American Legion Family Suicide Prevention Coalition Meeting

10/20/2022

Virtual meeting-minutes

5:30-6:15 pm

**Introductions**

Mike Maxa

Alan Ramos

Tom Fernlund

Ronald Kelm

Jennifer Havlick

Laura Stumvoll

Tom updated group on event held at St. Cloud Stand Down on 9/24/2022. Turnout was light. Feel important to increase marketing of event for next year. An AAR meeting was held 10/5/2022 to discuss event. Those present at AAR meeting felt it would be good to have event again, next year. Suggested having it at a different site, such as Rox Baseball Stadium in conjunction with Veteran Appreciation Day. Tom suggested possibly having the Red Bull Band perform at event. Bob Behrends will be meeting with Rox owner in November and will discuss possible collaboration with them for next year.

Laura and Andrea met with Ray, Dave, and Wade since last months coalition meeting. Worked on resource list if they encounter a Veteran in a mental health crisis or thoughts of suicide. Wade and Ray noted during meeting with CEPC’s, the Coffee Group meetings have already started and being well received. Did not receive an update from Diane J. on how the Coffee Group is going in the Hutchinson area.

Mike discussed the collaboration with Unite Us- American Legion met with the group, and noted they have resources that allow for follow up of a Veteran for a year. Project Got Your Back is involved with Unite Us. The group received money from the Mission Day Break Grant.

Tom discussed Metro Vets and a possible collaboration with the coalition and suicide prevention efforts. Tom is a member of the Metro Vets and noted they have a variety of Veteran organizations that work together to get information out about upcoming events in the community. Tom is going to ask 2-3 Metro Vet members to possibly join the coalition.

Chris noted in the North-East portion of MN there is suicide prevention efforts going on. North Shore Mental Health group is working with University of MN Duluth on mental health efforts. Chris reports there has been good interest with this collaborative. Carlton County Health and Human Services have added Veterans as part of their Crisis Line Responders. Looking to do the same thing for Cook County.

Laura and Andrea will provide SAVE training during the fall American Legion Conference on October 28, 2022. The trainings will be at two different times, on that day.

Al showed the members the map of MN he made with the list of American Legion Posts and which coalitions have been developed across the state, by various VA CEPC’s. The idea is so American Legion members could join a local coalition, instead of or in addition to the statewide one.

Action Items:

Meeting minutes-Laura complete, Mike sends to group

Resource list developed for Coffee Groups-Andrea

Discuss Metro Vets members joining American Legion Coalition -Tom

Next meeting is November 15, 2022, from 5:30-6:30 pm-virtually

Submitted by:

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