 **ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 3, 2023**

Attendees: Cindy Whitesell, Dr. Weintraub, Lonnie Wangen, Pam Sagness, Joyal Meyer, Michelle Panos (All virtual)

Absent: Shelly Sizer, David Becker, BG Jackie Huber, LTC Ann Willoughby

**1. Opening.** Co-Chairman Cindy Whitesell briefly opened the meeting.

**2. Minutes.** Minutes from the July 6 meeting were accepted as written.

3. **Presentation:** Lezlie Poole from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation presented their newly released  
 [Toolkit for Caregivers of Veterans for Disaster Preparedness.](https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/docs/Prepared_Military_Caregivers_Disaster_Relief_Toolkit_Final.pdf)Topics include plans and checklists,  
 managing risk, how to shelter in place or in a congregate center, evacuation, and recovery. It also  
 includes a section that gives insights into how the physical and mental wounds of war cause that  
 veteran to experience disasters differently than their care recipient.

**3. New Business**

* **Executive Committee Updates**
  + **Co-Chairman:** Cindy reported that Minot Air Force Base a new resiliency team concept in place and they will decide shortly who will participate with ND Cares. She also stated there were good turnouts at the Military Outreach information resource booths at Military Day at the Zoo and the State Fair.
  + **NDHHS, Health:** Pam Sagness wrote that the key impact upcoming is the requirement for CCBHC's to address veteran behavioral health needs. Something we should keep on the radar as Human Service Centers convert to the CCBHC model.
  + **NDDVA**: Lonnie reported that he is busy working on getting programs up and running that were enacted during the last session. He will also meet with Stephanie Burnett of Vision 23 mental health programs. She is interested in greater coordinate between North Dakota and Minnesota.
  + **Regional VA, Fargo**: Dr. Weintraub reported that they are continuing to implement the PACT ACT although their volume has been low. The have also implemented a postvention group for employees and friends and families of veterans who may have died from suicide. On another topic, he stated that one of VA Fargo facilities was given a 5-star rating by Medicare. This designation is helpful for funding purposes. The VA nationally has received ample funding over the last couple of years. While the veteran population in North Dakota is starting to decline gradually and it's projected to decline over the next decade or two, VA’s in warmer states are seeing record growth and we expect to see increases in their funding. Lastly Chief of Staff Dr. Rondo is retiring in November.

**4. Old Business**

* **Michelle** reported that the ND Cares business partner presentation to Dakota Home Care will take place shortly and Shelly will officiate. Sarah Kemp Tabbut from the VA will in town for other matter and attend the presentation to talk about CALM Training and Caregiver Supports. Home Care has 160 field staff that would like military culture training. The town of Harvey is possibly the next ND Cares Community. Michelle also announced that Jonathan Ross, veteran and UND student, is now the ND Cares appointment to the Protection and Advocacy Board. For Governors Challenge updates, Michelle reported that we will present information on the COMPACT Act, on the importance of asking the question and to introduce the community provider toolkit to the North Dakota Hospital Association in October. She also talked about promoting the STAR Behavioral Health Provider training. We’ve talked to a few veterans’ groups about peer support training. The PsychArmor training links should be up on the state’s peer support website next month. Over 4000 gunlocks have been distributed since the beginning of the year and we will be working on a ND gun law and firearms and mental health fact sheet for distribution. Lastly, over 100 people have taken the CALMS training, and another is set for August 24th. Regarding advertising, Michelle stated that a new radio ad for the COMPACT Act will replace the PACT/Blue Water ad. We are looking for someone of note to record a video for television. Lonnie recommended Medal of Honor Recipient, Clint Romesha.

**5. UPCOMING EVENTS**

Michelle highlighted some of the following events:

1. **Survivor Outreach Services:** Remembrance Weekend, Aug 5-7, Ramada, Bismarck
2. **Counseling on Access to Lethal Mean training:** Aug. 8, RJB Armory, Bismarck
3. **Brats for the Brave:** Sept 6, Kirkwood Mall, Bismarck
4. **FirstLink**: [Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training](https://myfirstlink.org/arlo-events/3-applied-suicide-intervention-skills-training/), Sept 19, Fargo
5. **Governor’s Challenge Post Implementation Site Visit**.: Aug. 22-23, Bismarck & Fargo
6. **911 Remembrance Observance**: Sept 11, GWOT Memorial Fraine Barracks, Bismarck
7. **ND Suicide Prevention Coalition:** Annual Conference ([in-person](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-person-registration-nd-suicide-prevention-coalition-annual-conference-tickets-676653578067?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile)/[virtual](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-registration-suicide-prevention-coalition-annual-conference-tickets-680977491007?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=wsa&aff=ebdsshwebmobile)) Sept 14, Bismarck Career Academy
8. **ACOVA:** Sept. 14-15, Veterans Club, Steele
9. **NDNG Retiree Weekend:** Sept 15-17, CGTC Devil’s Lake
10. **Bismarck Stand Down:** Aug. 24, AMVETS Club
11. **Brain Injury Network:** [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](https://www.ndbin.org/assets/3074-24632/powerful-tools-for-caregivers.pdf) (Zoom), Aug 22-Sept 26
12. **FirstLink:** [Suicide Risk Assessment: Live One Hour Webinar](https://myfirstlink.org/arlo-events/16-suicide-risk-assessment-live-one-hour-webinar/), Sept 28
13. **AFSP** [Out of the Darkness Walks](https://supporting.afsp.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.eventList&eventGroupID=9AA117B3-F522-BB6D-359D1AA2D75A7958&state=ND)**:** Sept – Oct, Various Locations
14. ND County & Tribal VSO Training: Oct 2-5, Baymont Inn, Mandan
15. [**Behavioral Health & Children Services Conference (in-person/virtual):**](https://www.hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health/conference) Oct 24-26, Bismarck

1. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

The next Coalition meeting date is September 7th, and the next Executive Committee meeting date is August 3rd.