

Veterans Administration Planning Workshop

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

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,
4. Bruce Campbell, Warrenton VFW, Post Services Officer,
5. Dan Carlton, Pastor, Culpeper Baptist Church,
6. 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),
7. Jeff Say, Manager of Community Engagement, UVA Health Culpeper Medical Center,
8. Jim LaGraffe, Executive Director, Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services), Facilitator,
9. Renee Norden, Executive Director, Mental Health Association (MHA),
10. Samantha Strong, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program Coordinator and Community Specialist at UVA Physicians Group,
11. Scott Bennett, former Board Member (Representing Madison County, Encompass Community Supports, Chairman of the Board of Madison Department of Social Services, former Veterans Service Officer for Madison American Legion Post 157, and 28-year Veteran,
12. Steven A. Jones, Sr., Retired Marine Combat Veteran of 20+ Years of Service, former Virginia Department of Corrections Veterans Coordinator,
13. Tammy Barboza, Director, Communications and Public Relations, Encompass Community Supports
14. Tammy Keaton, Executive Assistant, Encompass Community Supports
15. Tom Pratt, Board Member (Representing Orange County), Encompass Community Supports, a 17-year peace-time and war-time Veteran, 100 % permanent-disabled.

Invited. *(In order by First Name)*

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),
Elisha Jones, Lead Patient Advocate, Central Virginia VA Health Care System (CVHCS), Richmond,
Elizabeth Leach, Strategic Planner, Martinsburg VA Medical Center,
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,
Jennifer Kelley, Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator, Community-Based Interventions-Suicide Prevention Program, VHA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Martinsburg WV, VISN5,
Jennifer Sztalkoper, Ph.D., North Regional Assistant Manager, Virginia Veteran and Family Support (VVFS) Program, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, works with Caleb Johnson,
Ken Allensworth, Medical Center Director, Martinsburg VA Medical Center,
Kim Baskerville, Program Director, SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (Veterans Services), Volunteers of America Chesapeake & Carolinas,
Lori Medley
MacKenzie Heidelberg, District Coordinator, The office of Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger,
Molly Brooks, CEO & Founder, of Hero's Bridge (a Veteran-serving nonprofit with a focus exclusively on Veterans 65 and older),
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),

The meeting began at 11:00 AM. Time was allowed for others to join.

Jim LaGraffe welcomed everyone and referred to the agenda he prepared.

1. Mini-Conference Updates

a. Speakers

- i. Congresswoman Spanberger (confirmed)
- ii. Vietnam Era Veteran Pinning Ceremony. Jim shared that 5 have registered so far. Anthony shared it has been challenging to get communication from them and he heard that a Sargent First Class Curry. Anthony is still waiting for his bio. The National Guard Band drilled this weekend, also trying to determine if they will be able to support. If not, he has another idea.
- iii. Sandy Markert for Q and A (confirmed)
 1. Jim is meeting with Sandy about the conference on Thursday.
 2. Questions (prepopulated for the day of). Jim would like to start getting questions together. Combined with the information she feels is important for the audience to hear. If you have questions you think are important, send questions to Jim/Copy Tammy K.

b. Food

- i. Donuts/Coffee
- ii. Subs/Boxed Lunch Jersey Mikes \$65/box (\$5.50/person). He priced out another local provider however their price was nearly double.
- iii. Drinks
 - *Jim is unable to determine how many to order at this time.

c. Getting the word out

- i. Press Release
- ii. Social media
- iii. Flyers
- iv. Radio/Video

Radio ads will be playing on 103.1FM and 101.5FM soon - two big radio stations in town and for the region. Last week Jim, Tammy B., and Angela Jameson filmed a TV spot at the local network studio which will be done in the next couple of days. Jim will send the link to everyone when ready so they can share the link. It's about 20 minutes long. Tammy B. is putting together a social media post that Jim will also circulate with the group, you may use the same post to share on your platforms as well. The hospital has a large following, Jeff added they will be sharing with Culpeper, Haymarket, and Charlottesville. We also have a press release, Jim read to the group for feedback. The feedback was positive.

Jim asked if anyone else knew how to better get the word out. There was mention of going back to places they have already visited and reminding them, encouraging them, to register, if possible. The number of registrations is at about 60 right now, plus those who will be manning exhibit tables, breakout sessions, volunteers, and speakers. Bruce shared that the VA has a newsletter that includes local events, Angela may be able to contact Public Affairs to find out how we can place an ad there as well.

Security. Steven inquired about what security measures are being prepared. Jim will speak with the Sherrif and Germanna staff to secure security.

Volunteers. Renee suggested inviting ROTC to volunteer. She has inroads to Fauquier. Steven has contacts with Culpeper. Anthony asked about having ROTC Color/Honor Guard do their opening flag ceremony. Steven and Renee will inquire. It was discussed about the Color Guard doing the opening and the ending. Allow up to 10 minutes for their piece. Once they get to their spot, the narrator says something like “For those who can stand please stand and join us for the National Anthem”, after the song plays the flags are posted.

d. Logistics –

i. Help at the event

1. Set up/greeters/Cards to Connect (?)
2. Sign in
3. Food – Encompass Community Supports
4. Food – pick up lunch
5. Breakout Session introductions
6. Signage
7. Exhibitor Table Assistants
8. Other?

Tammy K. will send a list out to the group and request volunteers from the group to pick an area they are interested in and email her with their selection.

e. Breakouts

i. Suggest 3 sessions of 3-? Repeats?

1. Advanced Care Planning – Erin at VA can do 2 with a break.
2. The Benefits Process – Guy Dinkins,
3. Caregiver Support – Jodi (30 or 60 minutes)
4. Whole Health Program – get a table, not a presentation.
5. Vocation Rehab – a rating one receives if 20% (booth/no presentation) will be covered under #2 Benefits.
6. Suicide Prevention/Support – Save Training (LISTEN)
7. VA Veteran and Family Support
8. Jenni (UVA) hasn’t registered yet? Mental Health what the presentations going to be.
9. Transitioning – recommend one breakout session Jose. (Angela) will ask if he can do a breakout.
10. Women Veterans – Angela will ask Marleen.
11. Housing – Brooke (Angela)
12. CVEB – John Maxwell – confirmed to do a talk on it. (Angela)

There was some discussion about which ones could be repeated. We can do 4 Sessions x 3 hours.

2. Partner Updates

- a. ECS- SVMF Overdose and Suicide starts Feb 5th Eric Friedman
- b. others

Questions. Bruce asked what the questions. Represents, VHA. We would want to refrain from asking her benefits questions. She can speak to prosthetics, homelessness, mental health, logistics, planning, and hiring for the new healthcare center opening next year. It will be the closest for many. Transitions are already happening. It will be the veteran's choice on where they want to go. Not sure every veteran knows that. Planning, New Center, Services. It was asked if

the Puller Center (named after General Puller) falls under Sandy's peripheral. It is a DVS center in Vint Hill, a residential rehab center.

Drinks. Tom asked if we could offer coffee throughout the day. Yes.

Veteran overdose and suicide support. Starting with us on February 5th. Embedded in our Coresponse team. Will go through some training for a month or two. There is another resource being hired (through Caleb's agency). Renee said the position has been filled, they are in shadow training in Manassas and will be ready in March.

Wallet Cards. Angela mentioned new wallet cards, and if we would like to have them to hand them out at the conference. She will send us the template.

Pocket Guide. Bruce mentioned a pocket guide developed by the Veterans Task Force for Mental Health Culpeper Fauquier Rappahannock. They are exploring appropriate distribution avenues. Bruce will forward to see what we think.

Jim called for any other updates, and there were none.

Next Meeting. Jim – one more touch base before the event.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.