

CHAT

00:05:18 Rachel McNeill: Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative, info@collaborate.vet

00:06:46 Jooyi Ryan: Jooyi Ryan, Dept of Veterans Affairs; jooyi.ryan@va.gov

00:07:07 Darren: Darren Bradshaw MassHire Framingham, Darren.bradshaw@mass.gov. 508-861-7993 x132

00:07:11 Elyse McKay: Elyse McKay, MA NG SAPR Specialist & Victim Advocate, elyse.m.mckay.civ@army.mil, 508-962-5305

00:07:28 Michelle Glaser: Michelle-Elissa.glaser@va.gov CPT (Ret.)
US Army Medical Service Corps Michelle Glaser, LICSW, BCD
Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator (CEPC)
Worcester CBOC
Central Western MA VA
Govt Mobile: 413-472-7576

00:07:28 Michael R Lorenz: Mike Lorenz, Boston College Military & Veteran Support, Michael.lorenz@bc.edu

00:07:29 Brian, Dia Feliz Adult Day Health Center, Framingh: diafelizcm@gmail.com , 781-628-8451

00:07:30 Craig Chapman: Craig Chapman New Englanders Helping Our Veterans (NEHOV) vp@nehov.org

00:07:43 Sarah Blomstedt: Sarah Blomstedt, MSW, LICSW
New England Program Coordinator
Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind and America's VetDogs
sarah.blomstedt@guidedog.org
www.VetDogs.org

00:08:21 Damien Powell: Damien Powell
Center for Development and Civic Engagement, Boston VA
Damien.powell@va.gov

00:08:21 Donn Y: Donn Young, Training & Education Manager for Massachusetts Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment (M-TAC)

00:09:00 Steve Croteau: Steve Croteau - Office of State Treasurer, Veterans' bonus scroteau@tre.state.ma.us

00:09:21 Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer: Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer-Boston
VA Social worker in the Caregiver Support Program. My email is Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov

00:09:30 Michael Goldstein: Michael Goldstein, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology, mgoldstein@franklincummings.edu

00:09:30 Mark Bryson: Mark Bryson Mbryson@dhe.mass.edu

00:09:30 Samantha Cacciatore: Samantha Cacciatore - samantha.cacciatore@va.gov

00:09:37 Leo: Leonard L. Hall, 2nd Year Doctoral Student
Clinical Psychology (Psy.D)
William James College
leonard_hall@williamjames.edu

00:09:59 SeanKilbreth FORGE: Sean Kilbreth-Forge VFR Health Veteran First Responder Program/
Team Leader for the Greater Manchester Veteran Suicide Prevention
Coalition/ Ret Police/ Camp Resilience Peer Volunteer
Skilbreth@Forgehealth.com

00:10:25 VHABEDLynchL: Leanna Lynch, Community Relations, VA Bedford Healthcare System,
781-687-4438, leanna.lynch@va.gov

00:10:35 Michelle Glaser,LICSW,BCD- VA CEPC: Reacted to "Sarah Blomstedt, M..." with 👍

00:11:45 Damien Powell: If you ever want to volunteer at the Jamaica Plain VA I work in that aspect
of the hospital.

00:16:00 Michael Goldstein: Moving to phone (driving to the airport) - honored to be a part of this
community.

00:16:08 Jack Regan: Jack Regan, Veterans Legal Clinic, Legal Services Center, Harvard Law
School, jregan@law.harvard.edu

00:22:17 Donn Y: [MA PGS Certificate](#) – MTAC (m-tac.org)
External courses and credits will no longer be accepted toward the
fulfillment of certification requirements after June 30th, 2024. If you are
planning to submit CE credits from external trainings (not offered by
M-TAC/PBU) to apply for the MA PGS certificate, you have until June
30th, 2024, to submit your application
My email is dyoung@hria.org for any questions.

00:22:43 Michelle Glaser: Sorry about that... I think im better.
This is a 3-minute survey. We want to know from those engaged with
seniors the information that would benefit those individuals. Your
participation is appreciated. This will help veterans gain knowledge on
resources to improve their overall wellbeing.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBCvets>
Thank you for your time and your input in advance,
Senior Benefits Coalition

00:27:03 VHABEDLynchL: <https://x.com/jonstewart/status/1765076636263944374?s=20>

00:32:57 Samantha Cacciatore: Can you paste that link in the chat if possible?

00:35:04 Rachel McNeill: <https://ma.vet>

00:35:12 Samantha Cacciatore: Reacted to "<https://ma.vet>" with 👍

00:36:33 Mary Finnegan, RN: Mary Finnegan, RN, BSN. Clinical Training Specialist at Tufts Health Plan/Point32Health Services. Army Veteran/Nurse
mary.finnegan@point32health.org

00:36:44 Michelle Glaser: DO TELL>>.. Love hearing about housing

00:41:02 Uris Mendez EVOS SAVE Team (HE/HIM): Reacted to "DO TELL>>.. Love hea..." with 👍

00:42:01 VHABEDLynchL: VBA Jobs!
<https://www.usajobs.gov/Search/Results?l=Framingham%2C%20Massachusetts&a=VALA&p=1&k=&rmi=false>

00:42:22 Leo: Problematic Pornography Use and Gambling Among US Veterans
Friday, 8 March, 2024
1200-1300
ZOOM/Online
sign up at
Summary - Problematic Pornography Use and Gambling Among US Veterans (cvent.com)

Invitation to the Suicide Prevention for Military Veterans Through Lethal Means Counseling
Friday, 15 March 2024
In person at WJC, 0930-1530
Registration Type - Suicide Prevention for Military, Veterans and Law Enforcement: through Safer Firearm Storage: Lethal Means Counseling (cvent.com)

The Unique Experience of Women Veterans
Thursday, March 14, 2024
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Room 126 and via Zoom at:
<https://williamjames.zoom.us/j/85628847787?pwd=dIRPdms1OThsVzBhZDIGZUZ6RWVuQT09>
Meeting ID: 856 2884 7787
Passcode: 267830

00:46:09 Kallie Sherman: Have to sign off! another meeting, thank you all wonderful information. Kallie Sherman 845-891-3691. National military and veteran outreach

00:50:23 Ellen Sullivan: I can't see chat!! I posted about OurCommunitySalutes.org dis it come through?

00:50:52 Ashley Flynn: Ashley Flynn with the Governor's Women Veterans Advisory Committee, and also a volunteer with Travis Manion Foundation:

00:52:04 Ellen Sullivan: ashleyflynn1@gmail.com
OurCommunitySalutes.org event at Gillette 05.19 looking for sponsorship and volunteers. Ellen@collaborate.vet 760-885-1931

00:52:27 Joy Mirrione: Joy Mirrione, LICSW
Clinical Director/Air Force Veteran
Cedar Hill Behavioral Health
Southborough MA 01772
jmirrione@cedarhillbh.com
Cedar Hill Behavioral Health - Mental health facilities Massachusetts (cedarhillbh.com)
Open House - Thursday 4/4 from 4pm-8pm
120 Turnpike Road, Suite 120 Southborough MA

00:53:00 Michelle Glaser: Reacted to "Joy Mirrione, LICSW..." with 🎉

00:53:07 VHABEDLynchL: It will be great Joy!

00:53:21 Uris Mendez: Reacted to "It will be great Joy..." with 👍

00:53:25 Michelle Glaser: Replying to "Joy Mirrione, LICSW..."
So sad I will be missing this!

00:53:47 Joy Mirrione: Reacted to "It will be great Joy..." with ❤️

00:54:24 Joy Mirrione: Replying to "Joy Mirrione, LICSW..."
I wish you were coming!

00:54:40 VHABEDLynchL: Replying to "Joy Mirrione, LICSW..."
I'm in Framingham and will do my best to come by.

00:54:55 Joy Mirrione: Replying to "Joy Mirrione, LICSW..."
@VHABEDLynchL I would love that!

00:58:13 Michelle Glaser: Reacted to "I wish you were co..." with ❤️

00:58:53 Emily Oneschuk: Reacted to "Joy Mirrione, LICSW..." with ❤️

00:59:37 Emily Oneschuk: Emily Oneschuk
emily@maformentalhealth.org
<https://maformentalhealth.org/>

00:59:44 Sarah Blomstedt: Thank you all! Nice ot meet you.

00:59:48 Mary Finnegan, RN: Thank you very much and have a great day.

00:59:55 Elyse McKay: Thank you!

TRANSCRIPT

00:01:28.320 --> 00:01:39.350

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: alright. So as you're coming in, we'll let folks trickle in for a few minutes, but you can put your name and contact information into the chat, so folks have it to reference if they need it. Alright, think we'll get started for those just joining us. You can put your name and contact information into the chat. So folks have it.

welcome. I know there are a few different recognition months happening in March. So if anyone has anything they want to share as far as events like that that'll be good to give folks a heads up. I'll try not to steal anyone's

thunder with that, unless we don't hear about some of the events through everyone. But appreciate you all taking the time to be here. For those who aren't familiar with the veterans. Collaborative. We've been gathering now since 2015. Our main goal is with these calls is to share information and resources and help folks connect to each other. For folks that are trying to collaborate, to meet other potential partners and to share information and resources. As well as events. So that folks know what's coming up. especially those working in outreach. A little bit later in the call. Give more about some of our resources that we have. But we'll start off the call with introductions for new members and participants. I know we have a few and we can start right away with Michael.

00:04:46.370 --> 00:05:12.280

Michael Goldstein: Terrific. Hi, everybody Michael Goldstein. I'm from Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology. But I'm calling in from Indiana at Purdue University. I'm a member of a group called Cmte, which is the Council on the Military Transition to education. Mike Lawrence is also in the group who's here today. And what we do is advise the Department of Defense on ways to help the veterans make that an easier transition into higher ed it's a great conference. Had a chance to basically finish 2 days here. But my role at Benjamin Franklin Cummings, we call it now Franklin Cummings. Tech is, I am the Dean of Admissions. I'm also the head of of innovation, and we have a really robust veterans program. We in the past, we've had close to 6% of our students as veterans. We're a little bit less now, but still pretty up there. And we have a veteran center. We have a student Veterans association and we're actually looking for activities that our veterans could do to give back. And so we have. On Monday, the eighteenth, the veterans are coming to get. I get basically brainstorm, how they want to to contribute over the coming year. So if you have ideas, please let us know and we'd love to volunteer and support some of your efforts.

00:06:11.500 --> 00:06:12.760

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great, thank you. And I saw, was it Elyse McKay?

00:06:18.610 --> 00:06:37.920

Elyse McKay: Yes, Hi! My name is Elise Mckay. I am a sexual assault, prevention and response specialist, the Massachusetts National Guard. In the last 2 years we've gone from 2 staff members to 9 across the State. We're supporting victims of sexual assaults within the guard. So just hoping to learn more about community resources and what's available in the area.

00:06:39.030 --> 00:06:43.780

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great, thank you. All right. Anyone else. Sarah?

00:06:45.750 --> 00:07:01.380

Sarah Blomstedt: Yeah, I'm happy to go. Hi! My name's Sarah Blomsted, and I'm the New England program Coordinator at America's Vet Dogs, which is an organization that provides service dogs to active duty service members, veterans and first responders. We are based on Long Island. But we're looking to expand our services to the New England area. And while we don't have any events per se set up at the moment, just looking to make connections, and get the word out to gain more applicants in the area, and then also volunteers as well. So I'm always happy to connect and happy to be here. Thanks for having me.

00:07:24.090 --> 00:07:28.819

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great. Thank you. Anyone else who's new or who hasn't been on for a little while. Brian.

00:07:31.950 --> 00:07:49.009

Brian, Dia Feliz Adult Day Health Center, Framingh: Hi, I am Brian Dooley. I'm a community manager for an Adult Day Health Center in Framingham, Mass. Named Dia Felise. We've had a couple of that's come into our program over the 5 years that we've been there. We speak Spanish, Portuguese, and English, and folks who are at home, and they're not driving sometimes need a little help, and we have a day program with transportation. We can pick people up, feed them, entertain them, and keep them socialized. So they don't get depressed and lonely. And it's a terrific program. So thank you. I'm glad to be a service and glad to be a part of this group. I hope I can help. Thank you.

00:08:15.320 --> 00:08:20.820

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great thanks, Brian. Alright. Anyone else?

00:08:20.840 --> 00:08:41.630

Gina Colón, Blue Star Families: I can go. Okay. Yeah. Go ahead. Hey Everyone. Good afternoon. My name is Gina Colon. I'm the program manager for the New England chapter of the Blue Star Families. I'm sitting in for Jeff Chin, who has gone, who has attended these events, these virtual summits. So I'm here in his place for today, and I'm fairly new to the chapter, I believe. 6 months previously, I was with wounded warrior project, and I was a regional outreach person for New England, and I'm excited to spread the good word about Blue Star families and all the great things we do for our military families, and I'm glad to be here.

00:08:57.820 --> 00:08:59.920

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great, thank you. Welcome. Alright, any other new folks, maybe one just hopped on. Kelly.

00:09:09.230 --> 00:09:39.180

Kallie Sherman: Sorry. I have been on this meeting before. And I've also presented in the past. I think sometime last year was so I'm happy to be back on and collaborate with you all and hear what you have to say. I am the national, military and veteran liaison for banning treatment centers. We treat veterans and military for substance, abuse, mental health, and eating disorders, so I'm thankful to be on. Thank you.

00:09:39.390 --> 00:09:41.770

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Thank you. Alright, Emily. Maybe we lost her.

00:09:52.180 --> 00:10:16.469

Emily Oneschuk: Nope, I just muted myself. Sorry everyone. I'm Emily. I'm the grassroots campaign director for Massachusetts, for mental health options, which is an initiative to bring natural psychedelic therapies to Massachusetts, similar to what's gone on in Oregon and Colorado. They've had great success with veterans and treating Ptsd. I'm a navy veteran myself. Who's benefited from these? So I am here to answer any questions about that, and share some more info later. Thank you.

00:10:18.290 --> 00:10:19.480

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Thank you

00:10:20.060 --> 00:10:26.489

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: alright. Any other new folks before we go into updates from the State? All right, let's start with Deputy Secretary Bennett. Still here?

00:10:36.790 --> 00:10:47.310

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett PA-C, DMSc: let's see. Yes, you can see me myself, and let me just ask, is Jessica Frost on? Because I don't want to steal her thunder if she's already here.

00:10:49.490 --> 00:10:51.639

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: I don't see her yet.

00:10:51.730 --> 00:11:18.019

BG (MA) Andrea Gayle-Bennett PA-C, DMSc: Alright. So we have a couple of things going things to highlight and some save the dates. So the first thing is, we're working on showing the documentary the 6 888 in 3 different locations across the Commonwealth. Later on this month, we information is and locations forthcoming. I know one of the locations is going to be in Cambridge, and it's going to be on Wednesday. March 20th but again, more information to follow, and I will certainly post it in the slack and that's in honor of women's history. Month. WVN will also be hosting their first welcome home event for recently discharged DoD veterans, and that's going to be held in collaboration with the VA at Umass Lowell North in Lincoln, Mass. And again, more information to follow. Did I say a date? April 11th? And I will post that as well. We are having our Women Veterans Conference on May 4th in Leominster. I think it's the DoubleTree. It's the hotel everybody goes to on May 4th, and we will send that information out as well, and the last thing is in June, on June 12th, we will have our women veterans appreciation luncheon, and that will be the time that we present the Deborah Sampson Award. And again more information to follow, and I will post all of that in slack.

00:12:41.780 --> 00:12:47.559

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Thank you. Alright. And I saw Steve as well from the Bonus Division.

00:12:48.790 --> 00:13:02.120

Steve Croteau: Thanks, Rachel. Hi, everyone! I'm Steve Croteau. I'm the director of the Veterans Bonus Division. With the veterans bonuses, Massachusetts awards a wartime bonus to veterans that are originally from Massachusetts and served during certain wartime periods. We still have a backlog, but we're getting through. We have backlog of about 250 applications. We're currently processing applications that we received in mid January. So everyone on the call, if you have a veteran that comes to you, you could always reach out to me to see if they're eligible for a bonus, so if they receive the bonus, you can ask the veteran, but the veteran may or may not remember, or they may be eligible for more, so I always encourage people to reach out to me, and we could see if they have a bonus, if they else go for a bonus. And lastly, we have a pretty big database of veterans, so I can always email information to to our veterans that are in our database. yeah, that's all I have. Thanks.

00:13:53.060 --> 00:13:54.159

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Thank you. And I see Uris also. Do you have any updates from the SAVE Team. Or, do you want to share a little bit about what you do for those who are new?

00:14:02.040 --> 00:14:28.279

Uris Mendez EVOS SAVE Team (HE/HIM): Sure. So my name is Uris Mendez. I am an outreach coordinator with the SAVE Team, the Statewide Advocacy for Veterans Empowerment program. I don't have any events going on, but in terms of what we do, we help veterans connect with pretty much any of the benefits and programs in the Commonwealth. And you know, if they need any help with, you know, hand holding, you know, someone to kinda guide them through that process. That's kinda what we're here for. I'm here to gather events and stuff for my calendar so that we can provide outreach in those areas.

00:14:42.490 --> 00:14:49.820

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Thank you. How about MassHire? What's going on with you, Darren? Or if you want to just explain a little of what you do.

00:14:55.600 --> 00:15:08.299

Darren: yeah. We work in MassHire. I don't see anybody else here from MassHire right now, but we work with veterans, with significant barriers to employment to help them get back to work. Veterans can go anywhere they want. There are 23 I believe, 23 Career Centers in Massachusetts, so they can do that. The biggest thing coming up is the RecruitMilitary Job Fair on April 4th at the stadium, which people should contact me if they have questions about, I guess. But how to work it, I mean, go straight to RecruitMilitary for stuff like that for information about the fair itself. But, I can help with working on stuff like that. People need help. That's it. Thank you. Rachel.

00:15:46.840 --> 00:15:57.180

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Yeah, thank you. I think that's everyone from the State, unless we have Donn. Did you have any updates for your effort?

00:16:02.840 --> 00:16:14.360

Donn Y: Hi, everyone! I'm Donn Young. And I'm with the Massachusetts Technical Assistance Center for Problem Gambling Treatment. And I'm actually scheduled to present to all of you in June. And I'm looking forward to that. And I'm gonna just drop in the chat simple link information about our MA PGS certification process. Excuse me. And, which we have some highlighted changes that are gonna take effect on July 1, in our new fiscal year. So I'll just put that in the link for anyone who's interested. Okay. thank you.

00:16:38.220 --> 00:16:41.400

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great. Thank you. Alright, so we'll move into the updates from the VA. But if anyone from is from the State that I missed feel free to jump in. We could start with Michelle, are you up? Oh, we can't! We can't hear you, but you're not muted. Maybe, we'll go to Nini, and then we'll come back to you, Michelle.

00:17:26.869 --> 00:17:35.839

Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer, VA Boston Caregiver Support Program: Hi, everyone my name is, and Ninveh, but I go by Nini. I'm one of the social workers at the VA Boston with the Caregiver Support Program. So I work with caregivers of veterans. And so if there's anyone that has any caregiver support or services that your agencies are offering, please send them my way. We provide all resources, both at the Va. And in the community to our caregivers. So I just wanna plug myself in that way. My emails in the chat as well. we're working on a summit. That we hopefully can have you all join and we are going to be offering Ceos. So I say, Ceos, and then everyone's like, Sign me up. So that's more to come in June. And so yeah. Any information about caregiver support that you offer? That would help our veterans. Please send them my way. Happy to be here. Thank you.

00:18:30.920 --> 00:18:32.170

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great. Thank you. I think – any luck, Michelle?

00:18:38.740 --> 00:19:06.629

Michelle Glaser, LICSW, BCD- VA CEPC: How about now? Okay, Hi, I'm Michelle Glaser. I'm the CEPC for Worcester County on community engagement partnership coordinator. Basically what that is is that we organize community coalitions that align with one or more bar our priority areas. Our priority areas are from the office of suicide prevention. So identify service members, veterans and family members and screen for suicide, promote connectedness and improve care, transitions and improve lethal means, safety and safety planning. the only thing I really have to share this time is one of my coalitions, which is a senior benefits. Coalition is doing a survey to understand? People in the community and their interest. In certain topics Around veterans benefits. That would be 1 hour webinars for folks who work directly with seniors, so I will drop that stuff into the

chat. It's already in the slack, I think, under #general. and then, secondly, just wanna go ahead and give some air time to a new coalition that's kicked off probably about 2 weeks ago. Now, which is a National Guard and reserve coalition. And if you're interested, just feel free to reach out to me, and I can add you to our next meeting. Thanks

00:19:58.550 --> 00:20:02.280

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: alright, thank you. Awesome. Leanna.

00:20:04.600 --> 00:20:07.090

VHABEDLynchL: Hello! How was everybody doing? My name is Leanna Lynch, and I'm the community relations specialist for VA Bedford. That's the fancy title, for I do outreach happy to be here. We got a couple of things that are coming up. So we have what we're calling walk in Wednesdays. So if you are, know of any buddy, any nurses. Lpn's nursing assistance, Rn's that are looking for employment on the thirteenth of March and the 27th of March between 11 and 2. We're going to have you come on in with your resume. Sit down with somebody. We're offering a number of bonuses for those positions. I can throw that into slack. I just saw it. So I'm sorry I didn't put that up on slack yet. we also are going to be present at a number of events. We are going to be hosting. The Women's Veteran Alliance. They have this annual conference call the Women Veterans Engage. So, we're going to be a host site for them on April 27th and hopefully be able to connect with some women that we have not yet connected with and Jessica Frost will be there to be able to plug the Wvm. Conference. That's the following weekend, so we're hoping to have some big success with that. The Beverly Wi warrior weekend is going to be another one of those big events. It's May 18-19. We're gonna have our team out there doing toxic exposure screenings. And it's this big to do with a whole bunch of static displays. It was really, really a wonderful event last year, and I just lost the other thing I wanted to share with you guys. Oh, pact act so like we mentioned last time. The pact act. add some new legislation that it's actually not. Well, it is kinda new. With it expanded. The eligibility so essentially that if you deploy to these certain areas or you had these exposures, then you are you can now qualify for the healthcare benefits. I, something was shared with me today. Jon Stewart has been a huge advocate for that, and he posted on Twitter. Today I'm gonna throw the link in there, because I actually think that this is the best way that I have heard to explain these changes. And it's in a less than it's like a but a minute and a half. and explains everything, and it's better than anything that the Va. Or anybody else has sent out to us. It's very straight to the point. So I just do that in the chat for you guys to go ahead and take a look at. Another thing to note is that with this change that just came out yesterday, a new 1010, easy, and 1010 easy. Our form was also published, so if anything that was published before March fifth, 2024. Disregard. Get rid of them. When you look at the new form you'll see that they actually put a whole chunk in there specific to the pack that so anybody that may have been in a deemed ineligible before because of income, they can fill out a 1010 ecr, and there's a section on there that actually says that you had this exposure. You were stationed in these areas. So it makes it more comprehensive. Because if you've looked at that form before the the number of questions that I get, especially when you get to that section. There, there's so many, so they made it a lot easier for people to be able to follow. Pending your questions, that's all I have.

00:23:28.530 --> 00:23:30.430

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Samantha, are you on, with the SPC?

00:23:34.690 --> 00:23:42.880

Samantha Cacciatore: Hi, yes, I am. How's everybody doing? Sorry about my camera. So we are currently working with Stonehill College this month. Towards the end of the month. We are doing a wellness event with them, working with the ROTC students. So that is our main event that we have going this month. We are also working with the nursing staff in May for a wellness fair as well. So we'll have a couple of us going there to table. In terms of like events to the general community. I don't have any to report right now. but we're also a bit

short staffed so that has something to do with it, too. But we have a lot of exciting things on the horizon. That we're looking forward to

00:24:34.330 --> 00:24:35.620

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great, thank you. And I see, I just saw Mark. Are you on? Mark Bryson, we might have missed you in the State. I know you transitioned recently.

00:24:50.810 --> 00:25:00.309

Mark Bryson: Yes, yes, yes. Hello! How are you doing? Yes, I'm actually yes, I'm back. I'm back with the State. I'm working with the Department of Higher Education. Now the program specialist and actually one of my actually, I thought one with a other to be on here one of newer ones. Vivian Rogers actually joined today, but maybe she has some other plans. I know she's supposed to join also. So I ran to her at another event. But yeah. Yeah, I'm back with the state. So you know, back in listening back on the collaborative, you know once again.

00:25:29.230 --> 00:25:31.320

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great! Well, nice to have you back.

00:25:31.460 --> 00:25:33.189

Mark Bryson: Thank you.

00:25:33.440 --> 00:25:35.660

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Alright. I think I've gotten everyone. It's hard to see the – oh, wait, Damian. You're with the VA, right? Are you there?

00:25:43.430 --> 00:25:56.110

Damien Powell, VA CDCE: Yep, I'm with the VA. I'm with the center for development and civic engagement, formally voluntary services. So if you wanna volunteer at the VA or if you wanna donate to the VA, that would be through our department. We also have our summer sports clinic coming up applications will be going out to veterans here soon. So if you know any veterans, so would be good for our summer adaptive sports clinic send them our way. Other than that, I think that's all I got.

00:26:16.150 --> 00:26:21.419

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Thank you. If I missed anyone from the agencies, let me know. Just for the benefit of those who are new – if you're not familiar with the different resources we have, or if you have been around for a while and just may not know what they are, one of the main things we have available for folks is a shared calendar that we developed sort of as a group in 2016. I'm going to share my screen here. You can actually submit events directly to the calendar.

If you go – type in ma.vet in your browser, you'll get to this page on our website. Otherwise you can just find it if you click on shared calendar. If you need to submit an event, this is the easiest way. Go to this page. Click [here](#) and you'll go to our database of events basically that's kind of separately hosted. And then you click this button to submit the event and you can just put in all the information. Add an image. If you put in tags, this is what helps people find your events. So you can only put in four. But if we see that you put in just information about, you know the specific type of event. Say, you put #women as your hashtag, we'll go in and make sure that it says also #Boston-Metro if it's in Boston, or something like that, and you can't add enough tags for it. But generally that's there. You can submit it, and it'll go directly to our calendar and then everything is curated on this main page based on the tags. So if you put #volunteering, you need volunteers or something about volunteering, you'll see different options there. #Writing, #retreats. Kind of different communities can get stuff

just for #caregivers, #survivors. And the way this works is, you can either load more events or you open the full calendar, and you'll just see all of the caregiver events that are coming up. So it's pretty basic to use. But this is a resource that's available to everyone that you can access.

We also have at collaborate.vet/slack another way that you can communicate with folks in between summits. Just click sign up for our slack if you haven't gotten an invitation or haven't found it, and you should be able to go right into the slack and post information about events, flyers, different things that you might need, just to be able to connect with people.

If you're not familiar with our network directory, which is where you can find other participants, people that you see in these meetings or organizations, people are connected with you can also go to <https://collaborate.vet/directory>, and then you'll see, similar to the calendar, we have a database of organizations where you can just find basic information. And these are also tagged by us once they're in. We don't have a way for you to kind of put yourself in and tag yourself yet, but if you're tagged under caregivers when you go to the [resource page for caregivers](#). You'll find the events focus on caregivers, some topics of discussion, as well as this network directory that has just caregiver based organizations, or organizations that also support caregivers. So those are 2 resources that we have available.

We like to make sure that folks can have kind of continuous communication and not have to go through us. We're an all volunteer organization, so we like to maintain the infrastructure and help people make those connections, so that is all available for everybody to use. If anyone has any questions briefly, or you know a quick like, I didn't get into that, or I, you know I need an invitation, you can let me know or send me a note in the chat, if that's easier. I do see Samantha. You asked for a link in the chat. I'll put in the ma.vet link to get you to that calendar page. Kind of everything's in there. I think that's one you're looking for.

And then you'll follow that, and you'll get that main sheet, but it's similarly organized by region. So you can go to your region, page, and you'll find different resources. And because, you know, this is a shared resource. If you're looking at a page and you're like, well, they don't have this really important resource, or they don't have this person in there. Reach out to us. We'll get it up there and make sure that people have access to it so that everyone can connect and have access to everything. I see, before we transition, I see Bob Notch just popped on, in case he has an update from the Office of the Veterans Advocate. Maybe I'll leave a couple seconds

00:31:15.440 --> 00:31:25.329

BNOTCH: just trying to figure out what the mute button is. no real updates here. I think you probably already covered the announcement yesterday from EOVS, so working with their office to kind of work out what the details are of that new announcement.

00:31:31.100 --> 00:31:40.110

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: So, we haven't gone into into that quite yet. What Bob's referencing is the housing initiative that the Governor just announced. Let's see, I'll go Lovelle. I haven't seen you for a little bit. Do you have anything going on over at UMass?

00:31:53.330 --> 00:32:17.719

Lovelle Seymore: Well, Hi, everybody! It's good to be here. Yeah, it's been very busy. But I just want to share again that we're gonna be having our 3rd annual Women's round table. It's gonna be on March 26th. It's gonna be at Faneuil Hall. We've got some great female panelists that are gonna be there, and the topic is diversity, equity and inclusion. And yeah, that's that's all. For now.

00:32:19.170 --> 00:32:19.970

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great. Looks like, Marthe-Anne, haven't seen you for a little while.

00:32:30.030 --> 00:32:40.680

Marthe-Anne Monagle: Hi, thanks, yes, I'm Marthe-Anne Monagle. I'm an academic coach at Mass College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and it has been a while. so we. I'm one of the co-chairs of our university veterans, education team and given we don't have a specific veteran support organization here where faculty and staff we're just committed to supporting our student veterans and service members. And I love this group and all the great resources. So we are participating in fresh check day run by our counseling services, and it's a very cool initiative that lots of colleges have and so our Uvette group will be sponsoring an Addy's booth and doing an activity specifically for our student veterans and service members. So I'm just looking forward to refreshing my/our resources. We're always looking for volunteer opportunities for to plan for our students and we'd love to invite, you know, agencies to come in and connect with our students. We have about 100 or about a hundred or so. This semester students, military students on our Boston was Worcester, Manchester, and online communities. So thanks, Rachel.

00:34:04.980 --> 00:34:06.440

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: thank you. Alright. I see. I missed maybe one VA Update, Jooyi, do you have anything from the VBA? There, it's always hard without people's video.

00:34:23.980 --> 00:34:36.669

Jooyi Ryan: Hi, good afternoon. Sorry about that. I actually don't have any updates. I was trying to gather as much good information as I could today. I guess I can. One thing I can say is that does anybody? We're hiring for Federal service representatives as well as greater positions. And and I think as you know, from the pack gap we really needed to up our up, our staff on that, and we had a really big push last year. But in the Boston area and as well as Manchester, we're definitely hiring those positions so as well as vocational used to be a pretty narrow group of people that could qualify you had to have a master's in vocational rehabilitation. So it's pretty specific. That's opened up several more disciplines and areas of study, including social work which makes a lot of sense. So I encourage everyone to look@usa. jobs and to see what opportunities there are to serve our best. So thank you.

00:35:32.180 --> 00:35:37.280

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: How about, Craig, anything going on for New Englanders helping our veterans, or some of your other stuff?

00:35:39.990 --> 00:35:46.890

Craig Chapman NEHOV: So no we just had a big fundraiser last weekend, which was outstanding great participation. just had a zoom call with the deputy director of Executive Office venture services, Andrea yesterday, and we talked over some good stuff to try and loop the nonprofits, the smaller nonprofits like our organization in to information that can better help us help veterans. So pretty cool stuff happening, and I can't wait to see what her office is gonna turn out. I think it's gonna be a great resource and value to linking together state agencies and departments, together with a small nonprofit, and let everybody know we're out here. You know, we're finding out every day that there's a lot of nonprofits that help veterans, but we don't know how to contact them while they exist so hopefully. EOVS will be that streamlined for us

00:36:39.640 --> 00:36:53.689

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: definitely a long, long process to figure out who's where. I know in our directory, we haven't even gotten close, almost a decade of like, I know we're well over 600, and that's just counting the VA as one entity people between in between. So I think we're, we have a good start. But it's all word of mouth. We definitely want people to share, you know, the collaborative as a resource with other folks to

kind of get people connected. Our approach has been more through word of mouth. Just so we can make that real connection to people and see how we are as a network like, how connected are we? so that we get people engaged and connected to the resources.

00:37:25.180 --> 00:37:41.229

Craig Chapman NEHOV: It's fantastic just getting on this every month and seeing what's out there, and what other organizations are doing, so which can help us help a veteran that we may not be able to. We can get them the right resource, and they're not, you know, run into brick walls and trying to find that help. So it's all good.

00:37:41.380 --> 00:37:42.170

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Oh, Jack, how are things for the Veterans Legal Clinic? Oh, no, we can't hear you, but you're not muted. maybe give a second. Let's try. Oh, can't hear you still. we'll come back. Okay, let's go to Leo. Do you have any updates for us?

00:38:24.030 --> 00:38:34.720

Leo: Oh, no, yeah. Sorry. I was typing that in. I didn't mean to, I didn't mean to send it yet. So I'm from William James College. I'm working with the train vets to treat vets program. And we have a couple of CE events coming up at William James College. Problem pornography use and gambling among us veterans and suicide prevention for military veterans with Leo Means. and there's also an Dr. O'donnell is doing something for I wouldn't veterans month, she's gonna be doing a presentation on the unique experience of women veterans.\ So the first 2 have ce attached to it, and the other one, I think, is just a presentation.

00:39:25.500 --> 00:39:30.870

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Let's see. Let's see if Jack's back on board. And then it was gonna go to Ashley.

00:39:31.800 --> 00:39:34.349

Jack Regan: Okay, Rachel, can you hear me now? We're very busy here at the veterans legal clinic at Harvard, we have our students fully engaged, and. interestingly, I would say, half of our students themselves are veterans who are working in the clinic, so it's always beneficial for our clients when they sit down. With a lawyer to deal with whatever their issue is to be able to connect with a veteran. and the young veterans really work very, very well with veterans from all ages and conflicts. What I thought would be a particular interest for the group is, I had an outreach from the Department of Justice in Washington. They are having a listening session a week from today on the topic of Americans with Disabilities Act and the voting rights of veterans with disabilities. This is gonna be from 4 to 5 PM. Eastern via Zoom and This is the civil rights section of the Us. Department of Justice, and in particular, it's the disability rights unit within the civil rights section. So I've been in. They reached out to us and they've reached out nationally to other legal groups, especially clinics associated with law schools. to wanna hear from the ground about Are there problems with veterans who have disabilities. Getting access to their voting rights. So let me read the subject matter that Doj wants to hear about it says we are interested in hearing from advocates and veterans about any barriers that veterans with disabilities face in the voting process, including and registering to vote. obtaining, voting, or election information. voting absentee, voting in person, polling place accessibility, or receiving assistance in voting. So I'll put the body of the email, including the Zoom information in in the chat for anyone who who wants it. The only I think anybody can participate just by clicking on the zoom. On March fourteenth, at 4 Pm. If you would like to speak for because you have a particular situation that you'd like to bring to the attention of the Department of justice in Washington. They asked, that you let them know in advance so they can manage the the speaking list and the time. Okay? So that's primarily what I have to report.

00:42:28.550 --> 00:42:29.710

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great. Thank you. Ashley.

00:42:34.480 --> 00:42:39.050

Ashley Flynn: Hi, everybody! I am Ashley Flynn. I am one of the members of the Women's Advisory committee. That works with General, Gayle-Bennett. So she provided a lot of the updates that we have talked about in our meetings. I also started up the Boston chapter of Travis Manion Foundation, and still stay very involved in Travis foundation. So I am an unofficial, surrogate point of contact for anyone that is interested in getting involved more with Travis Manion Foundation. The biggest event that we have coming up is at the end of April. We host. There's a couple in the area, but either a gym or a club will host one of the hero wads to commemorate the day of Travis's death. so it's for those of you. Fitness, Gurus. It is not a very easy. I don't think any of the hero wads are easy, but I've done this one. It's especially challenging. Really. you know, you really gotta dig deep and think about what you're doing and why you're doing it. So anyway, end of April is the manion wad. If you go on the Travis Manian Foundation website, it'll give you an opportunity to put in your Zip code, and you can find out what what gyms or clubs nearby are participating, and you can also sign up virtually and then, if that seems intimidating, I also wanna make a plug that you can do it with a partner, or you can do with 2 partners, or you can do 3 partners like if you want to split it up. It's you know. It's really just kind of taking a moment out of your day to think about you know the sacrifice that some of these folks have made for our country. And yeah, so that's the the next big Tasmanian event. And then, general, I'd already talked about some of the women veteran veterans, events, I'm always available. I'll put my email in the chat. So if anybody wants to reach out about anything that's affecting women veterans in the Commonwealth. Please feel free to reach out, and I'm happy to bring that back to the committee. But yeah, other than that good to see everybody

00:44:57.250 --> 00:44:58.790

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: awesome. Thank you. And I'll circle back a little bit with the housing. Initiative. I thought just michelle's note in the chat. For those who haven't heard basically, the Healy-Driscoll administration just announced that they're investing \$20 million to focus on ending veteran homelessness in Massachusetts, which is the biggest like targeted investment in veteran homelessness in state history. So there is some information available about that online. But it's basically a cross collaborative initiative. With federal local and veteran serving organizations. Focused on supportive housing, access to behavioral health services, capital investments to support veteran housing, and then a technical assistance to providers that are in the community. So we'll see. You know how that goes. But that's something that is just freshly announced. This week. And in the pipeline. the next updates. I see Ellen just posted about our community salutes in the chat. I see that post, but I don't see one about OCS. If you wanna or if you're able to talk, you could want that or maybe repost it. It could have gone to one person instead of the group. The other person I was going to circle back to. We don't have Cliff today. But we have Joy with the steering committee. If you want to give any updates either about your transition or our last discussion.

00:46:32.490 --> 00:46:38.119

Joy Mirrione: I don't remember what our last discussion was. But can you guys hear me? Okay. I do have an update. So some of you know, I was at VA. And now I'm starting with this new company, partly because I've been able to engage in groups like this. So I am part owner of what is going to be a behavioral outpatient group practice. I'm gonna put some information because we're having an open house in April. There's gonna be food and wellness baskets. If anybody happens to be in Southborough, but you just want to come. Support a female veteran starting a business. Come, get some food and some teacups and soap, and just see what the facility is gonna be. That would be awesome. So I'm still involved with Vets Collab, I'm very interested in knowing what's happening with veterans around the State. But this is something as a veteran kind of because of the work you're all doing, that I get to be a part of. So it's terrifying. I have this like picture of me standing in front of the building with like a deflated balloon, and no nobody coming, so I'll put it here. You can check out the website.

but you'll still see me see me around. Whether or not I'm holding a deflated balloon at a failed business or helping out on vets. Collab. So. But this is, it's still brand new, I mean, we still just have. It's just dry wall up. And I'm like, Okay, we're having an open house of April. I hope that that these people are gonna be finished in time. So but we should be, and it will be a nice time, and it's a great location. And I'm excited and terrified so

00:48:10.870 --> 00:48:14.749

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: well, congrats again, made a big jump, especially on your own, so good on you and feel free to post that in the calendar, so we can help get the word out about it, too.

00:48:26.990 --> 00:48:35.150

Joy Mirrione: We'll have, Well, I think we have an official like kind of flyer coming cause they do want people to like our Svp. If they can. So we make sure we have enough food. But I say, even if you don't, if on Thursday, on 4 4, you just want to come by cause you heard I had custom soaps made, and you want to scoop one up. you can come even if you don't, Rsvp. But I'll put it on the calendar. And I put my email there. So if anybody wants to shoot me, an email

00:48:54.600 --> 00:48:55.960

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: sounds good. for those who maybe aren't on the steering committee. We do have a steering committee we are still looking to you know, have broader representation as far as the different areas we could use folks that are in like the employment space, the education space, to add their perspectives. But the main thing we discussed, I think at the last meeting, Dylan had an idea that maybe we could make some sort of either podcast or a little video tutorials for folks to be able to figure out how to access different resources, submit events, and do those kinds of things so that may be a project if he if he ends up wanting to go through with it. Otherwise we've been just discussing a little bit about how the programming will work kind of going forward where we're kind of trying to figure out what the best way is to do the summits, and maybe have, like either, add a component where we focus on a specific resource, we'll we'll go to the page and actually have folks go through and kind of live like contribute what they know about what's missing, and kind of have some more ownership of that or doing more targeted summits. So we'll see how that works. But if you have any preferences of things you'd like to see definitely, always feel free to reach out on slack happens during committee channel. Tell us. You know what you want us to do? So we're definitely here to make sure that we respond to your needs. And similarly, if there are emerging issues. You see, systemic issues. You see, always feel free to kind of bring those out because we may be able to problem, solve or just kind of put it out there that there's a a situation for folks to to work about workaround. Do we have any other updates anyone I miss, or anyone that maybe talked earlier and forgot what they were going to say?

00:50:53.170 --> 00:50:57.390

Ellen Sullivan: yeah, Ellen, here I finally figured out how to get back. our community salutes. It's a national organization where we honor high school students who are enlisting in the armed forces upon graduation. And this is our sixth year in Massachusetts. We're looking for some volunteers and sponsorship for the event at Gillette. And it's really really a wonderful thing to watch the a couple of years ago. General Mcconville was there, and he administered the oath to the kids. And then Governor Baker did it for the National Guard, and to see those kids just get so excited that they're gonna support and defend our constitution, and they receive a book with the Constitution. They receive their first challenge coin. There's resources from the Red Cross to, you know. Do do you know you lose security clearance if you screw up your your credit, there's things that the families don't know, and we're there to provide resources for them. And it's a wonderful event. It's not open to the public. There is vendor tables. We have a fair, and that's it's really a cool thing. And it's available on Facebook. And we have it backed up on our Facebook page. Our community salutes Massachusetts. So if anybody's able to help out, I can't see the chat. For some reason I'm on my cell phone. That could be why. So

if anybody wants to reach out with any information or help out, that'd be great. Thank you. So much. Wonderful to see everybody. Thank you for facilitating again, Miss Rachel.

00:52:20.110 --> 00:52:21.180

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: No problem.

00:52:21.510 --> 00:52:23.710

VHABEDLynchL: thank you. Is there a date for that? Ellen?

00:52:23.790 --> 00:52:25.019

Ellen Sullivan: May 19

00:52:25.900 --> 00:52:26.770

VHABEDLynchL: Thank you.

00:52:27.300 --> 00:52:28.279

Ellen Sullivan: Thank you.

00:52:29.090 --> 00:52:31.170

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Alright. I see. Emily. Yep, hey, everyone sorry for not being on video. I missed time to my commute today. But yes. So I'm with Massachusetts for mental health options. So that is an initiative to bring natural psychedelic therapies to the State of Massachusetts. That's similar to what's gone on in Colorado and Oregon. I, you know, always gloss over this, because to me it's the world I live in. But there's been so much promising research for how these substance can help with Ptsd, yeah, depression and anxiety. So I'm very passionate about it, because it's helped me and a lot of other vets that I know personally. So if you are interested in learning more about this or getting involved, or just have questions. Because I realize it is novel and not on everyone's brain. Every day I am happy to answer those. And we just launched our website. So I will be putting my info in the chat. And if you have any questions I would love to discuss them. Thanks.

00:53:27.350 --> 00:53:29.860

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Great. thank you. Alright. Any other updates. And I see, Mary. I didn't see you on before, you have anything?

00:53:44.290 --> 00:53:51.149

Mary Finnegan, RN: I am here. Thank you, Rachel. It's been a while, but I'm glad to see everybody. I'm here looking, and to see if there's any opportunities for volunteers that I work at tops health plan which is now linked to Harvard Pilgrim into point 32 health and we have a colleague resource group that has volunteers. We have folks that are any opportunities. You need some help. Let me know. We'll get a group together and come and help. Thank you, Rachel. Nice to see everybody again.

00:54:21.270 --> 00:54:22.559

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Yeah, thank you. Alright. Last call for any updates. Alright? Well, thank you everyone for joining today and like I mentioned, we do have the steering committee meeting same zoom link on Monday at 5pm. You're welcome to join that if you're interested in, like, you know, formally joining steering committee definitely, you know. Shoot us up a note and we'll see if we can plug you in. Otherwise feel free to drop in. If you just want to connect with folks up front in the meeting, let us know, and we'll we'll plan to chat. thanks again, and we'll plan to see everyone next month.

00:55:03.020 --> 00:55:06.450

Uris Mendez EVOS SAVE Team (HE/HIM): Thank you. Thank you, Rachel.

00:55:07.560 --> 00:55:12.230

Lovelle Seymore: See you next month. Appreciate it, Rachel. Bye, everybody

00:55:12.730 --> 00:55:14.299

Mark Bryson: have a good one. Everyone

00:55:38.120 --> 00:55:39.579

Donn Y: Thank you so much.

00:55:39.610 --> 00:55:41.760

Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative: Take care.