

# KNOXVILLE REGIONAL VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL



**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 12, 2015 – 11:00 a.m.**  
Elmcroft of West Knoxville Sunroom  
8024 Gleason Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37919

- 1) Call to Order by Ed Junod at 1110
- 2) Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance by Ron Morton
- 3) Roll Call
  - a) Present: Ed Junod, Fred Owens, Frank Vollmer, Ron Morton, Henry Cleveland, Jesse Rivera, Dennis Lovin, Randy Scott, Robert Hatley, Randy Baxter, Charles Dabbs, Johnny Shults, Kristy Pond-Mashburn, Tom Gage
  - b) Excused: Howard Jenkins, Robert Cooter, Leticia Wallace, Don Davis
- 4) Welcome/Opening Remarks by Ed Junod.
- 5) Previous Council meeting minutes: January 8, 2015; Accepted as presented
- 6) Guests
  - a) VISN 9
    - i) Robert Campbell, Deputy Mental Health Officer VISN 9
  - b) VA Liaisons
    - i) Mountain Home VAMC Director Ms. Charlene Ehret
    - ii) Mountain Home VAMC Deputy ACOS Mental Health Dr. Patrick Sloan
    - iii) Pamela Berbigler, Executive Assistant to Ms. Ehret
- 7) Ed Junod introduced four new candidates for membership to the Council. On a Motion by Frank Vollmer and Seconded by Ron Morton, the following nominees were elected by unanimous vote:
  - a) Don Davis
  - b) Kristy Mashburn
  - c) Johnny Shults
  - d) Leticia Wallace
  - e) Ed Junod announced the election of Mr. Buddy Wallace to the position of Vet to Vet TN Vice President. Buddy assumes the position previously held by J. L. Tucker. Mr. Tucker passed away in November 2014 after a series of health problems.
- 8) "Recovery & Resiliency (R&R) Support Group held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with Dr. Richardson on 2/2/2015. At that time it was reported that:
  - i) Sands (OEF/OIF/OND) Justice Involved Veteran (JIV) PTSD workgroup began in January 21, 2015 with 11 JIV's attending.
  - ii) A new Sands PTSD workgroup is scheduled to start by the end of February, 2015.
  - iii) A review and further discussion will be held on the feasibility and practicality of holding future Sands JIV PTSD workgroups in the Knox County VTC office.

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- 9) VTC Update
  - a) Ed Junod summarized the status of existing and pending VTC operations in East Tennessee. Part of the update included references to the “homeless” status of the JIV’s in the Knox County court and the costs involved as well as conditions in some locations being utilized for veterans.
  - b) Ron Morton explained that conditions and accommodations are different between the Salvation Army and KARM because they are based on different disciplines.
  - c) The East TN VTC Committee recommended NOT using KARM for any of our JIVs. The Knox County VTC Judge and Court Director supported the recommendation.
  - d) Pat Sloan reported that a process has been started to re-open admissions to Steps House. Ed Junod stated that veterans there are already reporting a new and improved sense of operation and service.
  - e) Housing and communication are two critical areas we must focus on; almost all of our current JIVs are homeless.
  - f) Ron Morton will provide HIPPA Guidelines to Council members
  - g) Discussion about the use of VA Form 10-5345 “Request for and Authorization to release medical records or health information”. Ms. Ehret confirmed the use of VA form 10-5345 should allow for exchange of information from VA personnel to VTC staff and VTC mentors.
  - h) Dr. Sloan suggested this complicated matter needs further discussion and will be addressed at the scheduled March 11, 2015 VJO Roundtable.
  
- 10) East Tennessee VTC Mentor Introduction Training Program
  - a) April 9 and 10, 2015
  - b) VISN 9 and Mountain Home VAMC Leadership are encouraged to attend
  - c) VTC team made up of a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, probation officer, law enforcement, volunteer veteran mentors and treatment providers including representatives of the VA – Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, and other non-VA service providers.
  - d) VA National VJO Coordinator Sean Clark to present at the VTC Mentor Introduction Training Program on 4-10-15.
  
- 11) Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) roundtable
  - i) Dr. Vermette agreed to set a date for the roundtable in February 2015.
  
- 12) Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC)
  - a) Dr. Sloan reported that the new LRC will start in mid- to late March
  
- 13) New Family Support Committee
  - b) Member began supporting JIV’s families and significant others in February 2015.
  - c) Committee will officially form in March 2015.
  
- 14) Adjournment

Next Council meeting scheduled for March 12, 2015 at 1100.

Handouts: “A Ten Hour Miracle”.doc, East Tennessee Veteran Population 20150126.xlsx and KCVTC Cost Savings to Taxpayers.xlsx, H.R. 5059 – Clay Hunt SAV Act.