 **ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2023**

Attendees: Shelly Sizer, Cindy Whitesell, Dr. Weintraub, Joyal Meyer, David Becker, LTC Ann Willoughby, Brian Watters, Michelle Panos. (All virtual)

Absent: Lonnie Wangen, Pam Sagness, BG Jackie Huber

**1. Opening.** Chairman Shelly Sizer briefly opened the meeting.

**2. Minutes.** Minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting were accepted as written.

**3. New Business**

* **Executive Committee Updates**
  + **Fargo VA**: Dr. Weintraub reported the VA outreach activities are proceeding unhindered. Mental health staffing is improving and they have been given the authorization to increase staffing 40-50% from the baseline. Some of those resources are being stationed out in the community clinics to try to have more on-site presence. Telehealth is a wonderful thing, but some veterans just prefer face to face. There is a new inpatient manager for mental health, Lucy Kappel. Two in-patient rooms are out of service due damage from a behaviorally challenged veteran. The repairs are taking longer then expected but they should be in service soon.
  + **ND Health Dept**: Joyal reported that Lonnie Wangen contacted herself and Kodi Pinks about legislative language to access vital records data for veterans from Death Reporting system. She will circle back with him suggesting that he work with someone in Behavioral Health.
  + **NDNG:** LTC Ann Willoughby reported on the Legislative Reception in December where legislators interacted with servicemembers who discussed their various units and showcased their equipment. The Guard welcomed back home the 957 Engineer Company that was assigned to the southwest border to assist the Border Patrol. The 191 Military Policy company will be returning in September from overseas and the 174th Cyber Protection will be leaving in October to an undisclosed location. She also talked about the Blue Ribbon and Child and Youth events that help families build resiliency during deployments and even trainings that take servicemember away for a month. There will be upcoming parenting classes and a STEM technology camp. There is a new Military OneSource consultant that services the Guard and the Air Force bases. She briefly explained that services it provides. Michelle added that the Governor’s Ball is in March and the Guard presents awards. Connie Spry will be getting an award for all her service to the Guard over the years.
  + **ND Army Reserve:** David Becker reported that there is a new Army, reserve ambassador coordinator for our area, Teresa Oval, had replaced Catherine Bissonnet that retired. The Minuteman scholarship process going on for ROTC. David is working on getting some good young men or women into the program and give them a scholarship for the four years. He is working with the AMVETS legislative liaison about veterans initiatives that are going on in the session right now.

**4. Old Business**

* + Michelle reported there are 58 ND Cares communities and that is up 10 since she started as Director. She also thanked Cindy Whitesell and Nikki for presenting Streeter with their road signs. Regarding the Bridges for the Fallen, there is not bill yet however there is a bridge in Cavalier that is to be named the Veteran’s Memorial Bridge. For an update on the Strategic Plan, a new PEP announcement is running asking veterans to contact the local veterans service officer about the PACT Act and the Blue Water Navy Act. She is currently working on a new version of the ND Military Data Book and thanked Dr. Weintraub for his staff’s assistance to get her updated statistics. Military related suicides appear to have decreased slightly in ND. The provisional number for 2022 of both residents and non-residents is 19. For just ND residents it was interesting to note that in 2021 all of the deaths were from firearms while in 2022 the provisional numbers show 11 from firearm and 8 from hanging. The P&A board is still waiting for an appointment of a disabled veterans from ND Cares. Michelle mentioned that she was not successful to recruit anyone thus far but stated she will post the position on social media as if that generates interest. Lastly work is being done on the Governor’s Challenge priority areas.

We are waiting for the mortality review legislation to development and there is another bill that just allows the DDVA access to more detailed information on suicides outside of a mortality review panel. There is talk about, but no legislation yet, about requiring providers to ask the question “Have you ever served”. This will allow community providers to all types to better coordinate with the VA in Fargo for care or benefits. SAVE and CALM trainings are scheduled for various dates. At a future time, there will be discussions with Colorado about how they are advertising suicide prevention trainings. There is not further developments concerning TRICARE.

**5. Upcoming Events** Michelle discusses some of the following:

* 1. [**ND 2023 Legislative Calendar of Deadlines**](https://www.ndlegis.gov/files/resource/68-2023/legislative-deadlines/23.9036.02000.pdf)
  2. [**First Link ASIST Training: January 24-25 9:00 am 5:00 pm, Fargo $240**](https://myfirstlink.org/event/asist-fargo-nd-10/)
  3. [**Meet FirstLink Virtual Presentation: Jan 31**](https://myfirstlink.org/event/meet-firstlink-123/)
  4. **Grand Forks Military Affairs Committee:** Jan 18
  5. **Fargo/Moorhead Military Affairs Committee:** Feb 9
  6. **Devils Lake Military Affairs Committee:** Jan 26
  7. **Minot Military Affairs Committee:** Feb 2
  8. **Williston Military Affairs Committee:** Feb 3
  9. **VA S.A.V.E Virtual Training:** Jan 19, and Feb 16. Contact [Tammy Monsebroten](mailto:Tammy.monsebroten@va.gov) for information.
  10. [**Behavioral Health Webinar, Question, Persuade, Refer:** February 21, 2023](https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2Fl%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_MjgyODY3ZGQtMTk3MC00ZjM4LWFhZWEtMjVlOTJkOTM3NzM0%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257B%2522Tid%2522%253A%25222dea0464-da51-4a88-bae2-b3db94bc0c54%2522%252C%2522Oid%2522%253A%252261ad0b06-1071-4aa3-912c-79c68f2956fc%2522%257D%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=1c73906b-7a68-48b1-9f38-8c599e679315&directDl=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true)
  11. **VA CALM Virtual Training:** Mar 15 Contact [Sarah Kemp-Tabbut](mailto:sarah.kemptabbut@va.gov) for information.
  12. [**NDHHS Ethics of Peer Support: Mar 15, 2023**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ethics-of-peer-support-tickets-494284928527)
  13. [**ND Brain Injury Network 2023 Mind Matters Conference: Mar 23-24, 2023, Mandan**](https://www.ndbin.org/events/mind-matters)
  14. **ACOVA Meeting:** Feb 16-17 Comfort Inn, Bismarck

1. **NEXT MEETING DATES**

The next ND Cares Coalition Meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2023 from 1:00 pm-4:00 pm and the next  
 Executive Committee meeting will be Feb 9, 2023 from 10:30 to Noon.