**ND Cares Coalition Meeting Minutes**

**September 7, 2023**

Chairman Shelly Sizer opened the meeting about 1:00.

**Presentation:** Chad Pitts, program manager for ND Hopes gave an overview of the program. It receives $1M per year for 5 years from the CDC, with the goal to reduce suicide in western North Dakota by 10% in the next five years. They are bringing Zero Suicide to western hospitals and recently presented to CHI senior staff. Resiliency training in schools is also an initiative where they may add topics of understanding military and veteran’s children. They are also providing gatekeeper QPR and ASIST training. New partnerships with VisionWest, National Shooting Sports Association have been formed. Next year they hope to participate in gun shows to distribute suicide prevention and safe storage information.

LTC Ann Willoughby who directs Service Member and Family Services for the National Guard reported on several upcoming events including Retiree Weekend, Yellow Ribbon event for the 191st Military Policy Company in Fargo, Welcome Home Event at the Fargo Dome, 188th Sendoff Event in Grand Forks, Military Appreciation Day, Father/Daughter Ball in Bismarck and Fargo. The 188th vertical engineer company out of Wahpeton will be going to the southwest border to help Texas.

Amy Ruff, from the National Guard talked about what the Guard is doing for Suicide Prevention Month, including supporting AFSP’s Out of the Darkness walks, 30-day Wellness Challenge and professional development (PD) regarding suicide prevention. The PD featured a lived recovery story from Sgt Nathan Grifin and James Knopik from NDDHHS presented on 988 and 211 information. She talked about Recovery Reinvented in Minot at mentioned that the Guard is supportive of these event.

Stuard Eidenschink of the VA in Fargo reported that the VA will award a construction project for a new outpatient mental health building starting first quarter of FY24, which starts October. The clinic in Grand Forks will double in size with a new lease.