American Legion Family Suicide Prevention Coalition Kick Off Meeting

7/19/2022

Virtual meeting-minutes

5:30-7:00 pm

**Introductions**

Mike Maxa-Adjunct President

Jennifer Havlick-Dist. 8

Ray Eiden-Dist. 5

Patti Coleman-Unit 566

Harold Meyer

Trish- Legion 172

Jenny Nelson-Dist. 4

Mound Legion-First Vice 398

Al Ramos-Post 542

Randy

Diane Jankowski-Post 96 Commander

Wade Larson

Kristi Charles-MDVA SP

Krysta Stanenas-MDVA SP

Report Out of Coffee Groups

Jennifer notes she has not had the capacity to move forward with a group in the NE portion of the state. Mike and Laura each were able to have a discussion with Larry Pocrich at the AML conference last week. He is willing to touch base with those who may be able to assist with the formation of a coffee group in the NE portion of MN.

Ray is going to follow up with Every Third Saturday and discuss what they may be able to assist with related to a coffee group for Veterans.

Diane reports they will be starting a coffee group in the Hutchinson area. They are asking the McLeod County VSO for funds to cover cost of coffee. May ask for the CVSO to attend group.

Tom, Carl, Laura met with staff from Stand Down in St. Cloud earlier today. Open House is being planned for September 24, 2022, at the St. Cloud Stand Down. It will be the launch to start the monthly coffee group meetings. Hoping to get other organizations that come to the Stand Down, to participate as well ( DAV, VFW, CVSO’s).

Next meeting to plan event is 8/9/2022 at 1:00 pm at the Stand Down. Looking for assistance on development of Flyer to advertise event.

Members present felt it was a good idea to talk with County Veteran Service Officers about the American Legion Family SPC and update them on work being done by coalition. The goal would be to collaborate more with the CVSO’s to assist with the achievement of goals set. Mike mentioned placing information in The Legionnaires magazine about Post Service Officers working to start coffee groups in their areas.

Mike discussed Toolkit that has many resources for Veterans all in one location. It was developed by the Twin Cities SPC. Feels Toolkit would be beneficial to Commanders as well. He plans to have coalition members review Toolkit during August meeting and provide input about current information within kit.

Reviewed current SMART goal related to having Post/Vice Commanders getting out to Posts and provide information to Posts on the coalition with the goal of new members on the coalition. Timeframe of completion of goal is being altered related to new Post Commanders Discussed formation of a SMART goal related to formation of coffee groups throughout the state. Will continue to discuss overall goal and timeframe of outcome at upcoming meetings to help identify needs, barriers, and successes to various interventions.

Al recommended AMFL SPC members attend other area SP coalitions. The intention is for AMFL SPC members to see how other coalitions run, plan events, etc.… Laura and Andrea will formulate a list of coalitions, counties involved and when they meet. This list will be sent to group, and they can attend a meeting, if wish to.

Kristi noted Minnesota Department of VA could help promote Coffee groups once they are formed.

Members present agreed should start providing SAVE training for all community members. Laura noted the CEPC who cover the state of MN can provide the SAVE trainings, at no cost. Possibly start training mid-winter.

American Legion Fall Conference is October 28 and 29, 2022-group agreed would be good for a CEPC to attend conference and present on the coalition.

Action Items:

1. Continue planning Open House event with St. Cloud Stand Down- Carl, Tom, Laura, Andrea
2. Invite stakeholders to join coalition-all coalition members
3. Reach out to Larry in NE MN area to start discussion of developing coffee group for Veterans- Jennifer, Mike
4. Coordinate meeting with Every Third Saturday to discuss possible coffee group for Veterans-Ray, Dave, and Trish
5. Develop list of Suicide Prevention Coalitions VA CEPC work with- note day/time they meet and have sent to AMFL SPC members to set up a possible meeting to attend, to observe the group- Laura, Andrea. Al will develop an overlay of the state of MN and where each coalition covers-Al

Next meeting is August 16, 2022- 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm, virtual

Submitted by Laura Stumvoll, BSN MS

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