



Carroll County Veterans Coalition

Agenda January 28, 2025

Zoom Link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83587573574>

Or

Tamworth Community Nurse Associates

86R Main St, Tamworth, NH 03886 · Behind Town Hall

(603) 323-8511

Name	Organization	Contact Information
Gary Bent	Clear Path for Veterans New England	gbent@clearpathne.org
Stephanie Higgs	Easterseals Veterans Count	shiggs@eastersealsnh.org
Miguel Moralez	U.S. Small Business Administration, Veteran Business Development Officer	miguel.moralez@sba.gov 603-225-1601
Joshua Ritson	Partnership for Public Health	jritson@ppnh.org
Ann Cady	Retired Army and therapist, Chaplain, working with Lakes Region VNA	revmrskd@aol.com
Gary Bleddyn	NH Care Connections, C3PH	Gary.bleddyn@graniteuw.org
Soyla Hernandez	Community Health Worker, C3PH	Soyla.hernandez@graniteuw.org
Jen Thomas	Prevention Coordinator, C3PH	Jennifer.thomas@graniteuw.org
Emily McArdle	Young Adult Outreach, C3PH	U25carrollcounty@outlook.com

1. Round Table Introductions
2. Guests
 - a. Miguel Moralez- [Veteran Business Development Officer with the US Small Business Administration](#)
 - i. Helps veterans and their spouses throughout NH with their entrepreneurship, helping them start up and expand their businesses



- ii. There is also a certification program for veterans and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) for government contracting.
 - iii. Contracting with SBA partners for counseling, training, mentoring, and business advice for free for the lifetime of the business.
 - iv. One pager/brochure- Miguel will send it to Jen for the minutes.
 - v. Contact info: 603-225-1601 miguel.moralez@sba.gov
 - b. Gary Bleddyn- NH Care Connections, Granite United Way/C3PH
 - i. Gary is working under a grant to promote NH Care Connections, a closed loop referral system to connect service providers (healthcare and social services) with folks in need. It will create a single point of contact- a provider can identify needs and send referrals to out to the appropriate organizations to reduce burden on the client. The program will be up and running soon.
 - ii. Gary will be working from Rockingham to Hillsborough to most of Grafton County and Carroll County, associate Brittany is working in the center of NH.
 - iii. More info coming soon- when it's ready he will be doing more events in the public to meet with social service agencies, physician's offices, etc. to talk to them about the platform and sign them up.
3. Partner Organization Updates
- a. Miguel/Veteran Business Development- Boots to Business event on March 25 and 26- 2-day hybrid program out of Pease, for any veterans or spouses looking to start or grow their business. There will be help with business plans and financials, plus partners with free and confidential mentoring. Miguel will send out a flyer to Jen with more info.



- b. Joshua/Partnership for Public Health- Going to DC to talk to legislative body and meet with Maggie Hassan and Chris Pappas who are on subcommittee for DMAVS. Focusing on getting support for related bills and advocating for the DMAVS program. Also, working on another Fischer Cats game- trying to see what date works best for everyone, more info coming soon. Looking for people to honor on the field- send Joshua an email if someone comes to mind that you'd like to honor.

4. CCVC Updates

- a. Review action plan from December
- b. Schouler Park Family Fun Fair – June 14, 2025, from 9am to 2/3pm
 - i. Thank you to Gary Bent for pulling this together!
 - ii. Need to confirm name- email Jen with ideas
(Jennifer.thomas@graniteuw.org)
 - iii. Date is confirmed, paid and insured. Gary Bent/Jen will drop off the last piece of paperwork.
 - iv. We can plan more in the future- Gary Bent has a list of 40 organizations to reach out to and will talk to the National Guard to put in a request to get vehicles (fire department said no helicopters).
 - v. Acknowledge Flag Day/Army's birthday (in the name or during the event?)
- c. Valley Promotions – Sign up?
 - i. \$75 to sign up for the year, networking and promotion opportunities
 - ii. Group agrees to sign up
 - iii. FMI: <http://www.valleypromotions.net/>
- d. Outreach updates



- i. Emily tabled at Greater Ossipee Chamber of Commerce Business night
 - 1. Many local businesses there and there were a few veterans- could be a good venue for future outreach
 - 2. Aroma Joe's interested in donating coffee for our events- Jen will talk to them about the Conference
 - ii. MWV CoC
 - 1. Small write up needed
 - iii. Greater Ossipee Chamber of Commerce
 - iv. Joshua reached out to the Board of Realtors, but they need to talk as a committee if they want to get more involved, Joshua will follow-up.
- e. Trauma informed Care Presentation
- i. When? May 22 from 1300 – 1500 hours, in-person, possibly at the Wright Museum in conjunction with the American Legion. Presentation by the Greater Manchester Mental Health Center.
 - ii. Who to invite? Social workers, nurses etc.?
 - iii. Will provide CEUs for social workers and nurses, applying for CEUs for prevention and the education center
 - iv. The presentation will include basics of trauma informed care and how to identify symptoms, plus a military lens/connection, with Ask the Question and military culture components
- f. Conference – March 22, 2025
5. To Do
- a. CCVC Conference- March 22, 2025 (snow date on March 29), North Conway Community Center, 1100 – 1400 hours. See flyer below/attached.



- i. Goal of event: Veteran resource fair for the public along with presentations aimed at the service providers (inviting service providers from all sectors, not just veteran-serving organizations).
- ii. Food Ideas- Group agrees to use Big Dave's Bagels again, include gluten free options and other foods (fruit salad, etc.).
- iii. Ask The Question Content-
 1. The group agrees on the Ask the Question theme.
 2. There will be an Ask the Question 101 presentation, plus a second part will include how to incorporate Ask the Question into your organization.
 3. There are some slides ready, plus Brent is getting together the Executive Committee for Ask the Question- more info coming from that? Amy Cook's NAMI module also has slides. Gary Bleddyn saw a condensed version of Ask the Question with Jen Hunter from Steve V. and Christian from Wounded Warriors- Gary Bent will reach out to them.
- iv. Who should we invite for community partners?
 1. Medical and behavioral health providers-
 - a. Gary Bent will reach out to Memorial Hospital Case Managers and Operation Delta Dog
 - b. Soyla will reach out to Mandy at Northern Human Services, Nathan/Gail and ask them to spread the message in their networks, and Amerihealth Caritas
 - c. Ann will talk to Lakes Region VNA and Hospice lead social worker- Betsy Livingston
 - d. Camp Resilience and Forge VFR



2. School social workers, Conway superintendent
 3. People from Real Estate (push the free food)
 4. Sheriff's Association or emergency dispatch association
 5. Miguel is interested in joining
 6. Town Economic Development- can post things on their website (Conway?)
 7. Chamber of Commerce MWV- Michelle Cruz
- v. Marketing to the general veterans and servicemembers
1. DMAVS website
 2. Press release in the Conway Daily Sun and Laconia Daily Sun- Gary Bent can talk to someone at the Conway Daily Sun and Joshua will talk to someone at the Laconia Daily Sun (group agrees that advertisements are too expensive)
 3. Radio- Cathy Livingston? Ann will look for info about the new radio station in Ossipee. Joshua can talk to local radio station Good News segment and is working with NPR to try to get time donated. Ginger Munson's podcast. Collaborate with Kingswood Youth Center for a radio ad?
 4. Local VFWs, American Legion- Gary is going to Conway Legion and will hang up flyers
 5. Social media- Paid advertisements?
 6. Miguel can share with State Veterans Advisory Committee
 7. Regular gathering of all coalition events- if Joshua could put them together and share with SVAC like a bulletin. Send info to Josha/PPH to push out to their network.



8. Drop off flyers with local welfare offices. Gary Bleddyn is working on getting a list of all Welfare Directors in the state and can share it with us.
9. Events bulletin through NH Care Connections?
 - vi. Advertising- Ask the Question- “Have you or a family member ever served in the military? If yes, come to resource fair!” And “Are you a service provider that serves veterans? How do you know? Come to this resource fair to find out how to provide culturally competent care”
 - vii. Creative Arts Contest for youth and young adults- See flyer below/attached. Jen will send out the flyer, participants don’t have to be Carroll County specific. Gary Bent can work on looking into getting a gift card donated from Hannaford. Soyla can reach out to Walmart for a gift card. Maybe the NH Food Access Network could also potentially foot the bill.
 - viii. If you are a community partner that would like to table/network at the Conference, please register here:
<https://forms.gle/7NYaHCQG34nCy1vM7>
6. CCVC is trying to plan a suicide prevention training before March- Josh will look at the contract to see if it has to be once per quarter.
7. Action Plan - Below
8. Resources and Upcoming Activities
 - a. Ageing and Palliative Care
 - i. [Home and Community Based Services - Geriatrics and Extended Care](#)
 - ii. [Palliative Care - Geriatrics and Extended Care](#)
 - iii. [Hospice Care - Geriatrics and Extended Care](#)
 - iv. [VA Financial Benefits - Geriatrics and Extended Care](#)



- b. Legal options
 - i. [603 Legal Aid](#)
 - 1. Veteran Specific application off the home page
- 9. Feedback and Course Correction
- 10. Close
 - a. Send out flyers with minutes, with link to table

Action Plan

Objective action is tied to (see our Objectives)	Action	Who?	Resources needed	Progress (0-5 where 5 is complete)	Completion date goal	Evidence of action
4	Drop off paperwork for Schouler Park	Gary Bent/Jen	Paperwork	5	February 7	Finalized event
1, 2, 4	Sign up for Valley Promotions	Jen	\$75	1	February 25	Membership
4	Talk to Aroma Joe's about coffee/donations	Jen	Meeting or phone call	0	February 7	Meeting/plan for donations
1, 2	Follow-up with Board of Realtors	Joshua	Email	0	February 25	Email
4	Reach out to Wounded Warriors for condensed Ask the Question slides	Gary Bent	Email	0	February 25	Email/obtain slides



4	Conference outreach to Operation Delta Dog, Memorial Hospital case workers, American Legion, Conway Daily Sun	Gary Bent	Email	0	February 25	Emails
4	Conference outreach to Northern Human Services, Amerihealth Caritas, Nathan/Gail	Soyla	Email	0	February 25	Emails
4	Conference outreach to Lakes Region VNA, Ossipee radio station	Ann	Email	0	February 25	Emails
4	Conference outreach to CoC's, Camp Resilience, Forge VFR, radio ad	Jen	Email		February 25	Emails
4	Conference outreach to Laconia Daily Sun and Good News radio segment	Josh	Email	0	February 25	Emails
4	Conference outreach to State Veteran Advisory Committee	Miguel	Email	0	February 25	Emails
4	Obtain/share list of Welfare	Gary Bleddyn	Email	0	February 25	Access to list of welfare directors



	Directors for outreach					
4	Gift card donations from Hannaford or Walmart	Gary Bent, Soyla	Email/call	0	February 25	Gift cards
4	Conference outreach to Gibson Center, social media	Emily	Email	2	February 25	Emails
6	Plan suicide prevention training	Jen	Email/meeting	3	February 25	Training/date planned

Objectives:

1. Increase mental health supports by addressing the needs iterated by service members, veterans and their families (SMVF)
2. Decrease social isolation for service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF)
3. Meet with stakeholders one time per month
4. Hold at least two events to raise awareness about veteran suicide or needs
5. Conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis per year. Review annually.
6. Conduct at least four trainings per year to include suicide prevention, military culture, PTSD, Ask The Question or any pertinent SMVF training, to stakeholders
7. Facilitator of the coalition to attend statewide coalition member meeting
8. Constantly receive input and assess needs all year round. With at least one formal needs assessment to be done in a manner which is deemed viable. Activities, capacity, and objectives will be adjusted as necessary



**FREE
ENTRY**

CARROLL COUNTY VETERANS COALITION 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE



03.22.25



Join us for our 2nd Annual Conference! This year's theme is from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Services, "Ask the Question," campaign. All community members are invited, especially service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF). Refreshments will be served.

Join us to:

- Raise awareness on the need to identify SMVF and provide culturally appropriate resources
- Learn about resources in the community
- Engage with other SMVF and community service providers
- Learn more about SMVF mental health and suicide prevention



Saturday, March 22, 2025, 1100-1400 hours (snow date March 29th)
North Conway Community Center
78 Norcross Circle, North Conway, NH 03860

If you are a community partner that would like to have a table at our event, please register here:



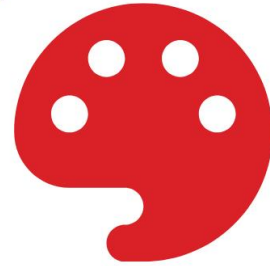
<https://forms.gle/T12upBRXh38rldSv5>

**Free light
refreshments!**



CARROLL COUNTY
VETERANS COALITION

CREATIVE ARTS CONTEST



SUBMISSIONS
OPEN UNTIL
2/28/25



LET YOUR CREATIVITY SHINE THROUGH THIS COMPETITION
TO HONOR SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR
FAMILIES. PLUS, THE TOP 3 FINALISTS WILL WIN A PRIZE!

The Carroll County Veterans Coalition is hosting a Creative Arts Contest for our 2nd Annual Conference. Youth and young adults are encouraged to submit a creative piece of work that honors service members, veterans, and their families.

Examples of creative work:

- Thank you letters
- Poems
- Essays
- Art (paintings, drawings, sculptures)
- Digital art (krita.org is a free platform)
- Videos (short films, songs)
- Any other medium of expression!

FMI AND TO
SUBMIT YOUR WORK:

jennifer.thomas@graniteuw.org

