

**Maryland Veterans Resilience Initiative (MaVRI)**  
**Advisory Council Minutes**  
**May 14, 2013, 12:00-1:15**  
**School of Public Health, University of Maryland, College Park**

**Members Present**

Barbara K. Anderson (The Pro Bono Counseling Project), Asuntha Chiang-Smith (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development), CH MAJ Michael Clancy (Maryland Army National Guard), Shauna Donahue (Maryland's Commitment to Veterans), LaShaunda Drayton (Army OneSource), Joella Gibbs (Ft. George G. Meade), Kathleen Hoppe (Washington DC VA Medical Center), Specialist Rapu for COL Danny Jaghab (Ft. George G. Meade), CH COL William Sean Lee (Maryland National Guard Joint Force Headquarters), Ginger Miller (John 14:2, Inc./Women Veterans Interactive), Daniel Seidel for Stan Seidel (Easter Seals of Greater Washington-Baltimore Region), Donni Turner (Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation), Stephanie Weaver (National Guard Counterdrugs, SAMHSA), Sally Koblinsky (MaVRI PI), Leigh Leslie (MaVRI Co-I), Sandra C. Quinn (MaVRI Co-I), Emily Cook (MaVRI Project Director)

**Members Absent/Excused**

William Brim (Center for Deployment Psychology), Jerry Boden (Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs), Susan C. Brunsell (Walter Reed National Military Medical Center), Maria Crane (Mental Health, VISN 5), Paula Domenici (Center for Deployment Psychology), Jesse Harris (Graduate School of Social Work, University of Maryland Baltimore), Laura Herrera (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene), Marjan Holloway (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences), Marsden McGuire (Mental Health Clinical Center, VISN 5), Jim Martin (Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, Bryn Mawr College), Cheryl Miller (Anne Arundel Community College), Patrick Young (Towson University)

**Call to Order**

The telephone meeting was opened at 12:00 PM and officially called to order at 12:10 PM.

**Introduction and Updates**

MaVRI PI Koblinsky thanked Council members for their patience with scheduling difficulties for the in-person meeting and welcomed everyone to the telephone conference call. Each Council member on the call introduced him/herself by name and organization.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> Behavioral Health Training**

MaVRI CO-PI Leslie presented evaluation results from participants who attended the March 22<sup>nd</sup> training, including a review of the training topics and format, participant demographic information, evaluation data on competencies and increased readiness to work with veterans. She also discussed lessons learned that will inform future trainings, such as increasing the time available for participant interaction or questions, increased time for veteran panels, and more diversity in the speakers and

veterans. Advisory Council members on the call who attended the training shared their perspectives and praised the video-conferencing format.

## **Year 2 Advanced Behavioral Health Training and Primary Care Training**

MaVRI PI Koblinsky provided an overview of initial planning for the advanced clinical behavioral health training program, scheduled for fall 2013. She explained that Dr. David Riggs from the Center for Deployment Psychology has agreed to provide a two-day training on Prolonged Exposure Therapy, one of the evidence-based therapy models for treating PTSD. Council members discussed various aspects of this training that are important to consider:

- Such an intense training might be better facilitated for less than 150 participants; MaVRI will check with DHMH about the target number of trainees.
- It will be important to balance participants' geographic location (the majority who attended the March 22<sup>nd</sup> training were from Montgomery or Prince George's Counties or Baltimore City/County) and offering diverse training locations throughout the state. Howard or Anne Arundel Counties were identified as potential locations.
- MaVRI staff could contact participants from the UC4 College Counseling Center training and the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Behavioral Health training to solicit preferences for conference days: either Thursday/Friday or Friday/Saturday.

Koblinsky also briefly discussed the challenges anticipated with identifying participants for the primary care providers training, scheduled for spring 2014. Several Council members suggested MaVRI focus on training nurses, a group who receive CEUs (as opposed to CMEs, which are more difficult to provide) and who are included in First Lady Michelle Obama's *Joining Forces* campaign.

## **Peer Support Activities**

MaVRI Project Director Cook discussed recent peer support activities at Howard Community College (HCC) and UMBC. With the help of MaVRI Peer Support Facilitators Kim and Theis, HCC has created a logo for their DragonVets student veteran organization and increased the visibility of their Facebook group. UMBC has experienced an increase in participation at Vets2Vets sponsored breakfasts, including many new student veterans who had not attended events previously. Both HCC and UMBC were also invited to participate in community service activities, such as Team River Runners at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the George Washington University Service Initiative. Kim also developed student veteran 'spotlight' templates for the campuses to increase awareness of student veterans as members of the campus community. Cook also discussed results from recent focus groups held at HCC and UMBC. These two focus groups provided rich information about the experiences of student veterans at both campuses and led to the development of Veteran Center proposals by MaVRI staff. These proposals will be shared with the campuses to distribute to their Steering Committees and Boards of Trustees.

Finally, Cook informed the Council that invitations to all Maryland campuses to participate with MaVRI in Year 2 have been sent and four campuses have applied thus far (Cecil College, McDaniel College,

College of Southern Maryland, and University of Baltimore). We anticipate more applications as the deadline is not until June 21, 2013. MaVRI staff have also held several interviews for Year 2 Peer Support Facilitators, who will also receive the PAVE training on becoming a “buddy” mentor, identifying warning signs of distress, and making appropriate referrals.

### **Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory**

Koblinsky closed the meeting with a discussion of the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory, completed anonymously by 13 of the 19 active Council Members. Overall, Council members rated the MaVRI collaboration as very strong. Several Council members on the call praised the MaVRI leadership for its excellent work and overall progress towards the project’s goals. They also noted that Council members have been asked to comment on project work but are rarely more directly involved in decision making. Koblinsky explained that due to time constraints, it has not been possible to meet with the entire Advisory Council as often as initially envisioned and instead, MaVRI staff have frequently contacted individual Council members for guidance, feedback, and assistance. These one-on-one meetings or telephone conversations are integral to the success of the project, and Koblinsky assured the Council that MaVRI staff will improve the transparency of this input. Additionally, several Council members recommended that MaVRI staff organize more frequent telephone conference meetings, in addition to in-person meetings, to increase Council members’ awareness of the more day-to-day project activities.

### **Adjournment**

The telephone meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

### **Submitted by**

Sally Koblinsky  
MaVRI PI

Leigh Leslie  
MaVRI Co-I

Emily Cook  
MaVRI Project Director