

Maryland Veterans Resilience Initiative (MaVRI)
Advisory Council Minutes
September 25, 2012, 12:00-2:00
School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park

Members Present

Barbara K. Anderson (The Pro Bono Counseling Project), Jerry Boden (Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs), Susan C. Brunsell (Walter Reed National Military Medical Center), William Brim (Center for Deployment Psychology), Asuntha Chiang-Smith (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development), Maria Crane (Mental Health, VISN 5), Paula Domenici (Center for Deployment Psychology), Shauna Donahue (Maryland's Commitment to Veterans), Laura Herrera (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Kathleen Hoppe (Washington DC VA Medical Center), Jim Martin (Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College), Cheryl Miller (Anne Arundel Community College), Ginger Miller (John 14:2, Inc./Women Veterans Interactive), Stan Seidel (Easter Seals of Greater Washington-Baltimore Region), Donni Turner (Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation), Stephanie Weaver (National Guard Counterdrugs, SAMHSA), Denise Williams (Army OneSource), Patrick Young (Towson University), Sally Koblinsky (MaVRI PI), Leigh Leslie (MaVRI Co-I), Emily Cook (MaVRI Project Director)

Members Absent/Excused

CH MAJ Michael Clancy (Maryland Army National Guard), Joella Gibbs (Ft. George G. Meade), Jesse Harris (Graduate School of Social Work, University of Maryland Baltimore), Marjan Holloway (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences), COL Danny Jaghab (Ft. George G. Meade), Samuel Kessel (School of Public Health, University of Maryland College Park), CH COL William Sean Lee (Maryland National Guard Joint Force Headquarters), Marsden McGuire (Mental Health Clinical Center, VISN 5), Sandra C. Quinn (MaVRI Co-I)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM.

Introductions

MaVRI staff and all present Advisory Council members introduced themselves to the group, including their professional affiliations and organizational missions, previous or present work with veterans and service members, and previous or present military experience.

MaVRI staff also provided an overview of the project, including the purpose and goals of the four project components. Each component was then discussed in greater detail for the duration of the meeting.

Needs Assessment

MaVRI PI Koblinsky explained to the Council that, for the purposes of the Needs Assessment survey, a veteran is defined as anyone who has served on active duty, in any job capacity, while a member of the

Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard active components, or of the National Guard or Reserves, regardless of discharge status. This definition differs from the US Code (38 USC S 101), which defines a veteran as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.” She further explained that although the changing nature of US Military operations has resulted in an increasing reliance on private contractors, MaVRI will not include them as veterans in this survey.

She also explained Needs Assessment’s target audience, solicited suggestions from Council members on distribution strategies, and explained that the current draft was created by adapting two existing Needs Assessment surveys:

Serving Those Who Have Served: Educational Needs of Health Care Providers Working with Military Members, Veterans, and their Families. Kilpatrick, D., Best, C., Smith, D., Kudler, H., & Cornelison-Grant, V. Medical University of South Carolina, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Social Work Study of the Total Military. Collins, K., & Jacobson, J. University of Maryland, School of Social Work (journal article in press)

Next, PI Koblinsky presented a detailed review of the Needs Assessment survey draft. An electronic version of the survey was projected on the screen and Council members discussed each item. Major questions/suggestions/comments offered by Council members during this discussion included:

- Reducing the overall number of items by consolidating some questions and eliminating others
- Eliminating the skip pattern for behavioral health and primary care providers and combining the items for all respondents
- Separating items addressing veterans and veterans’ family members
- Using matrices for questions about knowledge of issues and confidence to treat veterans and their family members to reduce the length of the survey

Following the discussion, Council members agreed to send in any other suggestions for improving the survey to the MaVRI staff via email.

Behavioral Health Training

MaVRI Co-I Leslie discussed the initial plans for the first behavioral health training program. She explained our training model of using the University of Maryland, College Park campus as our main training location with six speakers, plus remote sites at two other locations (likely northern and western Maryland). Each site will have a live panel of veterans/family members during the lunch hour. She also described recent conferences attended by the MaVRI staff, which have informed planning of the first training.

Peer Support Activities

MaVRI Project Director Cook introduced the Council to the two Year 1 Peer Support Facilitators, Alan Poe and Nancy Kim. She also introduced the two Year 1 Peer Support campuses, Howard Community College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and explained the criteria that were used to select the two campuses. Council members offered a few suggestions for future training sites.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Submitted by

Sally Koblinsky
MaVRI PI

Leigh Leslie
MaVRI Co-I

Emily Cook
MaVRI Project Director