

Veterans Administration Planning Workshop

Thursday, 16 November 2023

Present. *(In order by First Name)*

1. Andy Johnston, Director of Programs, The PATH Foundation (serving Fauquier, Rappahannock, and Culpeper Counties),
2. Angela Jameson, Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Program, Central Virginia VA Healthcare System, Massaponax CBOC, VISN6, and 15-year Veteran,
3. Anthony Barns, Military & Veterans Affairs Director, The office of Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton, 10th District, Virginia,
4. Bruce Campbell, Warrenton VFW, Post Services Officer,
5. Dan Carlton, Pastor, Culpeper Baptist Church,
6. Elliott Madl, DBHDS Region 1 Navigator for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF), serving the Region Ten Community Service Board, Charlottesville, a Marine, having served in Afghanistan,
7. Jeff Say, Manager of Community Engagement, UVA Health Culpeper Medical Center,
8. Jennifer Sztalkoper, Ph.D., North Regional Assistant Manager, Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VFS) Program, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, works with Caleb Johnson,
9. Jim LaGraffe, Executive Director, Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services), Facilitator,
10. Ken James, Chair, Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board,
11. Kim Baskerville, Program Director, SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (Veterans Services), Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas,
12. Molly Brooks, CEO & Founder, of Hero's Bridge (a Veteran-serving nonprofit with a focus exclusively on Veterans 65 and older),
13. Renee Norden, Executive Director, Mental Health Association (MHA),
14. Samantha Strong, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program Coordinator and Community Specialist at UVA Physicians Group,
15. Scott Bennett, Board Member, representing Madison County, Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services), also the Chairman of the Board of Madison Department of Social Services, former Veterans Service Officer for Madison American Legion Post 157, a 28-year Veteran,
16. Tammy Keaton, Executive Assistant, Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services),

Invited. *(In order by First Name)*

Ann Mullenix, Administrative Assistant, VA Health Care Systems - Martinsburg, West Virginia,
Anthony Swann, Peer Services Director, Virginia Department of Veterans Services,
Ben Shaw, Regional Director, Central Region, Virginia Veteran & Family Support Program,
Brad Hales (Pastor), Board Member, representing Culpeper County, Encompass Community Supports (formerly known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services),
Brandi Jancaitis (Director, Virginia Veteran and Family Support Program),
Caleb Johnson, Northern Regional Director, Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VFS) Program, Virginia Department of Veteran Services,
Cory Will, Former Director of Peer Recovery Services at Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services),
Dannielle Cullers, Veteran Resource Specialist, Virginia Department of Veterans Services,
Elisha Jones, Lead Patient Advocate, Central Virginia VA Health Care System (CVHCS), Richmond,
Elizabeth Leach, Strategic Planner, Martinsburg VA Medical Center,
Janelle Huffman, Community Health Worker (CHW), Director of Programs, of Hero's Bridge (a Veteran-serving nonprofit with a focus exclusively on Veterans 65 and older),
Jennifer Kelley, Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator, Community-Based Interventions-Suicide Prevention Program, VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Martinsburg WV, VISN5,
Ken Allensworth, Medical Center Director, Martinsburg VA Medical Center,
Kim Marvin, Strategic Planning Officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VHA,
MacKenzie Heidelberg, District Coordinator, The office of Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger, 7th District, Virginia,
Stephen Mosher, Chief Engineer, Central Virginia VA Health Care System (CVHCS) in Richmond (works very closely with the Associate and Executive Director to help plan for expansion projects on the local campus or within the community areas. He is also very involved in the Health Care Center (HCC), and the CBOC expansions that are currently planned),
Steven A. Jones, Sr., Retired Marine Combat Veteran of 20+ Years of Service, former Virginia Department of Corrections Veterans Coordinator,
Tom Pratt, Board Member, representing Orange County, Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services), a 17-year peace-time and war-time Veteran, is 100% permanent-disabled,

Minutes

The meeting began at 10:00 AM.

Jim LaGraffe welcomed everyone and asked if they could introduce themselves as there were a number of new people joining the meeting for the first time.

Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB).

Joining us today is Ken James, Chair of the Loudoun County Community Veterans Engagement Board who generously provided an overview presentation. Please see:

<https://www.encompasscommunitysupports.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/CVEB-November-2023.pdf>

Ken shared information about what a CVEB is comprised of, how they work, what they do and don't do, their mission, plans, and accomplishments, and future goals. There are several positive reasons for having a CVEB for regions. Ken has helped other areas develop CVEBs and has offered to help advise this group on establishing a CVEB for our region, and the group was in favor of moving forward with this approach.

Next Steps. Jim will reach out to Ken to set up some time to talk about setting up an Executive Council. Ken offered to send Jim a copy of their Bylaws, to see its structure and model, as every CVEB is set up differently and they will go from there. If there are individuals who are interested in helping to spearhead this effort, please let Jim know. Jim may reach out to others to take the lead because he doesn't really qualify. He is happy to help and support and try to keep this initiative moving along. It is critically important that the various veteran groups whose mandates are to provide services for our veteran's pick this up and move it along. It is important that a veteran or someone who understands what veterans need is leading this effort because oftentimes civilians don't understand this.

Service Member, Veterans, and Families Mini-Conference. He shared that the event planning group met last week and was able to make progress on a few things.

- Funding has been made available through the Regional Office for which he will complete the form.
- The double-sided postcard-sized invitation was drafted by Encompass Community Supports and reviewed by the group. It was shared during this meeting for everyone to see and Jim advised it will be ordered.
- Webpages were donated by Encompass Community Supports for sharing minutes and documents shared by participants in this group during meetings, and for the Service Member, Veterans, and Families Mini-Conference and Registration.
- Tom Pratt is submitting the request for a National Level speaking engagement from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Anthony Barnes has submitted the speaking engagement request to the Vietnam War Commemoration Department of DOD.
- He will also proceed with coordinating the Virginia National Guard Brass Quartet to perform songs before and after the ceremony.
- Germanna Daniel Technology Center has been reserved for the location.

There was some discussion about Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger coming the morning of the event to welcome everyone and kick off the event.

Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator Updates. Angela Jameson, Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Program, Central Virginia VA Healthcare System mentioned that Jennifer Kelly who is her counterpart covering the Martinsburg region is back. She had been tasked for about four months with a Suicide Prevention Coordinator, but she is back now, and Angela has been keeping her in the loop and can pass along any information or requests for support. They are also in the process of hiring another Community Engagement and Partnerships Coordinator for the Richmond area.

Resource Specialist Position in Warrenton Update. Jennifer Sztalkoper, Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VFS) advised that they will close that position tomorrow as they have received a very good response and are happy with the talent who has responded. They are looking to begin conducting interviews in Front Royal, Virginia on the 30th of November, which would place onboarding sometime after Christmas (as long as the application pool is sufficient and interviews go well), and a start date in 2024.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.