ND Cares Coalition Oct 4th, 2018.

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

Members on the phone were Robert Black, Lavonne Liversage, Lonnie Wangen, Dave Klein, and Cindy Miller.

Members present were Robert Becklund, Dick Dever, Pam Sagness, Davina French, Paula Heitmann, Kirby Schmidtgall, Alison Traynor, Mitch Barta, Patrick Flannagan, Tim Wicks, Kelli Weiand, Cindy Whitesell, Nicki Froehlich, Marlys Morgenstern, Coreen Swart, Robert Black, Pam Sagness, Erica Davidson, Megan Carannza, Darcie Handt, and Joe Faller. Additional attendees were Jeremy Smith, Jay Sheldon, Cassandra Sattler, Mark Fisher, Suzanne Richards, Amy Ruff and Mallary Nygaard.

Darcie began by discussing upcoming regional training, the Business Initiative, Budget; to include charitable donation usage, the databook update and new members.

Mallory Nygaard provided the Department of Corrections update. Discussed Free through Recovery, Care coordinators and peer support specialists. Currently accepting referrals throughout the state, currently 527 participants. Also talked about positive trends they are seeing.

Pam Sagness briefed the legislative updates from the Health and Human Services Committees. Bills include Peers Support Services; Bill to expand the Free through Recovery program outside of Dept of Corrections; Expand targeted case management services to private providers; proposed a voucher for mental health; Human Services Research report being worked to fix gaps; a bill to fund early intervention. Also working on a 1959, a state amendment to Medicaid. Darcie asked about conducting a weekly conference call during session; committee agreed it is beneficial and should be conducted.

Lonnie Wangen provided an updated of legislative issues from the ND Dept of Veteran Affairs. Asked for an update to the Budget including the Highly Rural Grant fund; FTE back lost last session loan and grant program; additional funding for Veterans Benefit Specialist and FTE; funding for tribal VSO outreach; grant database to be updated; requesting funding for Standdowns, DVA vans, and PTSD dogs; VSO funding grants. ACOVA Bills; standdown, DVA Vans and PTSD Dogs. NDDVA to accept and expend funds on an ongoing basis. NDDVA work with and apply for benefits with private entities. Post War Trust fund investment goals and objectives set by ACOVA; change the name of the ND Veterans Coordinating Council; Military Retired Pay tax exemption.

Jay Sheldon briefed the legislative issues unique to the ND National Guard: a new facility in Fargo and Dickinson; Office of the Adjutant General to receive and execute donated funds; State Defense Force, outdated and needs to be updated; the TAG and DAG requirement to being appointed to these positions. Talked about the expansion of Camp Grafton; expanded TF COMPASS; gave financial adjustments that would be affected by non-taxation of retiree pay; discussed Occupational boards and awarding of credit for prior training. Talked about the Honorary Commander Program.

Jeremy Smith, Statewide Field Services Administrator for the Dept of Health and Human Services provided an update on new programs and initiatives throughout the state of ND.

Kaitlin Kinsella, Director of Residential Services, and Katie provided an overiew of services provided and client requirements for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in North Dakota.

Darcie covered an update to the ND Cares Strategic Plan objectives. Requested coalition approval to move ahead with the Single source resource working group’s recommendations.

Cindy Miller said they will start texting soon.

Kelli Weiand Minot standdown is scheduled for October 25th.

Nicole Froehlich discussed upcoming changes to the Tricare Retiree Dental Program.

Corean Swart briefed this is the WWI 100th Anniversary and that there is an effort to read the deceased and ring bells throughout the country.

Davina French briefed that on October 23rd there is a Womens Veterans event scheduled in Bismarck ND.

Mitch Barta briefed that Military One Source is now available to individuals leaving the service for 1yr, a change from 6 months.

Patrick Flannagan briefed the ND National Guard has filled their Victim Advocate position and will start on October 15th.

Megan Carannza reminded all participant to reach out to your congressional representation for congregational inquiry, veterans benefits and any issue.

Cindy Whitesell briefed that the Minot Air Force Base was chosen as a test site for an Air Force initiative called Task Force True North. She also announced that she is retiring from civil service but will remain with ND Cares.