 **ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting**

**April 1, 2021**

**Attendees:** Connie Sprynczynatyk (virtual), LTC Shawn Flemmer (virtual), Dr. Weintraub (Virtual), Davina French (virtual), Michelle Panos.

**Absent:** Lonnie Wangen, Cindy Whitesell Joyal Meyer Brian Watters, BG Jackie Huber, Pam Sagness

**1. Opening.** Connie briefly opened the meeting.

**2. Minutes.** Minutes from the February 4, 2021 meeting where accepted as written.

**3. Presentation**

* MSgt Lindsay Nowling gave a presentation on military sexual assault (MSA) and volunteering at the VA to assist others heal from their own MSA trauma.

**4. Old Business:**

* Michelle Panos reported on her ND Cares Community Reconnect with Grand Forks and John Hanson, Committee member. The city will officially dedicate their veterans’ memorial wall on Remembrance Day 2021.
* The city of Minot has a vacancy on their ND Cares committee. Kelli Weiand was suggested and approved for recommendation to fill the vacancy due to her involvement and knowledge of military events. Michelle is waiting to receive further guidance from the mayor.

**5. New Business**

* For the strategic plan update Michelle reported on her efforts to work on Assess healthcare provider training to determine if the training is working to reduce sigma and offer assistance if needed, which fits under Objects 1.1 and 1.3 of the plan. She discussed her conversation with the Board of Medicine that although 60 credits of CME are required every three years, it is not prescriptive on certain topics. XXXX mentioned that the Board might be agreeable to advertising CME that we create or recommend in their monthly newsletter, as long as the Board approves. Michelle also contacted the NDU School of Medicine to learn if current curriculum provides any military culture training, suicide prevention, or mental health referral training. She is waiting to hear back from NDU. Michelle will set up a meeting among select coalition members to inventory what military culture and suicide prevention training is available and to ask if they have trained any health care professionals in the last three years. She also plans to speak with the Board of Psychological examiners about CME. Connie suggested that we talk with the school of nursing.
* Michelle provided a Veterans Cares Coordination Coalition Update and explained some of the goals of the coalition. During the conversation, it was discussed that mental health providers get relatively little training on suicide prevention. Dr. Weintraub suggested that perhaps North Dakota should have some requirement to do at least a few hours of CME on suicide prevention similar to other states that required CME concerning opioids.
* **Executive Committee Updates**
  + **Chairman –** Connie stated that there is a need to replace Davina French on the Protection & Advocacy Board as her appointment has ended. Within the next few weeks Davina, Connie and Michelle will look at the current Coalition membership list to discuss a replacement. Davina explained it is a working board what actually hires the director. In the past Davina and Lonnie Wangen provided military disability awareness training to the P&A Board. Connie recommended we offer the opportunity to the Coalition members. Michelle will send out the statue with the next Coalition meeting agenda.
  + **VA Fargo –** Dr. Weintraub reported that they have administered over 20,000 doses, with almost 10,000 veterans getting at one dose. All ages and health conditions are now eligible to receive for vaccinations. Thanks to the Save Lives Act. The VA has an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security to vaccinate employees and next may be the FDA. Suicide Prevention staff are starting perform more outside activities.
  + **NDNG –** LTC Flemmer reported that on April 4-5 the National Guard will offer the ASIST Course in Jamestown and the Race to Zero for sexual assault awareness will be held at Sertoma Park in Bismarck. Michelle also informed LTC Flemmer that Jim Nelson who hosts the Vietnam Veterans ceremony will contact Military Survivor outreach to find survivors for the yearly events. Michelle also explained that First Link has a media grant to promote suicide awareness, including military suicide. First Link is looking for assistance to find someone to talk about his or her military experience. The request for assistance was forwarded to Amy Ruff.
  + **Army Reserve –** David discussed the Army Reserve Scholarship Program and they have done a good job placing cadets into the program. He will attend the Reserve Conference in May.

**6. Upcoming Events**

**a. VA Vaccinations**

* Devils Lake, Camp Grafton - 2nd dose April 1
* Jamestown, Gladstone Inn & Suites - 2nd dose April 7
* Bismarck, RJB Armory - 2nd dose - April 8
* Grand Forks, NDNG Armory - 2nd dose - April 21
* Dickinson NDNG Armory - 2nd dose - Apr 14, Time: 1000-1300
* Williston - UMDHU Hanger - 2nd dose - Apr 13, Time: 1000-1300, 408 Airport Rd

**b. Behavioral Health Peer Support Training**

* + 1. Virtual – April 26-30
    2. In Person – June 28-July 2, Grand Forks, Minot, Bismarck, Fargo

1. **Memorial Day Ceremony May 31 Heritage Museum/Veterans Cemetery Mandan**

**7. Next Meeting Dates**

**a.** ND Cares Coalition Meeting, June 2, 2021

**b.** ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting, May 6, 2021.