

CHAT

00:06:04 Rachel McNeill: Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative, info@collaborate.vet

00:06:06 Joy Mirrione: Joy L. Mirrione, LICSW
USAF Veteran
Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator (CEPC)
VA Boston Medical Center
Email: joy.mirrione@va.gov
Office: 774-826-3214
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00:06:22 Michelle Glaser: Michelle Glaser, LICSW, BCD
CPT (Ret.) US Army Medical Service Corps Michelle Glaser, LICSW, BCD
Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator (CEPC)
Worcester CBOC
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Michelle-Elissa.glaser@va.gov

00:06:53 Damien Powell: Damien Powell, VA CDCE
JP VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement
Damien.powell@va.gov

00:07:00 Christopher Feugill: Good afternoon! Christopher Feugill, Veterans Employment Counselor,
MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center Haverhill
christopher.feugill3@mass.gov

00:07:44 Ellen Sullivan: Good afternoon Ellen Sullivan Ellen@collaborate.vet 760.885.1931

00:07:49 Steve Croteau: Steve Croteau, Office of the State Treasurer, Veterans' Bonus Program -
scroteau@tre.state.ma.us

00:08:33 Michael R Lorenz: Mike Lorenz, Boston College Veterans, Michael.lorenz@bc.edu

00:09:07 Darren: Darren Bradshaw Darren.bradshaw@mass.gov

00:09:52 Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer: Caregiver Support Program SW at VA Boston Ninveh.dizayer@va.gov

00:09:57 Tyler Harmon: Tyler- VA JP Employment Coordinator
Tyler.harmon@va.gov

00:10:03 Samantha Cacciatore: Brockton VA Suicide Prevention Team
Email: Samantha.cacciatore@va.gov

00:10:13 Charlie Bernstein: Charlie Bernstein
Harvard Legal Services Center - Veterans Law Clinic
cbernstein.jd25@hlsclinics.org

00:10:13 Amber VIST - VA Bedford MA: amber.vaillancourt@va.gov 781-687-4308
please don't hesitate to reach out if you have interest in outreach

00:10:29 Lino Covarrubias (He, His, El)- JFS MW: Lino Covarrubias, USN (RET), CEO JFS MW- Social Services Agency- Out of Framingham- cover MetroWest
WWW.JFSMW.ORG Lino@jfsmw.org 508-944-6777

00:10:49 Aly Gillen: Aly Gillen
aly.gillen@frostcall.org

00:13:52 Stacey Gordon: Happy to connect and share resources!!
Stacey Gordon
Military Transition Coach/Life Skills Educator for Students, Veterans, Military Families
Veterans & Military Programs Lead, Creative Specialty Promotions, Inc.
Branded Merchandise/Corporate Apparel/Awards/Recognition,
Veteran-Owned Family Business
Veteran Give Back Holiday Gifts:
<https://bit.ly/Veteran-Give-Back-Holiday-Gifts>
stacey@cspromos.com
Resources! <https://linktr.ee/staceycspromos>

00:19:24 Craig Chapman VP NEHOV: Steve Croteau
I was in communication with you over the last year about Welcome back Bonus's and I lost the email you sent me to continue the online application process. Can I get another link so I can finish the application up? Thank You

00:20:58 Christine Armour: Christine Armour, VA Boston Caregiver Support Program,
Christine.Armour@va.gov

00:22:09 Cliff Coy: Boston Vet Center | clifford.coy@va.gov | 57-203-6461

00:23:53 Joy Mirrione - VA Boston (CEPC): Not sure why my technology isn't working. I don't have any big updates just supporting some events for Veterans Day.

00:24:27 JaniceDescarreux: Janice Descarreaux, Office Manager | Forge VFR | Devens, MA | 978-451-0800 | jdescarreux@forgehealth.com

00:25:38 Stacey Gordon: Here's more info: DOL-OBTT: <https://www.dol.gov/OBTTworkshops>

00:26:12 Erica Zeiger: Erica Zeiger, erica@mslfund.org Massachusetts Soldiers Legacy Fund
<https://www.mslfund.org/>

00:27:34 Rachel McNeill: Here is the link to submit events to the shared calendar (a lot of these events are already in here - search for OBTT, DOL has submitted all of the info about the workshops there):
<https://events.riseup.vet/tkf2/submitEvent/c44ef3e118b311e6a8332d1762528068>.

00:27:39 Lisa Ducharme: On the veteran business side - Gov Healey signed a proclamation for National Veterans Small Business Week Oct 30th to Nov 3rd)!!! Veterans and Spouse Small Business Week... I have been putting things out to help businesses prepare for a potential government shutdown... We also have our Wednesday morning 7-8 am Morning Mission Coffee Hour.. During NVSB these two books are free to download on Amazon Kindle..

00:27:51 Leanna Lynch: Leanna Lynch
Community Relations Specialist- VA Bedford
Leanna.lynch@va.gov
781-985-5101

00:28:31 Stacey Gordon: Reacted to "On the veteran busin..." with ❤️

00:29:16 Lisa Ducharme: Both of these books are free on Amazon Kindle during NVSBW From Duty to Destiny - A Guide To The Essential A - Z of Lessons We Learned In The Military" outlines more than one hundred military-based lessons that can be applied to different areas of life, from careers to entrepreneurial ventures, resources in the back of the book and more.
<https://linke.to/DutyToDestiny> November 1, 2023 (If you have Kindle Unlimited, you can download it on October 30th)

"We Are Stronger Together: Strengths in Diversity, Entrepreneurship and Business Leaders Across the Military Community" Inside: Strategies discussed include marketing, branding, taxes, and pivoting. The use of the Business Model Canvas to develop or reassess business, Tips for using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance your business, 22 real-world business insights, and lessons learned from success and failures. Many tools and resources to create a strong business foundation, and so much more! <https://linke.to/WeAreStrongerTogether>

00:35:02 Christopher Feugill: Replying to "On the veteran busin..."
That was posted on the slack last week!

00:36:40 Rachel McNeill: <https://www.collaborate.vet/calendar>

00:36:46 Christopher Feugill: Replying to "Here's more info: DO..."
Thanks for posting!

00:37:09 Rachel McNeill: <https://events.riseup.vet/tkf2/submitEvent/c44ef3e118b311e6a8332d1762528068>

00:37:54 Tyler- VA JP Employment Coordinator: Thanks Rachel! Great information here

00:37:55 Rachel McNeill: <https://www.collaborate.vet/veteransday>

00:38:29 Stacey Gordon: Replying to "THanks Rachel! Great..."

Agreed!

00:40:21 Amber VIST - VA Bedford MA: thankyou for that info, Rachel.

00:40:23 Craig Chapman: Craig Chapman
Vice President
New Englanders Helping Our Veterans (NEHOV)
vp@nehov.org
www.nehov.org

00:42:11 Rachel McNeill: Link to Slack signup: <https://www.collaborate.vet/slack>

00:42:21 Stacey Gordon: Thank you, Rachel!

00:43:17 Cliff Coy: BSO | 2023 Military Holiday Pops Preview
Code: BVC

00:45:33 Rachel McNeill: Link to past meeting chats/video:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JrXYzf_A9EN_kB4cNWACKYdTTrYnZkRJ?usp=drive_link

00:50:52 Rachel McNeill: We have around 650 veteran owned businesses in our directory if it's helpful (most aren't registered/certified but there are links to certifications, etc): <https://airtable.com/apppu4usOkwop4NF2/shrfWxOPrhgyzn2MC>.
This list is embedded at: <https://collorate.vet/entrepreneurs>.

00:52:43 Lisa Ducharme: Lisa@MassVCC.org 603-809-0416
If anyone hasn't taken the SHRM Veterans Certification at work, it is a great free training and the downloadable guide is awesome..
<https://store.shrm.org/SHRM-Foundation-Veterans-at-Work-Certificate-Program>

00:54:35 Stacey Gordon: 5 Tools To Thrive Workshop:
<https://bit.ly/Stacey-Gordon-5-Tools-Thrive-Transition-Beyond-Military-Service-Oct-Dec-2023-v2>

00:55:18 Aly Gillen: frostcall.org/battlebuddy

00:55:27 Joy Mirrione - VA Boston (CEPC): Reacted to "We have around 650 v..." with ❤️

00:56:20 Rachel McNeill: <https://collaborate.vet/suicide> - we have a lot of data there but we can add the new report if it's not up yet

00:56:28 Cliff Coy: Frost Call is a Veteran's gaming not for profit that works to improve veteran mental heath and community building thorough games. You can learn more about them here: Frost Call

00:59:58 Niki Kristolaitis: That was a really good event to listen too

01:00:15 Rachel McNeill: There are food-related resources here (including for food prescription/programs): <https://www.collaborate.vet/food>

01:00:17 John Danahey: <https://www.newenglandadventures.org/>
these folks host free hunting excursions for Veterans, I just attended one last month, it was a great experience

01:00:23 Rachel McNeill: Reacted to "these folks host fre..." with 👍

01:00:34 Ellen Sullivan: Reacted to There are food-relat... with "👍"

01:01:40 Lino Covarrubias (He, His, El)- JFS MW: Thanks everyone. Need to get on another meeting. Go Navy

01:04:06 John Danahey: <https://mmsfi.org/breakfast4vets/>

01:06:18 Steve Croteau: Veterans' Bonus eligibility updates: Veterans that meet all requirements but discharged other than honorable due to sexual orientation are eligible

Discharge OTH but honorable previously enlistment maybe eligible for bonus for previous enlistment

Meeting with the Progressive caucus on Nov 7th to give them an update

01:06:24 Ellen Sullivan: Thank you to all our on here Veterans for your continued service

01:06:33 Lisa Miller-Perfetuo: Thanks all!

01:06:36 Stacey Gordon: Thank you!

01:06:48 Niki Kristolaitis: Thank you!

TRANSCRIPT

00:01:22.660 --> 00:03:00.629

Robert Notch: Hey everybody! Bob Notch here, President of the Greater Boston Veterans Collaborative. Thank you for joining us for our monthly summit here in November. November is Native American Heritage Month. And probably the thing that's keeping everybody busy for the next couple of weeks is Veterans Day coming up next, not this coming weekend, the following weekend. And, what else do we have going on this month? Thanksgiving is coming up right after that. You've probably already seen commercials for Christmas, because I'm seeing them way too early. And then, this Saturday, if you're up for it, you have interest, Army versus Air Force, we'll be playing this Saturday. So, thanks for joining us. Just a couple reminders up front. We are recording, so keep that in mind. Please be cognizant of staying on mute so we don't overshadow whoever's speaking at the moment. And, if you do have something you want to bring up or question you have, go ahead and use the raise hand button. That'll get my attention and make sure you get a chance to speak. So, before we get too far down the road, I want to ask if there are any first timers or individuals that have not been here in quite a while. This is your opportunity to reintroduce yourself or introduce yourself, your organization, in just a short synopsis of what you do. Go ahead and throw up your raised hand that way, I'm sure to catch you. So, any newer new individuals? Amber, go ahead.

00:03:02.340 --> 00:03:27.970

Amber VIST - VA Bedford MA: Hi, everybody! Can you hear me? I'm not on mute, I think. Right? Okay. My name is Amber. I am the VIST coordinator at the VA in Bedford, Mass. VISTs – you know, the VA loves to do acronyms – is [Visual Impairment Services Team](#) coordinator. And I was, this link was shared with me by Leanna Lynch, the outreach coordinator at VA Bedford, and I'm so happy to connect with this group. She had lovely things to say.

00:03:29.890 --> 00:03:44.730

Robert Notch: Thanks for joining us, Amber, and especially for the new newcomers, make sure you get your information in the chat. That way, we know how to get a hold of you and others can get a hold of you once you get a chance to introduce yourself. Going on to Charlie. Go ahead.

00:03:45.370 --> 00:03:55.369

Charlie Bernstein: Hi! Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Charlie Bernstein. I'm a student attorney with Harvard's [Veterans Law Clinic](#), where I work with Jack Regan, and I'm a Marine Corps veteran. Happy to be in the group.

00:03:56.450 --> 00:03:57.920

Robert Notch: Thanks for joining us, Charlie. I'm gonna get this one here, Basundhara.

00:04:03.480 --> 00:04:18.059

Basundhara Mukherjee: Veterans Law Clinic, so great to be here with all of you

00:04:18.750 --> 00:04:23.769

Robert Notch: Thanks for joining. Next up, looks like Aly.

00:04:25.880 --> 00:04:37.820

Aly Gillen: Hello! I'm Aly. I'm with [Frost Call](#), and I'm part of their [Battle Buddy Program](#), and was invited by Joy. So yeah, nice to be here. Thank you.

00:04:37.830 --> 00:04:44.319

Robert Notch: Thanks for jumping on. And, the last one I see right now is Janice.

00:04:46.560 --> 00:04:58.600

JaniceDescarreux: Hi, my name is Janice. I'm the office manager for [Forge VFR](#) over at Devens, Mass. We do outpatient mental health and substance use for our veterans and first responders. We have individual and group settings

00:05:00.810 --> 00:06:22.130

Robert Notch: Awesome, great to have you. Appreciate seeing all the new faces on here with us today. Did we miss anyone else? Taking a quick look. Alright, hearing none, what we'll do, what we normally do – this is for the newcomers – what we normally do is we just run through what's happening at the City level, then at the State level, and then at the Federal level, just to make sure we're all in sync, and on what the government's got going on here in Massachusetts. I will probably hand it over to Rachel McNeill, one of the co-founders and chair of the board for the collaborative, for any information that she wants to share. And then, we'll open it up for you all to share any information about the events that you have coming up, potential issues that you see happen in the community, or anything that we need to talk about. That's it. So, we will move through the agenda, and I'm trying to look – do we have any city VSOs on with us today? Doing a quick look. I don't see any. All right, then we'll move on. I see, Deputy Secretary is with us from EOVS. Andrea, anything to share with the group today?

00:06:22.480 --> 00:06:27.730

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett: things to share. But I didn't pull it up. So let me find it, and then I will come back. Okay.

00:06:27.760 --> 00:07:05.829

Robert Notch: Awesome. Will do. What I'll do is I'll jump to Steve Croteau at the [Veterans Bonus Division](#). We'll come back. Steve. are you still with us, Steve? He was on camera, and he's off, so he must have just stepped away any other State offices with us. Sometimes we get Department of Revenue. Lisa? Go ahead, Lisa, and then we'll hand it over to Steve.

00:07:09.760 --> 00:08:07.489

Lisa Miller-Perfetuo: Sorry, I know. Late. I apologize, everybody. And, I missed last month and I apologize for that as well. So, I'm here for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for [Child Support Enforcement](#), and we're here to obviously offer services for any of your veterans who have issues with child support. We wanna be a resource for folks that have arrears or challenges with any of the enforcement we may have taken on them. What in the effort to collect support while somebody's been, you know, serving the country are going through a difficult time once they've, you know, left service, and I really really hope that we can be a resource for folks. So, please reach out to me if you need some assistance. I'm actually going down to Brockton to the VA in Brockton next Tuesday to talk to providers down there and I've had frequent calls with Northampton. The VA folks that work in the CWT Program in that area are trying to get collaborative efforts in place to help those veterans there, too. So, I really appreciate all of your connections. And thanks for having me. Sorry for being late.

00:08:09.340 --> 00:08:14.889

Robert Notch: Thanks for being here. You made it. Steve, we'll hand it over to you.

00:08:16.310 --> 00:09:06.620

Steve Croteau: Thanks, Bob. Sorry, had someone in my office. So, Steve Croteau, Director of Veterans Bonus Division, Massachusetts, that awards the wartime bonus to veterans that are originally from Massachusetts and serve during certain wartime periods. And, some things that we have going on. First is, I'm getting ready to send out an application to General Milly. He recently retired and he's originally from Winchester. So, I'm gonna send him a application along with a letter from the Treasurer and a letter from Secretary Santiago. So, that's pretty cool, right? Let's see what else? Yeah, I think that's really, I can't see my notes right now, Bob. So, that's what I have. I may have some alibis later, but that's all I got for now.

00:09:08.780 --> 00:09:13.719

Robert Notch: Awesome.

00:09:15.190 --> 00:09:23.340

David Hencke VA Boston: Well, thanks, Steve, so is General Millie gonna be living back in the State?

00:09:23.740 --> 00:09:34.730

Steve Croteau: No. One unique thing about this program, the bonus, is you had to live in Massachusetts before going in the military. It doesn't matter where you live after, but it's kind of unique. I'm trying to fix that. But, for now he's eligible. Regardless where he lives, he's eligible, yeah.

00:09:35.390 --> 00:09:40.570

Robert Notch: Great. Did you catch General McConville, too? He is former Chief of Staff of the Army, a month or two ago, and he's here, from Massachusetts as well.

00:09:40.610 --> 00:09:54.420

Steve Croteau: Yeah, no. I have to reach out to him that you know. I think you were there when, General Dunford, we got him. Yeah. So, I'll have to reach out to him as well. Thanks for reminding me

00:09:55.000 --> 00:10:33.449

Robert Notch: No problem. Well, I think it was just an interesting coincidence that so many senior leaders across the branches were all from Massachusetts right around the same time. I think if the Chief of Naval Ops is still in place, he's also a Massachusetts native. Alright, I'm gonna go back over to Andrea for EOVS talks.

00:10:33.470 --> 00:11:33.919

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett: It's a hybrid meeting, and it's done in conjunction with Hanscom Federal Credit Union. The topic is going to be **Effective Saving Strategies**. So it's a time for women veterans – anyone can go – but you know, it's for women veterans to hear about financial strategies, and it's going to be held like I said tomorrow at 3pm at the South Bay Hanscom Federal Credit Union. But, it's also virtual. So, I will put the link in the chat. So, if anyone is interested in attending, they can do that. As we know, next week is Veterans Day, and the EOVS has a whole host of announcements coming up for the week but there is the big Veterans Day event at Faneuil Hall at 10am. And, everyone is invited. So, those are the two that I could find, and if I find others I will come back.

00:11:37.220 --> 00:11:55.810

Robert Notch: All right, 10am on the 10th at Faneuil Hall. Awesome. Well, thank you so much. Appreciate that. You know what, I see Christopher Feugill on here, and I will – Chris, Christopher, you're back with MassHire. So I want to give you the opportunity to talk about what's going on with MassHire.

00:12:01.090 --> 00:14:30.400

Christopher Feugill: Thanks. Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Christopher Feugill, Veterans Employment Counselor with [MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center](#) in Haverhill. Immediately, we have on Monday in Cambridge, [Edge4Vets](#) at Draper Labs. The [MassHire Metro North](#) is connected with that. Dennis Pellegrino was our lead liaison for vets. If you've never been to Edge4Vets it's a fantastic program. It connects HR managers with the veterans in a mentoring capacity as well. I know a few of us will be there. Next, on November 14, I am organizing/hosting a Veterans Resource Fair at AMVETS here in April. I see actually 2, 3, 4 people that are going to represent different veteran services at my resource fair. So, I appreciate all of your attendance there. If you haven't got the most recent flyer, I will send it to you immediately. I'm pushing at last confirmation for attendees. Other than that, there's job fairs galore. MassHire job fairs are across the state all throughout the first couple, 3 weeks in the month of November. MassHire Metro, [MassHire North Shore](#) in Salem has a job fair on the 8th at the Career Center, and is open to veterans only for the first hour, and then the general public after that. There's a job fair in Worcester. Bill Ryan's pulling together a job fair there. Darren, what do you got going on in your neck of the woods for MassHire for veterans' employment events? I'm gonna exit stage left gracefully with that.

00:14:43.060 --> 00:14:49.689

Robert Notch: And you know what, Chris, that was a great hand over. Darren Bradshaw, are you still with us?

00:14:49.740 --> 00:14:54.189

Darren: Yup? I'm here.

00:14:54.390 --> 00:15:01.760

Robert Notch: alright great! And I apologize. We've been missing you recently. I don't, I don't know if I always catch you when we go through these calls. My apologies. Go ahead.

00:15:05.410 --> 00:15:10.170

Darren: Sorry we've got. I'm gonna need to come back. I'm looking for it. What we've got.

00:15:11.250 --> 00:15:12.730

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett: We're all in the same boat.

00:15:13.160 --> 00:15:15.819

Darren: Yeah, thank you.

00:15:17.060 --> 00:16:21.490

Robert Notch: Oh, I'm on mute. No worries. We'll come back. One last check, any other state level agencies on with us? Okay, I didn't see any I don't think. So, we'll move on up to Federal side, which is mostly our VA. So, I'm going to start at the top here. I see Joy is on with us. Joy, go ahead! I can't hear you, Joy. I'm just, you're, it doesn't look like you're on mute but I'm not getting any audio and your videos flickering in and out as well. So, let's do this. Let me move on, and we'll come back and see if we can catch you. Quick look, quick look. Dave Hencke.

00:16:21.710 --> 00:18:18.690

David Hencke VA Boston: Hey! Good afternoon, everybody. Good to see you. Good team. Happy Fall. Happy November. So, in terms of our VA overall, VA events, etc. we've got several of the team members here. So Joy, when she gets back on and Tyler with Employment Services. Samantha Cacciatore with the Suicide Prevention. I'll let him go down the list there. Christine. Anybody that needs to jump in with any activities in terms of overall big VA events or at least Boston, I'm sorry. Boston particularly nothing really significant happening. And I think, City of Boston or folks would remind everybody there is the big Boston Veterans Day Parade coming up Saturday. That'll be a lot of fun – about 700 participants for that. So they're again holding it the weekend before Veterans Day. So it's about, I think it's noon to 2pm there and downtown Boston, basically from the Public Library up to City Hall there. So, and then in terms of events are a bunch of little odds and ends regionally. But the only other thing that's kind of of interest and excitement's been the Army Navy game coming up on the 9th down at Gillette. So, kind of a pay to play deal unless you know somebody in the inner workings there. So, we are hoping, the business teams' trying to get us a footprint out in the parking lot somewhere or whatever. But, even we are not invited into the inner sanctum. So, but yeah, beyond that. So, team. VA team folks have haven't any odds and ends other events I'm not aware of. Northeastern. By the way, Northeastern University is hosting a really good healthcare conference and State of VA Care Services for the health care in focus people that's coming up in a week or so. But if you want to know more, let me know. Hey, Tyler Harmon, are you there? Do you have anything to add? Anything going on with you?

00:18:20.880 --> 00:18:29.199

Tyler- VA JP Employment Coordinator: At the end of the month we have a [OBTT](#) workshop at the JP VA, but I'm relying mainly on you, David Hencke, for all the happenings, because as you know, I'm kind of employment-focused. But yeah, you want to tell me real quick.

00:18:35.300 --> 00:19:00.769

David Hencke VA Boston: OBTT, right? Yeah, it's through the [Department of Labor](#), and I think most MassHire folks are offering OBTT workshops for veterans and transition there's all types of employment workshops available, interview skills, resume writing, LinkedIn workshops.

00:19:00.770 --> 00:19:16.449

Tyler- VA JP Employment Coordinator: So, the VA is offering that at JP VA Boston every other month. We have a day of events with OBTT. So yeah, and I can fill in more details or send information out about that, too.

00:19:18.090 --> 00:19:22.590

David Hencke VA Boston: Yeah, I know. Chris, Chris or Darren, you guys. Anything to add to that?

00:19:24.790 --> 00:21:48.490

Christopher Feugill: Yeah, Christine Babcock is the/our regional coordinator for that OBTT – Off Base Transition Training series of workshops sponsored/facilitated by the Department of Labor's veterans' program. The same branch of the Department of Labor that oversees the [Jobs for Veterans State Grants](#) my program uses statewide. Actually, every Career Center in the country has DVOPs but the OBTT is at a lot of Career Centers. The advantage to OBTT in my world is that Christine is not bound by the service delivery area. She's not – she can go to, she can have workshops anywhere. The VA in JP. The VA in Bedford. Veterans, Inc. in Worcester. The New England Center and Home for Veterans. I'm starting OBTT Workshops here in April and in Lawrence in January. I know she has workshops in Cambridge, all over Central and Eastern Massachusetts. And, there's 12 different workshops. You can sign up for them virtually and it's not just open to veterans. It's veteran-focused, but it's open to the public. If on slack, I'll post a link in slack to the sign up for those workshops. Every career center also provides workshops and workforce development training. So, if you have a veteran that's interested, please contact your local DVOP, or yeah, contact myself, Darren, Dennis Pellegrino, Rob, you said of any data enabled add in and offer meeting space too as part of that. What we're doing.

00:21:50.160 --> 00:22:40.410

Darren: We don't do the OBTT in our career center. We don't have the facility. We didn't have the facilities for it when it first started out. That might change. But, that's where we are right now. But, I did wanna tell about a job fair we have on the 8th. That's Wednesday, next Wednesday. It's at Middlesex Community College in Bedford. It's from 11am to 1pm, and veterans are allowed in at 10:30am. So, we found that to be a good front of the line to do for vets is, let him in early. So, that's what we'll be doing.

00:22:40.900 --> 00:22:54.430

David Hencke VA Boston: Oh, good for you. Okay, Middlesex Community College, right? Okay? Good deal. Okay. So, back on the VA side, we got a couple, hey, Samantha, on suicide prevention. Anything from you all or anything going on there?

00:22:55.400 --> 00:23:21.010

Samantha Cacciatore, VA Brockton SP Team: Yeah. Hi, everyone. My name's Samantha Cacciatore. I'm the new Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Brockton. So, I work with Joy. We're doing some smaller events collaborating with Quincy College and Stonehill College on Veterans Day events, which is really great. So, those are kind of our main activities and events coming up right now.

00:23:21.760 --> 00:23:31.430

David Hencke VA Boston: Right, yeah. I know we got some good students out of it. Thank you. Tyler? Nini, is there anything else on your side, on caregiver support?

00:23:31.900 --> 00:24:28.430

Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer, VA Boston Caregiver Support Program: Hey, everyone! How are you? I have Christine with me as well. November is National Caregiver Month, and so we're celebrating all month. We

celebrate every day, but November specifically. So we're doing some support groups internally at the VA. But on November 7 and November 8, we're gonna be having a Caregiver Support Resource tabling event. And so on the 7th, we'll be at JP campus, and then on the 8th we'll be at Brockton. We'll have staff on both the general side and the stipend side, and so if you want to stop by, we'll have more information, and we'll be there. We have some swag as well. If you just want to come see our faces, also do that. And so, yeah, we have those events going on. And yeah, that's it for us.

00:24:28.610 --> 00:24:41.610

David Hencke VA Boston: Good deal. Good deal. Thank you. And anybody else there? I think, Damien. They're with us from what was volunteer services – community development. Now, anything, Damien, anything going on in your corner of the VA world?

00:24:41.880 --> 00:25:30.689

Damien Powell, VA CDCE: Yeah. I promised that I would share this. Our Recreation and Creative Arts Therapist, she regularly does events down in Brockton, and Monday the 13th they're having their 2nd Annual Voices of Veterans at the Brockton Public Library. She connects with Philip, who's a veteran author, and for the second year they're going to have Donald Chase, who's a 99 year old World War 2 and Korean veteran. They're going to be showcasing some of his work and having veterans reading his pieces, as well as, other veterans will be showcasing some of their poems and writings. So, if anybody wants to attend that, I'm gonna share the flyer in slack.

00:25:32.010 --> 00:26:02.489

David Hencke VA Boston: Yeah, he's a good poet. Yeah, actually, not even like poetry. Yeah. if it's really good. So I think anybody else on the VA Boston team. Everybody. So, Mr. Chairman, at this time I'll yield my time, I think. Probably the Vet Center up next. Cliff Coy, you on there?

00:26:02.760 --> 00:26:06.009

Cliff Coy | Boston Vet Center: That's your meeting, Dave. You don't. You don't count me, Bob. Bob calls on me.

00:25:55.690 --> 00:26:02.489

David Hencke VA Boston: Oh, no, I just yield, and you're next.

00:26:02.760 --> 00:26:09.179

Cliff Coy | Boston Vet Center: Vet Center has no announcements at this time. We're good.

00:26:10.780 --> 00:27:53.889

Robert Notch: Awesome. Thank you, guys. Thank you, Dave. Real quick while it's still, I took, put a note. Dave mentioned Army Navy. That's December 9th – not this month, but next month. So, keep that in mind, and yes, even some of us who are graduates that maybe didn't pay enough into the Alumni Association can't get tickets, either, so it's a tough git. The other thing I wanted to highlight. OBTT is another opportunity to catch transitioning service members that maybe were overwhelmed and rushed, just didn't catch everything through the Transition Assistance Program, the TAP program, when they left service. So, that is another opportunity specifically focused on employment that they can catch on the back side of the transition. The services are still having trouble with the transition process. If you read some of the reports lately, there was a report to Congress recently that they're definitely having problems getting those individuals to start the transition process a year in advance. And then they're still having problems getting those folks to attend the training in a time of manner to make it something that they can use and actually act upon. So, there's a lot of work that still needs to be done in that transition process. Thanks to the employment folks that are doing the OBTT as another way to catch on

the back side of the transition process. Okay, off of that box. Wanted to check and see. Did we miss anybody from a Federal level? Leanna Lynch?

00:27:53.990 --> 00:30:22.510

Leanna Lynch: Thank you. Oh, thank you. I popped on a little late. Sorry. I'm trying to get ready for a couple of events before I go on leave, so bear with me. I'm on my phone. So, we do have a couple of things. I'll figure out how to put my hand down after I tell you guys. One big thing that we have coming up next Wednesday – we have a job fair specifically for nursing. We're calling it **Walk-In Wednesdays**, and these pop up every once in a while. It's going to be building one in the lobby at VA Bedford from 11am until 2pm. So, when the people are done – I forget what time you said that they're going to be at Middlesex, Darren – send them our way when they're done, or vice versa. To the RNs, they are offering a \$20,000 bonus. LPNs at \$13,500, and nursing assistants \$7,000. I will put that on the slack, that flyer, so you guys can take a look at that and share. Please share because across the entire VA we are looking for medical professionals.

The other thing – we're still doing CBOC visits. So, I go out to Lynn, Haverhill, and Gloucester once a month, and I do ID cards and assist veterans with enrolling in VA healthcare. I'm still doing those the 2nd Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 9:30am to 2pm at each of those clinics. Tuesday is Lynn. Wednesday is Haverhill. Thursday is Gloucester.

The last thing we have on the calendar. We're gonna work. We're gonna have a sorry. I'm trying to look at what we called it, a VSO Orientation last year, a VA Health Care and Benefits Seminar. We made it sound fancy this year. So, what we're gonna be doing is we're gonna be bringing a bunch of different subject matter experts from the different programs within the VA inviting our Veteran Service Officers and organizations to partake in this. It will be hybrid. So, we'll have some people here on site, and then we'll have obviously people out in cyberworld to be able to get information from the subject matter experts. That is gonna be held on Tuesday, January 30. Once I have a flyer and some more information – I don't have a registration link for that just yet – I'll make sure to get it out to everybody. So, anybody and everybody can participate. Hopefully, we'll be able to have some people from Boston/Central Western come play with us as well. And that's all I have pending your questions.

00:30:25.810 --> 00:30:38.229

Robert Notch: Thanks, Leanna. Appreciate it. Anybody else? Quick. Okay. I wanna throw it over to Rachel McNeill real quick. Rachel, anything for the group?

00:30:38.800 --> 00:33:32.670

Rachel McNeill: Yeah. So, for those who are new. We do have a shared calendar that you can find at <https://collaborate.vet/calendar>. I'll put this in here. You can submit events directly to the calendar, and if you include tags like #employment, #housing, or whatever the topic is or audience, you know it might be for #women. Whatever it might be. Location. You can put all that into the event. And then it's curated around our calendar on our website on the different resource pages. I'm going to share the link to submit events. But you can find it embedded right at the top of the calendar. There's a "submit event" button. On these events you can add images. You can upload flyers. You know, you can sort of set up all the information. We did get some feedback about the process, and no one had any complaints. It seems like it takes about 3 min to submit the events. But then it might be easier. You can share, you know, kind of all your events. A lot of the OBTT events are in there. I see them submitting a lot of them. So, you can definitely find a lot in one place, and that includes also Veterans Day events.

If you submit an event and it says "Veterans Day" in the event, you can actually go to the website and you'll see those events listed at <https://collaborate.vet/veteransday> to make it a little easier to keep track of some of

the local events and things that are happening. There's always a lot of lists going around saying, you know, there's free meals in this place and in that place, and they are for restaurant chains across the country. But, this is one way to just kind of circle what's relevant in our place. And, if you go into the calendar and just type in a town name, you'll be able to find events that are specific to that town. But, if there isn't a town in the title listed in parentheses or carved out it's probably an online opportunity for folks. So, just make sure you're aware of that resource because you can use it and share it with others, so that they can figure out what everyone's doing and participate in some of those events.

Other than that, I don't think we have any major updates with tech. If anyone is very new and hasn't seen that we have slack, you can go to <https://collaborate.vet/slack> and sign up, and then you can go into the slack and connect with people in between summits so that you can share flyers or events and different kinds of things like that. Just to allow everyone to keep in touch. If you have any questions about the resources you can always reach out to info@collaborate.vet, and we'll help get you squared away on all of that. And, that's my only update unless anyone has questions.

00:33:35.170 --> 00:33:38.580

Robert Notch: Any questions for Rachel? Marydith.

00:33:41.640 --> 00:33:54.939

Marydith Tuitt: I'm sorry, guys, I apologize. I'm in my mobile office. All of the links and stuff that would dropped in the chat today. Would you be able to email that out for me, cause I'd like to be able to go back to some of them. But I'm in my mobile office.

00:33:55.510 --> 00:34:25.489

Rachel McNeill: Sure I can do that and actually, I'll share another thing with you if I can pull it up here. We do have an archive of notes, and that includes the chat that if you're in slack you'll see it. When we post about the summit today it'll give an announcement. And, there's a button that says access the past meeting minutes and videos. So you can refer back to it. But I'll shoot you a link to that. I'm okay. Thank you. Right now

00:34:28.449 --> 00:35:02.639

Robert Notch: I will share with the group. I'll let you know I use slack as the number one means of getting information out everybody cause it's so much easier for me to on the fly use my phone just to send something out and get it into slack rather than trying to compose an email and find all of the different addresses. It's a great way to do some quick exchanges and provide information to each other, so I like to use it. I would love everybody to use it more. It's a great way to keep connected. I do want to go back – Cliff sent me a note. He said, something just popped in his head. So, back to you, Cliff.

00:35:03.230 --> 00:37:20.520

Cliff Coy | Boston Vet Center: Thanks. Sorry for jumping back in and breaking the flow. There's two things that I wanted to throw out to folks as well. For anybody that's new. My name is Clifford. I'm the outreach guy for the Boston Vet Center. If you don't know the Vet Centers, we mostly provide mental health counseling benefits, assistance for veterans, also their family members and active duty service members. Feel free to direct message me if you have any questions.

So, two things. The first is that we are still continuing to do and offer in person visits for folks that are trying to connect with VBA. We're still doing those monthly. We're actually getting ready to expand and we're probably gonna start offering them more. We'll probably start doing it two days a month because there is demand for it. And, we're gonna be expanding the number of visits that we're offering. So, if folks are having a real hard time getting connected with VBA in a way that feels good and meaningful, they are welcome to reach out to us. I will

say that there is a waiting list for it, but I will continue to schedule people as they are getting interested. But, these are really good. The guys that we have coming from VBA are all senior level that are helping people navigate and figure out the best way to fix their claims. In some situations, the VSRs have been able to type in the veterans stuff directly and be like, "Oh, that's wrong," and like, fix stuff immediately. So, there's some goodness happening there. Folks are welcome to – if veterans are looking to try to set something up like that they should just call us. They can ask to speak to me, and I'll get them scheduled.

In case, I don't know if it was mentioned earlier, so if I repeat this, somebody interrupt me and tell me that everybody already knows. So, the Boston Pop Symphony is gonna be doing their kickoff for their season November 30 with an all veterans and active duty service members and their family concert that is exclusively just for them. There are tickets to be had for it. There was some stuff and some flyers that were going around. And, I think it's my fault because I circulated information, and then it was supposed to. There was supposed to be some like internal stuff.

00:37:28.830 --> 00:37:30.670

Robert Notch: I think you just went on mute.

00:37:36.570 --> 00:38:18.200

Cliff Coy | Boston Vet Center: Alright, it's good cause I started cursing. So, I'll drop the link in the chat. If folks don't know, they can use that link to register for tickets. They'll need a code to register for it. As of right now, they can just use the code BVC. There was like this whole other confusing thing going around about it but, just let people know if they want to register for it, if they want to get tickets, it's code BVC. The website may say that you can order up to like 8 tickets. But, I strongly encourage people to share this out and encourage people to like, not order 8 tickets, because there's only so many. So, don't be that guy.

00:38:18.540 --> 00:38:29.930

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett: Hi! I just have a quick question. Did you say BBC as in Bravo Bravo Charlie or VBC as in...

00:38:37.040 --> 00:38:40.869

Cliff Coy | Boston Vet Center: Forget for folks.

00:38:46.050 --> 00:38:49.890

Robert Notch: All good. Cliff. All right. Thank you. Where did my screen go? I lost all of you guys for a second. Okay, I'm back.

00:38:50.080 --> 00:39:15.730

Robert Notch: I wanna open the floor up to anyone out there. If you've got information, you wanna share a question. Ask anything for the group. Go ahead, raise your hand. I'll call on you. And then, if there's some stuff that doesn't get covered, I have some notes that I'll cover eventually. But, I wanna give you guys a chance first. Lisa. Hello.

00:39:15.920 --> 00:44:57.540

Lisa Ducharme: As I said in the chat, this is National Veterans Small Business Week and Governor Healey did sign a proclamation. It's important to note that Veterans Small Business Week is actually for your veteran, your active, your guard, your reserve, and your military spouses. That's the way the SBA has it written out, which is why Governor Healy, when she signed her proclamation, it was veteran and military spouse. Military spouse is veteran/military spouse. They just say military spouse even though includes veterans. Please let them know about us out at the Massachusetts Veterans Chamber of Commerce because we have some challenges with

veteran businesses. Actually, right now, there's a 3% set aside. But, it's not a requirement. It's a "you can." So there's no requirement for the 3% set aside for our veteran businesses for contracts. It's a good thing to do. They can say they have a 3% but it's not a real 3% because it's not required. So one of the things that we are challenged with is the fact that we don't have very many veterans that are actually certified. But, also the numbers of veteran businesses have really been skewed over the years. We're currently working on a census to collect all of the information for all of our veteran owned businesses. In 2007, the Census Bureau said that we have over 53,000 veteran owned businesses in the state of Massachusetts. In 2012, the Census Bureau said that we had over **52,000**. 2015, same thing. 2000, **28,299**. If we had that significant of a drop, we have a big problem. So I wanna see, was there a change in the Census Bureau? I've reached out to the Census bureau to ask the questions. The different people I've talked to said, well, there was, but it wasn't enough to change those types of numbers. Is there really a problem with the veteran businesses in reference to the identification? So, what my goal is with the Massachusetts Veterans Chamber is to get all the information from our veteran businesses, create the database that nobody in the United States has. They do not have to be certified to come into the veterans chamber if they don't want to join the chamber and it is free. But if they don't want to join, and they just want to give us their information, we will just take their information. And when people reach out to ask for a veteran business we can give them that information.

We have our Morning Coffee Hours every Wednesday morning. One thing I will say is that every morning, every Wednesday morning, I actually have a checklist. That checklist does not go out to anybody except those who attend the Morning Coffee Hours last week. I did answer the public this week, I did content management or content mapping for social media. So, it's good for businesses as well as anybody who happens to do anything in their organization. So, I just wanna bring out cause our goal is to help our veteran businesses out there. Right now. We have cookie cutter type of assistance for them, and we have a lot of organizations within our sea of goodwill. The problem is, our businesses don't even know about even civilian businesses. Don't know about a lot of the resources we have in Massachusetts, and the 2 books that I put in the chat. They're free until Friday for National Veterans Small Business Week, even if you don't want them, I'm gonna recommend you download them. This one right here has over 100 skills and lessons we learned in the military and tells you how we use it and then the other one, that we are stronger together. This one right here has a bunch of business re buzz, bunch of business information, and 22 veteran military spouse businesses who provided their input both have a ton of resources.

And of course I'm all about resources. Right? So, I just ask everybody, if you know anybody, please shoot them our way. If you know any businesses that need help, I cannot tell you how many places we have in the state of Massachusetts that when we did our soft launch on October 11 they had not even talked to each other. And I'm like, okay, we got these problems. But, I do want you to know that I have shared everything. And especially that calendar cause I love that calendar. I've shared that with both the Worcester and the VOICE down here in Western Mass and I've asked everybody to use it. It's not, you guys haven't made it so that it's only for Boston. You've made it for everybody. So, I'm trying to get people to use it. I have 2 businesses who are trying to start a business because we don't have the tools for people to know what's going on. I said, I sent both of them to that first, and said, before you do anything, look at this and, Bob, as you know, I sent the Secretary your way, saying, Hey, you guys have this calendar. You guys have all these great resources and you know I need everybody to come together underneath one umbrella, so that we can kind of put it all together and make life a little bit easier for people. So thank you. That's my 2 cents.

00:44:59.940 --> 00:45:55.709

Robert Notch: Thanks, Lisa, and I appreciate the work you're doing right now. So, this is something that we had been talking about in the collaborative for a long, long time is, how do we connect all the veteran owned businesses here, at least here in Massachusetts, to each other. Right? They should be doing business with each other in order to help them grow. And then to all of us, all of you, the nonprofits that I've been with since I

transitioned out, my goal is to make sure that when they hired someone to do work they went to a veteran owned business. It's part of the mission, you're out to support veterans. It's part of your mission. You should be hiring veterans to do contract work or whatever it is you need done. So, I think getting a master list in a community of veteran business owners will not only help them, but it'll help all the nonprofits that are part of this group as well. And even if they go out and register with the state, they can also compete for state contracts as well.

00:45:57.110 --> 00:46:12.060

Lisa Ducharme: Yeah, and we are gonna be doing one of these books specifically for Massachusetts next year for anybody who's an actual member of the Chamber. Because I will tell you, I'm just dumbfounded with all the resources we have nobody knows about just in the state of Massachusetts alone.

00:46:14.440 --> 00:46:15.390

Robert Notch: Thank you. Alright. I see, Stacey, you got your hand up.

00:46:16.520 --> 00:48:23.729

Stacey Gordon: Hi, Stacy, I do. Hi, everybody! Lisa! That was a perfect lead into what I was going to say. So, thank you for sharing everything. I'm actually a Military Transition Coach, and I just joined forces with my Army Reserve veteran dad for our family owned business in promotional marketing and branded merchandise. So I'm kind of the veteran and military lead if you will to serve the nonprofits, the employment, you know everything. That's kind of one thing. Second thing, I would like to offer this community. So, like I said, I'm a teacher by training and trade. I'm a teacher and left the classroom to serve this community. And, I've put together a workshop that has been developed over 3 years learning what the needs are in the transition space, as Bob talked about earlier. It's called **Strategy to Success: Five Tools to Thrive During Transition and Beyond Military Service**, and it deals with life skills that are not necessarily being addressed – setting goals, time management, how to overcome your inner critic, building a healthy relationship and support network. So, anybody to this community, I'd love the opportunity to offer a free workshop. It's going to be virtual because I am from New Jersey so I'm crossing state lines virtually, but there's no expiration date. It can be a half an hour. It can be 45 min. It can be up to 90 min. I'm going to put a little write up in the chat. But, if anybody wants me to come pop up virtually days, weekends, nights – I want you to know I'm here, and you have all adopted me from out of state, and I just wanna give back, you know however, I can. Additionally, I'm a volunteer for American Corporate Partners. I'm an ETS Sponsor and Hire Heroes USA and West Point Admissions representative. So, I have a lot of different hats that I can bring to the table. But, I just wanted you to know that that's here and I'm here to serve and support. So, I'm gonna put that in the chat. Please feel free to reach out whenever you want. So thank you.

00:48:26.200 --> 00:48:30.870

Robert Notch: Thank you, Stacey. Aly, with the hand up quick! Go ahead.

00:48:32.640 --> 00:49:11.450

Aly Gillen: Hello! So I'm, like I mentioned, I'm with Frost Call. I'm their Battle Buddy Coordinator. With the Battle Buddy Program we're trying to get it up and running, so if you know of any veterans that would like some peer to peer support. It's not like a therapy session. It's peer to peer to support. Whoever just wants a little extra community, shoot them my way, or you can go to frostcall.org/battlebuddy. I can put it in the chat as well.

00:49:14.360 --> 00:52:07.530

Robert Notch: Great! What else is going on? You guys can be stuck with me then. I don't think I had a chance to put it in slack yet to get it available. Rachel may be ahead of me and might have it somehow connected to the website. But DoD just recently released their suicide report. Remember, those are at least a year delay

because it takes so long to go through the process. So, that is now available. I think we're still looking for the VA's annual report. I don't know that anybody has let us know that that's published yet. So, this is about the time of year when both DoD and the VA release those reports. I also wanna highlight some things that I've updated in slack. Soldiers to Sidelines. I've talked about them a little bit before. I don't know if we've had them participate here, but there's an opportunity for veterans to get into coaching as that's what Soldiers to Sidelines does. They have a couple of virtual training certification programs coming up. We have the link in slack. We're talking Lacrosse. There was an endurance running one. There's more than just football – they do a good football program through the New York Jets – but a good opportunity for veterans that are interested in coaching that goes from whether you're coaching pee your kids pee wee whatever soccer all the way up to trying to get into pro level sports. So, a great program for an opportunity which could be volunteer work or could be employed. Related to that there should be some information out on Holy Cross sports events as usually this time of year, and I know it's coming up soon around. It's in November where several of their sports teams make Veteran Appreciation Days where it's free for veterans to attend the game. You can get, I think, one additional ticket for free, and then you can buy up to 8 and a discount. So if you are interested in Holy Cross football. I think basketball and potentially hockey is on that list as well. They've got some good sports teams out there. Wanted to check. We still have the Deputy Secretary with us. Andrea, I wanted to ask a quick question. How are things over at Chelsea with the new facility? Are they, have they started accepting veterans living there? Is there anything you want to share with this community to help identify folks that may be interested in living there?

00:52:07.530 --> 00:52:36.219

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett: Yes, I am here. Absolutely. I think it was last week 20 residents moved into the new CLC there. There was a little bit of fanfare, their family was able to attend, and everyone loves the new place. I'm sure if we get in touch with Bob, he can give people a tour. But yeah, it's open. And they're slowly moving people over.

00:52:37.490 --> 00:52:50.570

Robert Notch: Excellent. Thank you. So a lot of that stuff has been going, you know that construction has been going on for years. So it's great to know that people are finally moving in. And it's an opportunity that's open again for veterans that are looking for a place to live.

00:52:50.570 --> 00:53:17.739

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett: It's wonderful. And it's you know it's not clinical looking. Each resident has their own room and a bathroom, and it is more on that small home module model, so that there's pods and they come together and have meals like a family, and you know, not in the clinical dining hall setting. So they really seem to appreciate the new structure.

00:53:26.380 --> 00:54:25.890

Robert Notch: Great. I'm gonna have to get over there someday. Just take a tour. All right, one more thing. So, not necessarily connected to the veteran community, but it was something I thought that might be able to build a connection in the future. So, Tufts University recently just opened a **Food is Medicine Institute**, and to me that was a connection with some of the food insecurity/food security work that we've done in the past. So, I've reached out to them to see if we can have a discussion and see how maybe the veteran community here in Massachusetts can be connected with that Institute and really what their focus is saying. It's not just prescriptions of medicine to help you get better. It could also be prescriptions of healthy food to help you get on the track to wellness. So, I think it's an area of interest. I'm trying to make those connections. I just wanted to let folks know that it exists. That may be something, if that's part of the work that you do, maybe we're taking a look at them. Marydith! I see your hand's up.

00:54:29.130 --> 00:55:07.299

Marydith Tuitt: Sorry. Excuse me. Sorry. I just, something just popped in my head. I wanted to know. Do we have like access – I'm doing the thing with Home Base and Stop and Shop again. Our second annual veterans dinner, and they have a Veterans ERG group. I think if we reach out to entities such as them and ask them to be a part of the collaborative, you know, is that okay for me to do? Because I think if we have more corporate ERGs involved with us also. And that's something to what you're just talking about with Tufts, you know, being able to have them part of our network, part of our community, and part of our conversations.

00:55:08.950 --> 00:55:43.960

Rachel McNeill: Yeah, I was gonna say, we have quite a few that have already plugged in. We had a veterans ERG summit for best practices, and forming the groups at some point during the pandemic. I lose track of when exactly, but they would be great to have, because they can definitely benefit from the resources and share it with their networks. And a lot of them offer grants to organizations, too.

00:54:29.130 --> 00:55:07.299

Marydith Tuitt: So yes, yes, they do. So I'll definitely be talking to stop and shop on Wednesday. Thank you.

00:55:44.060 --> 00:57:53.829

Robert Notch: Thank you. Yep. ERGs are always welcome. Anything else. All right. I have one last thing that I want to mention. We've got some notes out there in slack, some individuals who are already identified as members of the steering committee received an email. But, I wanna open it up to anyone here on the call that may be interested. So we are re-energizing the steering committee. Cliffs taken, Cliff has taken a lead with us to help kind of organize that, and what we want to do is get the band back together, add new members. Whoever is here to help out and just meet and greet this Friday at noon. So, if it doesn't fit into your schedule to come to the office space at Work Inc. at 25 Beach Street in Dorchester, you can always dial in via Zoom. We're doing it from 12 to 1 so it's during your lunch time so you don't have to potentially break out of any meetings that you might have had already. But, the invitation is open. If you are interested in taking a lead in what we call resource networks which is really just employment or housing or entrepreneurship or health and wellness, those types of categories of services. That's what we call Resource Networks. We're looking for folks to get involved. And really, the focus of that group is to kind of to really represent what's going on in your resource area for the rest of the community and then guide right? This is a community organization. It guides what we do as an organization, what we do as a community, you know, wanna host a summit on this. We'll get folks together and build that summit out. Or maybe there's an area where we can band together with organizations to take a new approach on tackling an issue. So, that's what the steering committee is all about. You're welcome to join us. That information is on slack. It's in the steering committee channel. And I think we just moved to the general channel. So it's available there. Okay, one last check, Rachel.

00:57:54.080 --> 00:59:10.389

Rachel McNeill: Yeah. So, I actually have a request. Last month we talked a little bit about some of the data in Massachusetts with veteran suicides and overdoses and how Massachusetts does have this data available. If you had missed that, essentially, the most recent numbers that are available for both, for Massachusetts, are released from the Data Injury Surveillance Program that Massachusetts has. There are, off the top of my head, we had 67 suicides in 2019 and 90 overdose deaths in 2019. And, we're trying to figure out if anyone knows when Massachusetts will release the 2020 data sheet for overdoses. If that's anticipated to come out. We'll keep kind of looking around and see. But that may be helpful just in thinking about some of our future plans, for when we you know, we may want to put that information out to folks and help think about that and ways to increase safety for veterans and service members. So if anyone does have that, you can either email us or post it in the slack otherwise we'll report back if we track it down.

00:59:15.530 --> 00:59:16.530

Robert Notch: Meredith.

00:59:18.410 --> 00:59:48.760

Marydith Tuitt: I'm sorry, every time you guys mention something, something else comes in my head. Thank you, Rachel, for that. Is there any data that we have about how 988 is working? I've had a couple of calls about veterans that had all of their family members that dial 988 and the outcome not being what we anticipated it to be – more of uh handcuffs. And CORI. Then then then mental health care. Is there anything out there about that?

00:59:49.290 --> 00:59:55.340

Rachel McNeill: I'll look, you know, I did, I have been watching some of the hearings. And I think it was a Senate VA Committee hearing that this has come up because the Inspector General has looked into this, and they found a basically, a really egregious case. And so, it's been a feature in several of the recent hearings. But I'll see. There may be like, the GAO sometimes has reports. But if we can find anything about it, I'll definitely be in touch.

01:00:19.250 --> 01:00:22.200

Marydith Tuitt: Thank you. Thank you. Yeah.

01:00:23.930 --> 01:00:56.600

Robert Notch: Okay. Well, I wanna we're at 4:29. So I wanna close it out for this month. Thank you for joining us. Good luck for everybody heading into Veterans Day, and happy veterans day for all the veterans that are on the call with us. And then I just wanna say, Hey, thank you for all you're doing to help the veterans here in Massachusetts and beyond, but always make sure you're taking care of yourself, and then use this group to take care of each other, cause it's tough work that you do, and it can be stressful on yourself. So be well, everybody, and we'll see you next month.

01:00:57.120 --> 01:00:58.160

David Hencke VA Boston: Thanks. Bob.

01:01:00.060 --> 01:01:06.280

Marydith Tuitt: thanks. Thank you. Happy Veterans Day.

01:01:07.450 --> 01:01:09.000

Stacey Gordon: Thanks. Bob, Rachel.