

## SAMHSA Talking Points

- 8-10 May 2013 ND sent 11 participants to Baltimore MD, to the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) Service Members, Veterans and their Families “Policy Academy”.
  - Fargo VA
  - ND Veterans Administration
  - North Dakota National Guard Gov’t Affairs
  - UND Rural Health/TBI Specialist
  - League of Cities/CASA (Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army)
  - ND National Guard Veterans Outreach
  - ND National Guard Social Worker
  - ND Suicide Coordinator
  - Bis/Man Police Chaplain
  - Governor’s Policy/Legal Representation
  - Foster County VSO (Veterans Service Officer)
- At that Strategic Planning Session in Baltimore, the following broad goals were established:
  - Develop a leader networks to support collaborative efforts
  - Integrate existing programs and resources to create an effective and efficient service system.
  - Conduct a statewide comprehensive assessment of needs
- Mission of the ND SAMHSA Team: **“Creating an Accessible Seamless System of Support for Service Members, Veterans, Families and Survivors.”** (ND is only state to include Survivors as part of the focus!)
- In June we established the statewide work group. The following entities are represented:

Mr. Randy Richards (Congressional Rep)	Mrs. Connie Sprynczynatyk (CASA)
Mrs. Susan Wagner (State Mental Health/Substance Abuse)	SFC(Ret)Tim Wicks (NDNG Outreach)
Mr. Vince Dicks (NDNG Outreach Team Lead)	Mrs. Rebecca Quinn (TBI Program Coordinator)
Mrs. Brenda Bergsrud (NDVA)	CW4 Shelly Sizer (R3SP Manager)
Mr. Jerod Tufte (Governor’s Rep) (NDNG JAG)	Ms. Bernadette Ternes (NDNG Social Worker)
LTC Alan Fehr (NDNG Psychologist)	SFC (Ret)Corean Swart (CVSO)
Mrs. Marlys Morgenstern (Job Service)	Mrs. Heather Matson (Sexual Assault Response Coordinator)
Mrs. Jan Nelson (Heartsprings)	Mrs. Kathleen Wrigley (Lt Governor Office)
CPT Michelle Thomsen (Resiliency Coordinator)	Pastor Sam Saylor (PD Chaplain)
Pastor Kurt Chaffee (Pastor)	Ms. Pamela Mack (Protection & Advocacy)
Mrs. Sara Blazek (Survivor Outreach Services)	Mrs. Betsy Dalrymple (ND First Lady)
Ms. Lisa Peterson (Dept of Corrections)	Mr. Steven Sitting Bull (Tribal)
Ms. Pam Sagness (Substance Abuse)	SFC Billie Jo Lorus (NDNG Public Affairs)
Mrs. Cathy Bauer-Kottenbrock (Veterans Administration)	MAJ(Ret) Noreen Keesey (NDNG J5)
Ms. Mikki Savelkoul (State Suicide Prevention)	SFC(Ret)Kristi Fetsch (Regional Survivor Outreach Services)
LTC Davina French (NDNG Government Affairs)	

- In July we designed a statewide planning team organizational chart.
  - The First Lady of ND will be serving as the SAMHSA Policy Team Chair

- LT Governor wife and the ND CASA(Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army) (Connie Spry)will service as co-chairs
- The NG and NDVA will be the co- state leads and SAMHSA POC's
- We established a need for a position to assist with the insurmountable administrative needs
- Designated a public affairs/marketing position
- Established four (4) working teams)
  - Leadership (Team lead: Davina French NDNG)
  - Data (Team Lead: Micki Savelkoul, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator)
  - Needs and Services (Team lead: Brenda Bergsrud NDVA)
  - Grants (Team lead: Rebecca Quinn, UND/State TBI coordinator)
- Since the job of creating a “seamless” state wide support system for Veterans is a enormous task. The group will be narrowing the focus, as a cornerstone of first efforts. The initial information cornerstone topic will be “SUICIDE”. The secondary focus will be on “HOMELESSNESS”. We will also begin developing situation awareness on issues pertaining to: Mental Health, Homelessness, Native American impacts, KIA and suicide survivors, incarcerated veterans and training of military culture. Research will include: Veterans’ Courts, peer to peer mentoring programs, impacts on families.
- A gap analysis must be conducted in stages, as information/data is collected with an emphasis on the demographics of North Dakota.
- This is a commitment of efforts that will be re-evaluated at the five (5) year mark.
- We are at the beginning stages of organization and planning. Will take tremendous efforts to get all of ND’s major players, organizations and communities to speak with one voice-one message.
- 44 other states have attended the SAMHSA Policy Academy and are at various stages in their outreach and statewide resource coordination.
- ND SAMHSA Team is motivated and clearly understands the necessity to coordinate efforts. Goal for our team is to ensure service members, veterans, families and survivors always understand that there are services and support available to them. Not one more suicide because somebody didn’t know who to reach out to. Soon... Someday...Across North Dakota, the citizens, organizations, and institutions will have one message: “Veterans, Service Members, families and Survivors have a place in North Dakota. They are an important part of our communities and have been empowered to provide solutions and efforts to make North Dakota...The place to be if you are a Veteran!

**SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families  
Technical Assistance Center**

**2013 Service Members, Veterans, and their Families  
Strategic Planning Session  
(DRAFT as of 24 July 2013)  
NORTH DAKOTA STRATEGIC PLAN**

<b>GOAL 1: DEVELOP A LEADER NETWORK TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Person Primary/Secondary</b>	<b>Measurement/Outcome</b>	<b>Timeline Scheduled/Completed</b>
Identify owners of, and process keeper for, the SVFS team	Brief the Governor, TAG, cabinet and legislative leaders on the importance of the collaborative	Jerod, Connie, Susan	A framework that launches and supports the SVFS initiative	June 1, 2013
	Explore use of an FTE within the ND Dept of Veterans Affairs	Davina, Brenda, Jerod	Secure approval to designate an FTE for a minimum of six months (optimum 12)	July 1, 2013
Engage local/state leaders in strengthening the services and support capacity within communities	Identify private-public partners who can and will be force multipliers	Connie, Sam, Brenda	Effective services that meet SVFS where they are	Start June 1 - Ongoing
Communicate widely the importance of military culture competency	Seek every opportunity to build understanding of the issues and solutions from the perspective of SVFS	Cathy, Sam	All SVFS services delivered within a military culture context	Start July 1 - Ongoing

<b>GOAL 2: INTEGRATE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE &amp; EFFICIENT SERVICE SYSTEM FOR SFVS</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Person Primary/Secondary</b>	<b>Measurement/Outcome</b>	<b>Timeline Scheduled/Completed</b>
Conduct an environmental scan of services, resources and supports	Subcommittee members will identify known programs/services			Oct 1, 2013
Research the need for a trained peer network	Research best practices from other peer networks	Tim, Brenda, Bernadette	Best practices are identified	May 2014
<b>GOAL 3: CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS</b>				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Person Primary/Secondary</b>	<b>Measurement/Outcome</b>	<b>Timeline Scheduled/Completed</b>
Identify priority areas for data focus	Hold discussion to identify priority areas of current data focus within larger data collection	Larger group	Focus areas identified: Suicide Substance Abuse Ideas for future consideration: Homelessness	Completed July 17 <sup>th</sup>
Identify indicators relating to suicide/substance abuse	Data team meeting	Data Team	Prioritized list of indicators	Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>
Collect data (quantitative and qualitative) relating to identified indicators.	Identify available data Identify any barriers to obtaining data Assign individuals to collect data	Data Team	Collected all identified available data	September 1 – Nov 30, 2013

Analyze data to develop overall report of gaps and needs	Analysis data	Micki, Pam, Rebecca	Data report	Dec , 2013- April 2014
Develop data plan		Micki, Pam, Rebecca	Data Plan	May-Aug 2014
Develop a communication strategy to disseminate data results		Larger group	Data communication plan	