, the PA DOC will officially open the first all-female Veterans Service Unit (VSU) in the state and perhaps in the country.
- The event will include various shareholders including the inmate participants, DOC staff, media, and community members. Speeches will be given by DOC Statewide Veterans Coordinator, Facility Veterans Coordinator, VSU Peer Facilitator and keynote speaker, Lt. Col. Michele Papakie PhD. (PA Army National Guard)
- Tours will be offered of the new Veterans Service Unit at the conclusion of the ceremony.



SCI Muncy's Veterans Service Unit Grand Opening Ceremony



PA Media Group Visits SCI Mercer's Veterans Service Unit

Videographers from PA Media Group out of Mechanicsburg visited SCI Mercer's Veterans Service Unit (VSU) to film and take photos for their upcoming documentary, "100 Years of Heroes." The final product was aired via PennLive.com on Veterans Day. This project commemorated the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day (Veterans Day) and highlighted stories as told by Pennsylvania veterans. As part of the documentary, this project featured DOC's Statewide Veterans Coordinator and GAC-VS Chair, Ryan Yoder (USMC) and his work with incarcerated veterans within the PA Department of Corrections. Salim Michel Makhlouf, Emmy Award-winning director at PA Media Group, and Mark Pynes, videographer/ photographer, took photos and video footage during the visit. Several inmate veterans were interviewed by the videographers, and they were asked what the veterans program means to them, how the program has helped them adapt while incarcerated, and how it will help them to prepare for reentry to their communities upon release. The VSU's Honor Guard presented and retired the colors. Makhlouf stated that the documentary includes interviews with veterans from all over Pennsylvania, including a few veterans in their 90's. The documentary entitled, "Freedom Lost: Leave No Veteran Behind" can be seen on PennLive's website via www.100yearsofheroes.com



PA Media Group Visits SCI Mercer's Veterans Service Unit



Technology Committee

Ms. Sandra Patterson
Chair

Technology Committee Update



Technology Committee - Sandy Patterson, HHS Delivery Center CIO

Name	Affiliation
Eric Felty	DMVA – Project Manager
Tim Irvin	DMVA – IT Director DMVA
Richard Hamp	DMVA – Special Assistant to Dep. Adj. Gen. of Veteran Affairs
Joe Smolok	DMVA
Brian Natali	DMVA
Christine Hawk	Department of Education
Susan Leevan	IES/SAP
Robert Rounce	Department of Health
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections
Penni Bernard	PennDOT
Steven Wolf	Department of Labor and Industry
Kory Auch	Office of Administration
Jordan Rummel	Office of Administration

Veterans Registry Phase 1 Statistics as of September 30, 2018

Quarter	Counts
Q1	1097
Q2	1133
Q3	1634
Total	3864
* Note - As of Oct 24th 418 registered	

Veterans Registry Phase 2

Scope

- Project approved by Governor's Communications Office on 07/30/2018 to include additional functionality to enhance Veterans' Registry;
 - Discharge documents upload (DD214, etc.)
 - Admin functionality
 - Reporting
 - Registrants ability to update info

Progress to date

- Project Kickoff 09/07/2018
- First User Acceptance Testing (UAT) held during the week of 10/23/2018

Next Steps

- Continue development
- Second round of UAT
- Project go-live 12/12/218

Suicide Prevention-Peer (SPPEER) Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp
Chair

Suicide Prevention-Peer (SPPEER) Committee, Rick Hamp (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Mark Todero	Pennsylvania National Guard
VACANT	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Angela Keen, Ph.D.	Veterans Integrated Service Network, Mental Health Program Lead
VACANT	Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Fred Nardei	VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Certified Forensic Peer Specialist
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections, Statewide Veteran Coordinator
Dave Measel	Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition
Donald Danser, Ph.D.	Department of Veterans Affairs, Manager, BH VA and Specialty Clinics



We will strengthen our Community Awareness and Communications

1. Develop a Strategic Action Plan that compliments the State Suicide Prevention Plan while focusing on Service Members, Veterans and their Families
2. Develop a Communications Action Plan that addresses the unique challenges Faced by our Service members, Veterans and their Families
3. Develop and grow partnerships with our sister departments and agencies, non-profit organizations, for profit partners and community action groups to specifically address the needs of Service Members, Veterans and their Families.

*Making a Difference in our communities – CCBHC Providing Services where they count

*Warm-Hand Off Opioid Survivors Initiative– Multi-Agency Task Force addressing the Opioid Crisis in PA. Round 2 of Warm Hand-Off Seminars are underway

*The VA recently released its National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide

<http://bit.ly/NtnlStrategy>



Prevention and Treatment Services and Strategies

This subcommittee has compiled an impressive list of Suicide Prevention Resources That is now shared at the Prevent Suicide PA website <https://www.preventsuicidepa.org> Or in the Veterans/Military Families resources section of PA Recovery located at <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/parecovery/adultolderadult/vetmilfam/milresources/index.htm>

We will be including these resources in our Regional Outreach Directory that is being Prepared.

Ms. Sherry Peters Retired from Commonwealth Service in September. We are working With DHS to replace her.



Training and Education

- October 18th was Global Peer Support Day.
 - Mr. Nardei published the one year anniversary issue of “VA Peer Perspectives”
 - ❖ Quarterly e-mail news letter devoted to Peer Support
 - ❖ Audience is approximately 1100 Peer Specialists and supervisors and local Recovery coordinators
 - ❖ Theme was Female Peer Specialists and the Veterans they Serve.
- Preparing for next years Suicide Prevention and Whole Health and Wellness conference
 - Mr. Nardei has been invited to speak
 - ❖ Date/Time/Location To Be Announced.
- Actively conducting Outreach to Veterans in State and County Prisons
 - Focus is on connecting incarcerated Veterans into re-entry support programs



Questions, Concerns or Guidance from the Council

Commendation

Veterans, Active Military, and Their Families Day

103rd PA Farm Show
January 10, 2019

Background

- Since 2016 at the 100th PA Farm Show, the PA Department of Agriculture and the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has been sponsoring Veterans, Active Military, and Their Families Day on one day during the 8-day Show.
- Program with speaker kicks off the day with events connected to Homegrown by Heroes and free exhibit space for veteran service organizations the rest of the day.

Schedule for 2019

- Program sponsored by PDA and DMVA at 10:00 will focus on...
 - Veteran farmers with Rhonda Smith, USAF veteran of The Skirted Soldier as speaker
 - Veterans and the charitable food system with Greg Stegall of the Central PA Food Bank as speaker
 - PA veterans' home with Major General (retired) Eric Weller as speaker
- Honor guard and national anthem

Schedule for 2019

- Military band concert from 11:00 to noon
- Army-Navy Cookoff at noon on the Culinary Connection in the Main Hall
- Band concert from the Valley Forge Military Academy Band during the afternoon (still tentative)
- Troops to Tractors program and Homegrown by Heroes features in the PA Preferred space
- Veteran service organizations at the PDA and DMVA spaces during the day

How Can You Help?

- Pass along the press announcement that was made on Veteran's Day to local media.
- Encourage your contacts to attend the Show on January 10, particularly the opening ceremony at 10:00 in the Expo Hall.
- Consider signing up for booth space at the PDA and DMVA areas during the day.
- Suggest any ideas for 20-30 minute programs for the public on the Ag 101 stage during the afternoon and evening.

Contact

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Special Assistant for Workforce Development

PA Department of Agriculture

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Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Office of Veterans Affairs

Mission

- Increase awareness of all benefits (to include Fed/State Health Benefits) for our approx. 800,000 veterans
- Provide best advice/assistance in obtaining benefits
- Provide highest quality care to the residents of our State Veterans Homes

Vision

- Be lead Veteran advocate within the Commonwealth
 - Lead state in number/quality of services for veterans/their families
 - Coordinate Veteran services with sister departments/agencies
 - Advocate passage of new legislation for benefit of veterans

ISSUES



- Address following issues:
 - Veterans Outreach
 - Veterans Homes Admissions (as it relates to Mental Health)
 - Address Veteran Home Domicile Transition
 - Address Veteran Homelessness/ Employment/ Drug-Alcohol/ PTSD etc.)
 - Veterans Mental Health Issues
 - Enhance partnerships with State Agencies (also Fed/ County/ Local/ Private)

OUTREACH



- DMVA Involvement:
 - Formal Outreach Mission
- Current Program:
 - 2 Outreach Vans
 - Attendance at some Veterans events
 - Outreach at some venues (Cabelas) Central PA
- Proposed:
 - Regionalize efforts (5 Regions)
 - Formalize partnerships with CDVA, Serv Orgs, State Depts, 501(c)(3)s
 - Identify sources in DMVA Database by County
- Resources Required:
 - 5 VSOs

PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS HOMES



PA Veterans Home Locations



HOMELESS INITIATIVE



- DMVA Involvement:
 - No formal program
- Current Program:
 - Limited reactive information broker
- Proposed:
 - Partner with CoC's
 - Oversee CoC database
 - Expand database to house supportive services information
 - Expand database to house other resources (i.e. 501(c)(3)s)
- Resources Required:
 - Re-allocate 1 position from current outreach program

DMVA OUTREACH REGIONS



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HANDS- Housing and Neighborhood Development Service.
COAT- Veteran Community Outreach Action Team

Veterans Multi-Service Center-Central (VMC)

Veterans Resource Coalition of Northeastern PA
(Lackawanna Workforce Development)

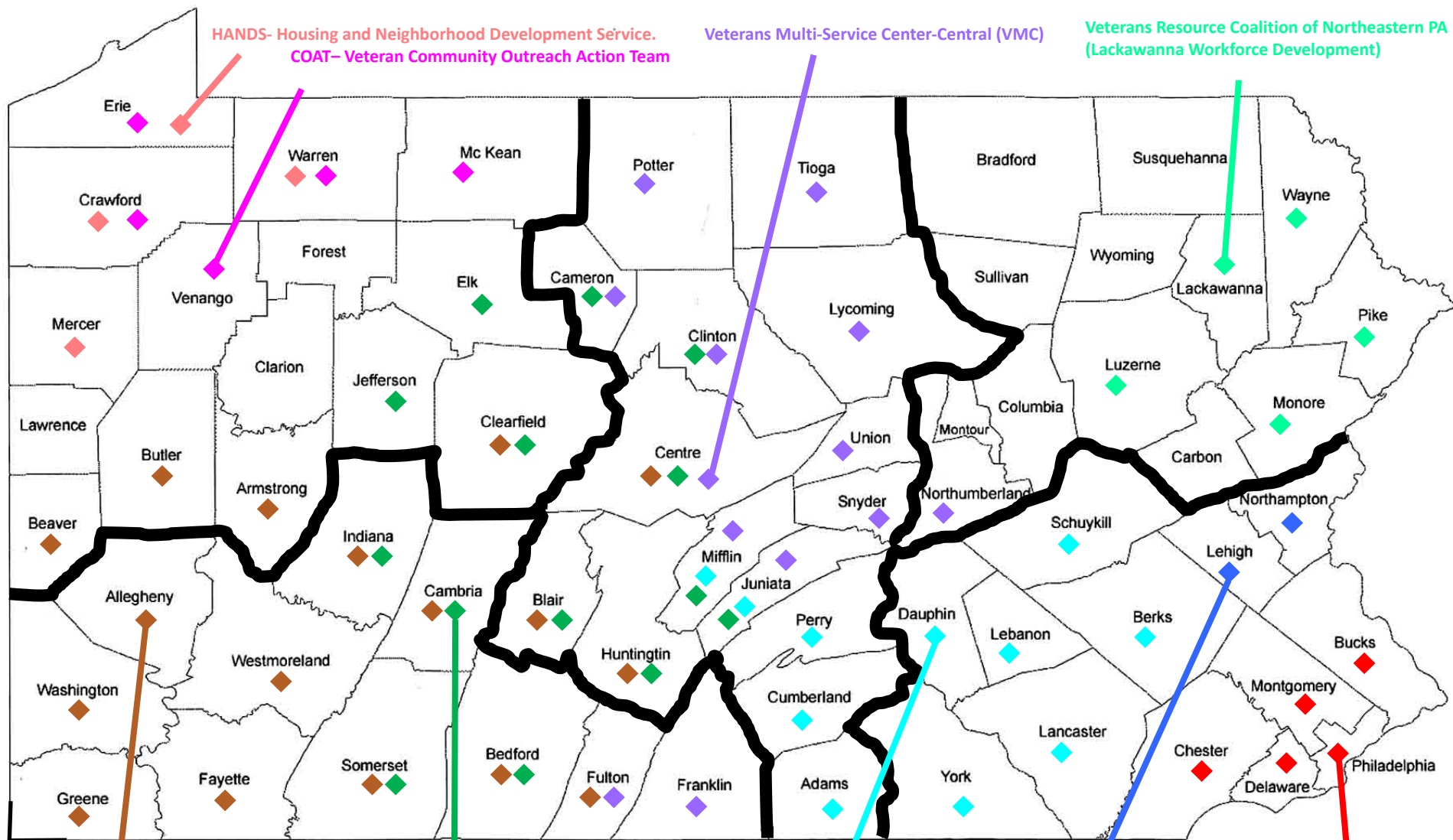
Veterans Leadership Program

Veteran Community Initiatives

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg

Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council (LVMAC)

Veteran Multi-Service Center (VMC) - HQ



REGIONAL PLAN



- Phase 1:
 - Re-allocate 1 position from current outreach program
 - Individual hired will be a Project Manager
- Phase 2:
 - Re-allocate remaining 5 Outreach positions for regional concept
 - Budget for 5 vehicles
- Phase 3:
 - Re-allocate 3 positions within BVH
 - Create Behavioral Health Consultant and 2 Behavioral Health Case Mgr positions

REGIONAL PLAN BENEFITS



- Establishing **simple database** (spreadsheet) information by County
- Creates access organized access to **information**
- Promotes organized use of **information**
- Promotes access to additional **resources (manpower)**
- Promotes access to additional **funding**
- Promotes organized **crosstell** between all agencies and orgs
- Promotes deconfliction of events/ programs

QUESTIONS?

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 1:00 PM

**Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA**