

# Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.  
William C. Tallent Outpatient Clinic (KOPC)  
8033 Ray Mears Blvd.  
Knoxville, TN 37819

1. Call to Order by Ed Junod
2. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance by Ron Morton
3. Roll Call: Frank Vollmer, Freddie Owens, Ron Morton, Henry Cleveland, Jesse Rivera, Andrew Parrott, Ed Junod, Randy Baxter, Christie Cook, and Steve Parella; absent: Michael Harter
4. Welcome/Opening Remarks.
  - a. Due to the snow storms in February the Council meeting was cancelled.
  - b. The Monroe County DAV donated \$1,500 to LPG; this is the third incremental donation from the Monroe County DAV and we are very thankful. A special thank you to Bob Hatley.
  - c. The Western New York VVA Chapter 77 donated \$1,000 to the Veteran Treatment Court Committee (VTCC) to be used specifically for food for the Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) in the Knox County Veterans Treatment Court. We are very grateful and like to recognize Frank Vollmer for the help in receiving this generous donation.
  - d. Three (3) members of the VTCC, Dean Powell, Frank Vollmer and Ed Junod are registered to attend the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services, Certified Peer Recovery Specialist training scheduled for the week of March 17, 2014.
  - e. Council, TN Mental Health and Veterans Affairs Commissioners met on 1-29-14 and agreed to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and support the Council's Faith Based Community Committee and the Veterans Treatment Court Committee.
  - f. "When War Comes Home" Forum scheduled for May 1, 2014; Mayor Tim Burchett will hold a press conference on April 3, 2014 at 10:30am at Freddie's Church, The Redemption Church. Pastor Ed King, Ron Morton, Dennis Lovin and Freddie Owens will assist the Mayor.
  - g. Special thank you to Randy Baxter for providing the Council a 12 week radio series to promote our VFC, VTC initiative. The first three episodes were dedicated to the Veteran Friendly Congregation program. Recording began on 2-11-14 and aired on 3-1-14. Everyone is welcome to participate in future recordings. Next three episodes will discuss our VTC and will feature Hon. Chuck Cerny and Ron Hanaver.
  - h. Council is also grateful to Randy Baxter for providing one of his employees (Pat Gang) to support our VFC program Monday through Friday, from 9:00am till 4:30PM.
  - i. The VFC program has a dedicated telephone number: 865-253-2794.
  - j. Christie Cook advised the Council that Dr. Heidi Vermette requested to join the Council in June 2014. Members were enthusiastic about the request and accepted Heidi's request.
5. Review & Approval of Previous Minutes
  - a. January 16, 2014 meeting minutes required no changes and was accepted unanimously on vote.
  - b. Revision of Council Bylaws amendment: Article IV – Meetings, Section 1. Schedule. Change regular meetings of the council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Changing it from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Unanimously approved by vote.

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### 6. VA Guest: Genieve Davis

Genieve was unavailable due to illness. Topic: OEF/OIF measure. Genieve will attend the April 10, 2014.

### 7. January 16, 2014 Action Items

- a. Tennessee State Grants announcement sent to Christie Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services filing for statewide grant for VTCs and Knox County VTC filing for startup and enhancement grant. **Closed**
- b. Bleu Copas will attend as a Peer Facilitator Knoxville LPG meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month beginning February 17<sup>th</sup>. Freddie pointed out that many federal holidays occur on Monday. Christie will make sure that Bleu work with LPG with alternate date if the Monday is a federal holiday. **Closed**
- c. Bleu will document attendance for travel pay. **Closed**
- d. Billy Butler will attend Knoxville LPG meetings as a peer and an observer. **Closed**
- e. Christie to clarify with Dr. Campbell his request for Council to support OEF/OIF/OND initiative. **Genieve Davis to report on the initiative 4-10-14.**
- f. Council members and Ron Hanaver met with Christie Cook to review VA homeless program and identified program personnel on 1-24-14. **Closed**
- g. Christie to investigate the possibility of establishing a procedure and POC for JIVs for lab and physical requirements of the VTC. **Christie has developed a workaround until the VJO is in place. Closed**
- h. Council approved to allocate 15 minutes in any scheduled meeting for VA provided speakers or employees. **Closed**

### 8. Elements of a successful partnership

- a. Mutually maintained professional and respectful communications. **Agree**
- b. Continue to build a partnership relationship. **Agree**
- c. Council to translate three affiliations and language into VA terms for a better understanding **Open**
- d. Council & VA to consider if a MOU is required or necessary. **Council agreed to continue Discussion**

### 9. Review suggested 2014 Goals

- a. Goals were submitted in the Council 2013 annual report and have not been approved by the Council. Council reviewed the 14 suggested goals for 2014 to determine if the listed goals are too aggressive and/or unachievable. Each item was reviewed and had a council vote.
  - i. Increased # of regularly scheduled Outreach activities; i.e. having a booth in the clinic's lobby on a regular basis to support the OEF, OIF, OND outreach initiative **Approved and Accomplished**
  - ii. Veterans Treatment Court to begin no later than 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2014. KCVTC started in January 2014. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - iii. Establish a VTC hub from the KCVTC which will support all Veterans in KOPC and Sevierville KOPC service areas. Committee working with Hon. Shayne Sexton who has agreed to begin a VTC in his service area; Fentress, Campbell, Claiborne, Scott and Union counties. Also working with Blount County Mayor and VSO. **Approved and Accomplished**

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- iv. Obtain KCVTC certification from Justice For Veterans (JFV) for KCVTC. VTC P&P vetted with the four (4) VTC training courts and modified and approved in January 2014. Three (3) committee members were trained and certified as VTC mentors by Justice For Vets as in December 2013. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - v. Train other TN Recovery Courts. Hon Shayne Sexton requested we start with Campbell county and currently working with Kevin Walden, Campbell County VSO. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - vi. Open 2<sup>nd</sup> LPG in Sevier County January 2014. Opened in January 8, 2014; meeting held in the Sevier County Library from 2PM to 4PM and Facilitated by Frank Vollmer. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - vii. Open 3<sup>rd</sup> LPG in Blount County 2014; more and more Veterans are requesting an LPG in Blount County; Nathan Weinbaum has agreed to provide an office. Need at least 5-8 Veterans. **Open**
  - viii. Host "When War Comes Home" Forum for community clergy. Schedule for 5-1-14 at the Knox County Community Action Center. Mayor Tim Burchett to hold a press conference at Freddie's church with Dr. Ed King on 4-3-14 at 10:30am. Members are welcomed to the event. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - ix. Establish Veteran Friendly Congregations (VFC), cities and counties. First VFC & Lead Congregation (LC) executed in January 2014 (Pastor Aaron McCarter, Maryville Vineyard Church) numerous others have also signed up. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - x. Increase number of Veterans transitioning from evidence-based to strength-based programs. Started a 2<sup>nd</sup> LPG group on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am till noon. Freddie, Jesse and Howard Jenkins are the Peer Facilitators. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - xi. Train more Peer Support Facilitators. Howard Jenkins and Dean Powell have been added as Vet to Vet PFs; Thomas Gage, JL Tucker, Dan Moneymaker and Bill Frazer are currently in training. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - xii. Train VTC Mentors. Dan Moneymaker currently in training. Freddie Owens, Tom Gage and Dan Moneymaker are scheduled to attend the Justice For Vets Mentor Boot Camp training on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Funding by AOC and more training seats are available. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - xiii. Train VFC Facilitators. Retired Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Dennis Lovin joined the FBCC. Freddie and Dennis are training Ed Junod, Jesse Rivera, Dan Moneymaker, JL Tucker and others. Freddie and Dennis have identified two (2) retired military woman who have joined the committee and are currently helping to write the Forum program along with Freddie and Dennis. **Approved and Accomplished**
  - xiv. Meet and collaborate with TN Mental Health Commissioner and TN Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner and TN Chief Justice on Council's committee initiatives. VTC and VFC committee members meet with Commissioners on January 29 and agreed to enter an MOU and agreed to support each other with the Council's initiatives. Also included in the roundtable discussion was several Assistant Commissioners from each department and Michelle Gourley, Director of Governor Haslam's Faith Based Program. **Approved and Accomplished**
- b. Council approved all 14 goals and were very surprised that 13 of the 14 goals have already been accomplished but realize with the success comes more effort. **Congratulations Council members!**

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- c. Frank Vollmer is keeping the Council's annual report up to date on a monthly basis and will report the status on a quarterly basis.

### 10. New Business

- a. Liz Ledbetter informed the Knox County Recovery & Veterans Treatment Court that a grant was received and KCVTC was instructed to immediately find and open a transition house for the Court. Ron Hanaver asked the Council's committee to help search for a property suitable for a transition home.
- b. Andrew Parrott has a property which is zoned for half way housing and has the property available immediately. Andrew to contact Ron Hanaver this afternoon. Thank YOU Andrew.

### 11. Adjournment

- a. On a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously approved. Every Council agreed the Council has been working together incredibly well and the Council and its initiative have been more productive than ever. Every member thanked Ron Morton for closing the January Council meeting on a motion to declare an amnesty on past issues and move forward. It is truly working for the past two (2) months and everyone appeared to be grateful for the current relationship. **It is working!**
- b. Motion to adjourn at 12:20 pm was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Date is **Thursday, April 10, 2013 at 11:00 am.**

Respectfully,

Frank Vollmer