



## ND Cares Executive Committee Meeting Minutes April 3, 2025, 10:30 AM

**Attendees:** Shelly Sizer, Rodney Gellner, Cindy Whitesell, BG Huber, Kodi Pinks, Paul Stroklund, Bryan Watters, Michelle Panos (All virtual)

**Absent:** Lonnie Wangen, Pam Sagness, David Becker

1. **Opening.** Shelly Sizer briefly opened the meeting, and the March minutes were approved.

### 3. New Business

#### o Executive Committee Updates

- **Co-Chair:** Cindy reported that Minot AFB now has Integrated Prevention personnel but there are still a couple of vacancies. Hopefully they will get them filled soon as there is much critical work to be done. The AFB is still dealing with another suicide in the last month. She and Keilli Weiland will attend the Minot MAC this afternoon to learn more.
- **NDNG:** BG Huber reported there has been recruiting momentum and Army Guard personnel strength is at 96% and Air Guard is at 94-95%. There are a large number of Air Guard folks that are getting ready for their deployment cycles and about 80 Army Guard deployed to the southwest border. The 142 Engineer Battalion recently moved operations from Arizona to Texas near Laredo, TX performing mission sets in support of US Border Patrol. Now that the 10th Mountain Division active-duty Army is also on the border they have taken control of operations. During the legislative session most of the policy bills passed. They are still working through all the executive orders around three mission sets: Golden Dome, lethal force to deter China, and Homeland Security. The Dickinson a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for the 27th of June. The Command Chief Warrant Officer change of command at Camp Grafton is May 17 at 9:00 am.
- **NDDVA:** Bryan Watters reported that the Claim Sharks bill (1169) is still a problem. He also talked about the legislation concerning Post War Trust fund gaming tax and how it helps homeless veterans. HB1266 raised the property tax credit a bit for veterans. Lastly, he talked about 1390, which is the removal of disabled veteran property tax credit.
- **NDHHS:** Kodi Pinks reported the most recent veteran suicide number for 2024 is 22 suicides and so far in 2025, there is still three.

### 4. Old Business

Michelle reported on the upcoming Business Partner Presentation to the Peer Support Association of North Dakota and partner communities are still at 58. We've utilized the ND Broadcaster asocial contract more adding a spot for Peer Supports in Minot and at the Amvets in Bismarck and the Understanding Veterans for Providers professional development. The spots for the CPMPACT Act and Veterans Home are still running. The 2024 Military Data Book is complete but is being reprinted due to a printing error. She reviewed some of the data. For the Governors' Challenge Michelle talked about the number of trainings that have been provided and those upcoming, the ND Hopes and 988 Veterans/Military campaigns, and that ND Hopes is giving out biometric gun and drawer locks. Lastly, Michelle reported that TriWest is still sorting out and correcting the provider directory and billing issues associated with provider enrollment. The mapping project is on hold until TriWest's data is correct.

5. **Guest: Paul Stroklund:** Paul introduced himself as a veteran and retiree with over 22 years in the Guard and a member of the ND Behavioral Health Planning Council. He relayed his thoughts on our suicide prevention efforts regarding reaching those that are not retirees but younger veterans, the benefit of treatment programs such as Hot Springs, improving the performance of 988, CIT training, and the importance of peer

support. He agreed to attend the next meeting of the NDHOPES veteran's stories messaging campaign and give his input there as well.

## 6. Upcoming Events

Michelle highlighted some of the events listed below:

- a. [2025 Legislative Session Deadlines](#)
- b. [FirstLink Trainings April - June](#)
- c. [Star Behavioral Health Providers Training](#)
- d. [ND Brain Injury Network Events](#)
- e. Purple-Up day at the Capitol: April 4, Bismarck (April is Month of the Military Child)
- f. [Cass & Clay Counties Suicide Prevention Summit](#): April 8, Fargo
- g. [Understanding Veterans & the Military](#): April 23, RJB Armory, Bismarck, [register here](#).
- h. [Military Spouse Appreciation Day](#): May 1, Bismarck
- i. [American Red Cross Military & Veteran Caregiver Network April Events](#)
- j. Governors Challenge Innovations Conference: May 20-22, Austin TX
- k. [Veterans Appreciation Celebration Bonanzaville](#): May 22, West Fargo
- l. Memorial Day Ceremony: May 26, Veterans Cemetery, 12:00 Noon, Mandan
- m. Crisis Intercept Mapping Mtg: May 28-29 CHI-St Alexius, Williston
- n. [14K Fallen Soldiers Run/Walk](#): May 31, Devils Lake (registration open soon)
- o. Red Hawks Military Appreciation Night: June 4, Fargo
- p. [CALM Training](#), Virtual: June 9, [register here](#).
- q. [Safety Planning Training](#): Virtual, Jun 11, [register here](#).
- r. [Behavioral Health Summit in Energy Country](#): June 18-19, Dickinson
- s. Suicide Mortality Review Conference: Washington DC, Summer 2025

## 7. NEXT MEETING DATES

The next Coalition meeting date is May 8, 2025, and the next Executive Committee meeting date is June 5, 2025.

The meeting ended at 11:36 AM.