

Knoxville Regional Veterans Mental Health Council

May 8, 2014 – 11:00 a.m.

William C. Tallent Outpatient Clinic (KOPC)

8033 Ray Mears Blvd., Knoxville, TN 37819

1. Call to order
2. Prayer & Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Ed Junod, Fred Owens, Frank Vollmer, Ron Morton, Henry Cleveland, Steve Parella, Andrew Parrot, Randall Baxter, Christie Cook. Excused: Charlie Dabbs
4. Review & Approval of April 10, 2014 meeting minutes; unanimously approved.
5. Welcome/Open – Ed Junod
6. VA Guest: None
7. VJO Status: Christie Cook reported to the Council that the individual hired is currently employed as a professor, but has VJO experience and is expected to report to KOPC in July after the end of the school year. The position is a “full-time, permanent” and will service the counties covered by KOPC. The VJO will be asked to sit on the VTC Committee. We are in the process of creating two video’s with Judge Chuck Cerny: one will be an explanatory video for other judges and community leaders about VTC’s, the second video will be a welcoming and orientation video directed at JIV’s. We expect to have a formal public announcement ceremony in July/August with State and Knox County Officials participating.
8. VA Peer Support Specialist feedback:
 - a. Bleu Copas and Billie Butler, VA Peer Support Specialists have attended the LPG meetings for several months. The Council requested a report from Christie on their feedback based on their attendance, observations and recommendations.
 - b. The Council supports the above request and also hopes for a new collaboration between the Steps House and the Knox County Veterans Treatment Court.
 - c. LPG received its first referral from a Veteran participant in the Step House; referral was from Rod Jackson, Cornerstone Veteran Coordinator.
9. Next VA Guest: Dr. Heidi Vermette scheduled for June 12, 2014.
10. FBCC Forum Update: Fred Owens reported that the committee has received great feedback. The May 1st Forum resulted in excellent participant interaction, community support, and a request to present again for the Tennessee state’s military chaplains.

11. VTCC Update:

- a. Andrew Parrot recommended a possible Recovery/VTC residence property for consideration. The house has 8 bedrooms, manager's room, basement, garage, storage and parking. Info being provided to Ron Hanaver, Court Director.
- b. Steve Parella reported that the "PTSD/Law Enforcement Training" had completed 6 of the 8 week program with the Blount County Sheriff's Office road officers and also received great feedback from the participants. Interest in the program is also being received from other counties in East Tennessee. He also reported the Knoxville Vet Center is hiring a new therapist and also getting a new Team Leader.

12. New Business:

- a. Ed Junod acknowledged that Dr. Haag, KOPC, is again sending veteran referrals to the LPG.
- b. In light of Dr. Campbell's refusal to provide "Mental First Aid" services to LPG facilitators, Ron Morton will investigate obtaining or providing the needed service from non-VA sources.
- c. Fred Owens suggested that the VA should create and provide a poster to remind all veterans and emergency room receptionists that veterans MUST notify the VA of the emergency room visit within 72 hours. Christie said she "will look into it".
- d. Christie reported that the July meeting will discuss "PCMHI – Primary Care/Mental Health Integration" for Council members.
- e. Christie reported that prisons are serviced by Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) personnel, not VJOs.
- f. L
- g. Adjournment: 12:35PM