

## AI SUMMARY (unedited)

**Quick Recap:** The meeting involved introductions, updates on various initiatives and programs, and discussions on resources and services available for veterans. The meeting involved several updates and announcements. These initiatives included a community baby shower, a Veterans Experience Action Center, a research study for sexual minority veterans, and support for caregivers and homeless veterans. There were also discussions on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and collaborations between different organizations, as well as updates on accessibility and the use of a network's event submission system. The meeting began with introductions from Christopher Fugel, the veterans' employment counselor with Mass Hire America and the vice chair of the Greater Boston Veterans Collaborative. Rachel Mcneil, the president and chairperson, also introduced herself. The meeting then proceeded with introductions from the attendees, including Haley, Paul, Peggy.D.Shea, Kelly, Kailee, Courtney, and Robin. Michelle Glazer, a community engagement partnership coordinator for the VA, discussed the upcoming community baby shower for service member and veteran women, and invited others to get involved. David Hanker, from the VA Boston, shared information about the upcoming Veterans Experience Action Center at Gillette Stadium, and encouraged attendees to attend. The conversation ended with Kelly expressing interest in discussing a research study she is working on.

**State Updates:** Anthony from the Central Region discussed a policy analyst's work on Tricare and a report to be released in June. Anthony to collect information on impacts of federal workforce cuts on veterans, caregivers, and VA employees. Peggy from the Women's Veterans Network shared upcoming events and the Debra Sampson Award application for outstanding female veterans. DARREN announced a job fair in Dedham on the 26th, which Christopher agreed to promote on Slack. Vivian.Rogers from Mass. Hire Boston shared that they had recently opened a new location and were getting busy with community outreach.

**Federal Updates:** Kelly Harper, a clinical psychologist and researcher at the National Center for PTSD at VA Boston, discussed a research study for sexual minority veterans. Courtney from Tracks Research shared ongoing studies for post-9/11 veterans, including cognitive disorder testing and a full-day event with a clinical psychologist. Nini, a social worker in the Caregiver Support Program at VA Boston, offered support for caregivers and potential stipends. Kailee from Military One Source highlighted their services, including non-medical counseling, financial advice, and relocation assistance, currently assisting with the mill tax season and a new childcare program.

**Community Updates:** Will from Clear Path for Veterans discussed grants and support for homeless veterans. Hayley from Dove discussed kidney transplant support and a kidney Bingo event. Sarah from America's Vet Dogs shared their mission to provide service dogs for veterans and 1st responders. Bob from Irreverent Warriors discussed their fundraiser and annual hike event. Jennifer from Homefront Strong shared a 3-part workshop series on storytelling and an annual golf tournament. Jennifer to organize a 3-part workshop series on Storytelling at Westfield State University. Chelley from Home Base discussed no-cost mental health care, parenting groups, and various events and volunteer opportunities. Djones@vbocnewengland.org, representing the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) New England, shared details about their services, including the flagship program "Boots to Business" and other initiatives like revenue readiness and government contracting series. Tori, Program Manager for Blue Star Families of New England, discussed their peer-to-peer fundraiser, plans to expand to Hanscom, and collaboration opportunities in Westfield. Tori to host a coffee connect event in the Hanscom area for Blue Star Families. Tori to plan events for Month of the Military Child in Westfield in April. Tori to collaborate with others for Military Spouse Appreciation events in May. Liam from the student veteran success program at MIT discussed plans to update their veteran memorial and expand their PGA hope student veteran golf clinic to more schools. Liam to reach out to student veterans from 14 Eastern Massachusetts schools about participating in the PGA HOPE Student Veteran Golf Clinic. He also sought contacts for veteran military employee resource groups for career and professional development workshops. Liam to contact veteran military employee resource groups for potential

workshops at MIT and connect with David regarding ideas for updating the MIT veteran memorial. David and Liam discussed Lobby 7 and Lobby 10, with a focus on accessibility and potential mobility. Jack from the Veterans Legal Clinic at Harvard Law School concluded with three unspecified updates. Jack discussed the collaboration between Harvard Veterans Legal Clinic, Veterans Legal Services, and Mass Law Reform Institute on the implementation of the Hero Act. They are working on updating antiquated procedures and drafting regulations to address initial denials of benefits under Chapter 115. Jack to continue working with EOVS on drafting regulations for the HERO Act implementation. Jack also mentioned Boston College Law School's grant for effectuating generational wealth transfer in the African American community. The clinic is actively working with eight law students, including two army veterans and an air force jag officer. Leo from the Train Vets to Treat Vets program announced a full schedule for their safe storage of weapons training and an upcoming discussion on intersectional issues and well-being of women veterans. He encouraged contact with Patricia Matlock for volunteer opportunities. Mary joined the meeting, but did not have any updates to share.

**Collaborative Updates:** Rachel provided an overview of the Veterans Collaborative, explaining its mission, resources, and connections. Rachel to share insights from the Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families Community of Practice meeting. She also mentioned a reception with Congressional staffers and encouraged attendees to submit event information for different regions. Rachel highlighted the collaborative's shared Slack channel, regional pages, and various resource pages organized by topic. She invited feedback on updating the information on the website and mentioned the presence of a shared calendar page. Rachel discussed the use of the network's event submission system, emphasizing the importance of tagging events for proper display on the website. She encouraged anyone with questions about using the system to reach out to her. Rachel also suggested periodic review of recurring events to ensure their current relevance. Collaborative members to submit and update events on the shared calendar at [COLLABORATE.vet](https://collaborate.vet).

## PARTICIPANTS

- **Rachel McNeill**, Veterans Collaborative, Veterans Equality Review Board
- **Christopher Feugill**, MassHire
- **Vivian Rogers**, MassHire Downtown Boston Career Center
- **Darren Bradshaw**, MassHire
- **Anthony Langone**, Massachusetts Office of the Veteran Advocate, Communications Specialist
- **Paul Furbush**, Massachusetts Office of the Veteran Advocate, Central Region Liaison
- **Christian DiLuzio**, Massachusetts Office of the Veteran Advocate, Western Region Liaison
- **Robin Cody**, Massachusetts Department of Public Health Veterans ERG
- **Peggy Shea**, Massachusetts Executive Office of Veterans Services Women Veterans Network
- **Michelle Glaser**, VA Central Western Mass Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator
- **Nini Dizayer**, VA Boston Caregiver Support Program
- **Damien Powell**, VA Boston Center for Development & Community Engagement
- **David Hencke**, VA Boston Outreach
- **Courtney Leavitt**, VA Boston TRACTS Research Program, Communication Specialist
- **Kelly Harper**, VA Boston National Center for PTSD, Clinical Psychologist & Researcher
- **Mary Finnegan**, RN, Point32Health Veteran Colleague Resource Group
- **Jennifer Baublitz**, HomeFront Strong
- **Kailee Valliere**, Military OneSource
- **Justin O'Mahony**, Brighton Marine
- **Tori Jessop-Crowley**, Blue Star Families of New England
- **Chelley Carroll-Worth**, Home Base Family Program
- **Jack Regan**, Harvard Law School Veterans Legal Clinic
- **Stephen Pusateri**, Simmons University Veterans' Services

- **Leonard Hall**, William James College Train Vets to Treat Vets Program
- **Liam Gale**, MIT Student Veteran Success
- **Hayley Slaughter**, DOVE Transplant Outreach Coordinator
- **Carey Dobson**, Cape & Islands Veterans Outreach Center, Case Management Services Manager
- **David Jones**, Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) of New England, Associate Director
- **Sarah Blomstedt**, America's VetDogs, New England Program Coordinator
- **Bob Savin**, Irreverent Warriors
- **William S. Herriott, Jr.**, Clear Path for Veterans New England (Merrimack Valley), Case Manager
- **Justin Frankel**

## CHAT

- 00:07:47 Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative:**  
Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative, [info@collaborate.vet](mailto:info@collaborate.vet)
- 00:07:59 Hayley Slaughter:**  
[Hayleys@dovetransplant.org](mailto:Hayleys@dovetransplant.org)
- 00:08:12 Michelle Glaser, LICSW, BCD- VA Worcester County CEPC:**  
Michelle Glaser, LICSW, BCD  
CPT (Ret.) US Army Medical Service Corps  
Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator (CEPC)  
Worcester County, Central Western MA VA  
Govt Mobile: 413-472-7576 [Michelle-elissa.glaser@va.gov](mailto:Michelle-elissa.glaser@va.gov)
- 00:08:48 Liam Gale:**  
Liam Gale, MIT Student Veteran Success, [liamgale@mit.edu](mailto:liamgale@mit.edu)
- 00:09:13 Paul Furbush:**  
Paul Furbush, Central Regional Liaison for the Office of the Veteran Advocate -  
[paul.furbush@mass.gov](mailto:paul.furbush@mass.gov) / (617) 959-4451
- 00:09:34 Stephen Pusateri:**  
Steve Pusateri, Assistant Director of Military & Veteran Services - Simmons University.  
[stephen.pusateri@simmons.edu](mailto:stephen.pusateri@simmons.edu)
- 00:09:45 Leo:**  
Leonard L. Hall, MS  
[Leonard\\_hall@williamjames.edu](mailto:Leonard_hall@williamjames.edu)  
3rd Year Doctoral Student  
Clinical Psychology (Psy.D)  
William James College  
Train Vets to Treat Vets Program
- 00:09:48 Vivian.Rogers:**  
Good Afternoon Everyone !!!!  
Vivian Rogers DVOP Mass Hire Boston ABCD
- 00:09:55 Damien Powell - VA Boston CDCE:**  
Damien Powell - VA Boston Center for Development and Civic Engagement

[damien.powell@va.gov](mailto:damien.powell@va.gov)

00:10:05

**Robin Cody (DPH):**

Good Afternoon!

00:10:53

**Bob Savin:**

Bob Savin, Irreverent Warriors, [Worcester@irreverentwarriors.com](mailto:Worcester@irreverentwarriors.com), 508-438-0050

00:10:55

**Robin Cody (DPH):**

Robin Cody [robin.e.cody@mass.gov](mailto:robin.e.cody@mass.gov); Co-Chair MA DPH Veteran Employee Resource Group (VERG)

00:10:56

**Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:**

Chelley Carroll-Worth, Family Support Team/Outreach at Home Base (Boston, MA)  
617-306-9087

[mcarroll-worth@mgd.harvard.edu](mailto:mcarroll-worth@mgd.harvard.edu)

00:10:59

**Info Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center:**

Carey Dobson, Manager of Case Management Services, Cape and Islands Veterans Outreach Center

[cdobson@capeveterans.com](mailto:cdobson@capeveterans.com)

00:11:08

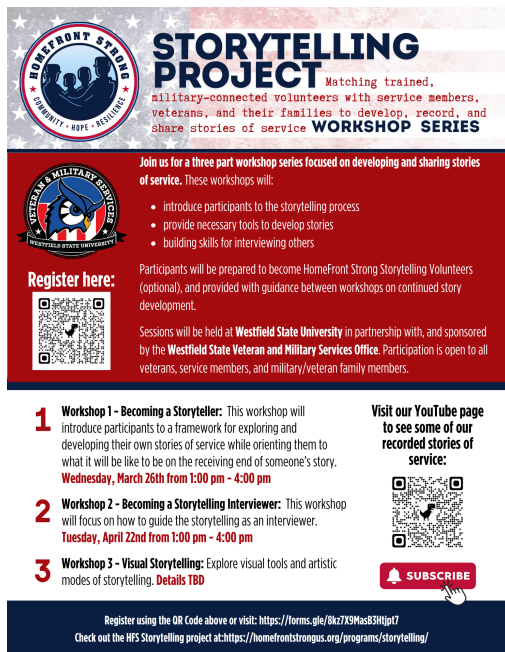
**Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):**

Hey everyone! VA Boston JP with TRACTS Research, [Courtney.Leavitt@Va.gov](mailto:Courtney.Leavitt@Va.gov)

00:11:45

**Jennifer Baublitz:**

Jennifer Baublitz, HomeFront Strong [jbaublitz@homefrontstrongus.org](mailto:jbaublitz@homefrontstrongus.org)



**STORYTELLING PROJECT** Matching trained, military-connected volunteers with service members, veterans, and their families to develop, record, and share stories of service **WORKSHOP SERIES**

Join us for a three part workshop series focused on developing and sharing stories of service. These workshops will:

- introduce participants to the storytelling process
- provide necessary tools to develop stories
- building skills for interviewing others

Participants will be prepared to become HomeFront Strong Storytelling Volunteers (optional), and provided with guidance between workshops on continued story development.

Sessions will be held at **Westfield State University** in partnership with, and sponsored by the **Westfield State Veteran and Military Services Office**. Participation is open to all veterans, service members, and military/veteran family members.

**Register here:**

**1 Workshop 1 - Becoming a Storyteller:** This workshop will introduce participants to a framework for exploring and developing their own stories of service while orienting them to what it will be like to be on the receiving end of someone's story. **Wednesday, March 26th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**2 Workshop 2 - Becoming a Storytelling Interviewer:** This workshop will focus on how to guide the storytelling as an interviewer. **Tuesday, April 22nd from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**3 Workshop 3 - Visual Storytelling:** Explore visual tools and artistic modes of storytelling. **Details TBD**

Visit our YouTube page to see some of our recorded stories of service:

**SUBSCRIBE**

Register using the QR Code above or visit: <https://forms.gle/Bkz7K9Mas8Htp17>  
Check out the HFS Storytelling project at: <https://homefrontstrongus.org/programs/storytelling/>

00:11:50

**djones@vbocnewengland.org:**

David Jones: Associate Dir. for Veterans Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) of New England

[djones@vbocnewengland.org](mailto:djones@vbocnewengland.org)

**00:12:15 Sarah Blomstedt:**  
Hello All! Looking forward to connecting.  
Sarah Blomstedt, LICSW  
New England Program Coordinator  
America's VetDogs - The Veteran's K-9 Corps®, Inc.  
Phone: 631-263-6819  
[sarah.blomstedt@guidedog.org](mailto:sarah.blomstedt@guidedog.org)  
[www.VetDogs.org](http://www.VetDogs.org)

**00:12:23 Peggy.D.Shea:**  
Peggy Duffy-Shea EOVS - WVN

**00:29:40 Sarah Blomstedt:** Replying to "Peggy Duffy-Shea EOVS..."  
Hello Peggy! Could you share your email address? I'd love to connect

**00:12:48 David Hencke:**  
[David.Hencke@va.gov](mailto:David.Hencke@va.gov) VA Boston Veteran/Community Outreach

**00:14:02 Nini Dizayer:**  
Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer- Caregiver Support Program Social Worker- [Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov](mailto:Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov)

**00:15:19 Liam Gale:**  
Hi Kailee, can you share your email? I want to touch base with you to see how we can collaborate!

**00:15:39 Kailee Valliere- Military OneSource:** Reacted to "Hi Kailee, can you..." with ❤️  
Kailee Valliere | Massachusetts Military OneSource State Consultant Contractor  
[Kailee.Valliere@militaryonesource.com](mailto:Kailee.Valliere@militaryonesource.com) | 781-441-9069

**00:16:31 Liam Gale:** Reacted to "Kailee Valliere | Ma..." with 👍

**00:16:50 Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:**  
Tori Jessop-Crowley | Program Manager  
Blue Star Families Staff  
Boston - New England Chapter  
508-316-9005  
<https://bluestarfam.org/chapters/new-england/>

**00:22:59 Kelly Harper:**  
Kelly Harper, PhD, Clinical Research Psychologist, National Center for PTSD at VA Boston  
[kelly.harper@va.gov](mailto:kelly.harper@va.gov) 617-869-9361  
Also, if you want hard copies of flyers--just let me know and I can print some out and bring them over or mail them

**00:24:11 Jack Regan:**  
Jack Regan, Veterans Legal Clinic of Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School,  
[jregan@law.harvard.edu](mailto:jregan@law.harvard.edu)

**00:24:27 Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):**  
Courtney Leavitt - Communication Specialist with TRACTS Research at VA Boston JP.  
617.799.8617 or email [Courtney.leavitt@va.gov](mailto:Courtney.leavitt@va.gov)





00:25:53

**Nini Dizayer:**

If you come across a caregiver of Veterans, you can provide this flyer and/or reach out to me so we can help provide support to them.

Thank you all!

00:27:26

**Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** Replying to "If you come across a..."

@Nini Dizayer what is your email address?

00:28:28

**Nini Dizayer:** Replying to "If you come across a..."

Hi Tori! My email is [Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov](mailto:Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov)

00:29:04

**Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** Reacted to "Hi Tori! My email is..." with 👍

00:26:20

**DARREN BRADSHAW:**

Darren Bradshaw, MassHire Framingham. [Darren.bradshaw@mass.gov](mailto:Darren.bradshaw@mass.gov), 508-861-7993

00:28:00

**Anthony Langone (OVA):**

Anthony D. Langone Jr.

Communications Specialist

MA Office of the Veteran Advocate

Phone: (617) 729-5386

Email: [Anthony.Langone2@mass.gov](mailto:Anthony.Langone2@mass.gov)

[www.mass.gov/OVA](http://www.mass.gov/OVA)

General OVA Inbox: [OVA@mass.gov](mailto:OVA@mass.gov)



00:29:25

**Will (Clear Path for Veterans):**

Hello, everyone!

00:31:05

**Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** Replying to "Hello, everyone!"

Can you share your email- would love to add you as a resource- thank you!

00:34:15

**Will (Clear Path for Veterans):** Replying to "Hello, everyone! "

William S. Herriott, Jr.

Case Manager

Clear Path for Veterans New England (Merrimack Valley)

978-965-5743 (Lawrence Office)

978-362-9756 (Cell)

Email: [wherriott@clearpathne.org](mailto:wherriott@clearpathne.org)

00:36:16

**Nini Dizayer:** Replying to "Hello, everyone! "

Hi Chelley-It's nice to see you again! Mine is [Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov](mailto:Ninveh.Dizayer@va.gov)

00:35:57

**Anthony Langone (OVA):**

Sharing on behalf of Jerome in Somerville for the Greater Boston Veterans Expo in Medford on 4/5

A flyer for the Greater Boston Veterans Expo 2025. It features a collage of images showing veterans and their families, an American flag, and a group of people in uniform. The text provides details about the event, including the date, time, and location. It also lists services available at the expo, such as VA Health Care, VA Disability Claims, and VA Education Benefits. A QR code is provided for registration, and contact information for the Greater Boston Veterans Affairs Medical Center is listed.

**Greater Boston Veterans Expo 2025**  
April 5, 2025 10:00am - 3:00pm  
177 College Ave, Medford, MA, 02155

**GET 1-on-1 ASSISTANCE WITH:**

- Enrolling in VA Health Care
- Submitting a VA Disability Claim
- Check the status of your disability claim or appeal
- Income-based Benefits for Veterans and Survivors
- VA Burial Options
- VA Housing Options
- VA Education Benefits
- Career Help

617-625-6600 ext 4700  
[veterans@somervillema.gov](mailto:veterans@somervillema.gov)

forms.office.com/g/HQqP9zdmu

The City of Somerville can provide you with an interpreter in your computer for free. To request an interpreter, please contact us at [somerville@somervillema.gov](mailto:somerville@somervillema.gov) or call 311-311-3111 (TDD) or 617-625-6600 (voice).  
Persons with disabilities who need auxiliary aids and services for effective communication (i.e., CART, ASL, written materials in alternative formats, or accessible modifications to policies and procedures) in order to access the programs, activities, and meetings of the City of Somerville should please contact Accessibility Promote by in advance at 617-625-6600 x 3709 or [access@somervillema.gov](mailto:access@somervillema.gov).

A flyer for The Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS). It features a photo of a caregiver and a veteran. The text describes the program's purpose and lists the services provided, including training, support, and resources. It also provides contact information for enrollment.

**The Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS)**

Are you a caregiver that cares for a Veteran?  
Would you like additional support as a caregiver?  
Do you want to connect with other caregivers?

PGCSS General Caregivers has access to:

- Training and support through in-person, online & telehealth sessions
- Skills training focused on caregiving for Veteran's unique needs
- Peer Support Mentoring
- Mobile, Web & Email support
- One-on-One Coaching
- Group Support and Coaching
- Assistance with navigating the VA
- Connection and Referrals to available VA & Community Resources

To Enroll: Contact the VA Boston Caregiver Support Program Team  
Edward Fleming & Ninveh "Nini" Dizayer  
Phone: 1 (857) 364-3366 or  
Email: [BostonGeneralCaregiver@va.gov](mailto:BostonGeneralCaregiver@va.gov)

**00:38:59 Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):**  
Thank you Chelley!

**00:40:51 Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** Replying to "Thank you Chelley!"  
I took up so much time! Thank you for sticking with me!

**00:41:29 Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):** Replying to "Thank you Chelley!"  
This is great stuff!!!

**00:40:47 DARREN BRADSHAW:**  
MassHire Job Fair, Dedham, 3/26

**00:45:52 Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:**  
Impact of Trauma Educational Series | Home Base  
Skillful Parenting | Home Base  
Resiliency Programs | Home Base  
Building a Strong Home Base | Home Base  
2025 Memorial Day Flag Garden | Home Base  
<https://runtohomebase.org/>

**00:47:55 Kelly Harper:** Reacted to "Impact of Trauma E..." with ❤️

**00:50:50 Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** Reacted to "Impact of Trauma Edu..." with ❤️

**00:51:19 Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** Replying to "Impact of Trauma Edu..."  
I would like to bring a group of BSF members to help plant flags

**00:51:54 Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** Replying to "Impact of Trauma Edu..."  
I will email you to connect- that sounds wonderful- thank you.

**00:52:31 Stephen Pusateri:** Replying to "Impact of Trauma Edu..."  
I'd also like to organize a group of my student-veterans to help with flag planting

**00:53:12 Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** Replying to "Impact of Trauma Edu..."  
If you can email me at [mcarrroll-worth@harvard.edu](mailto:mcarrroll-worth@harvard.edu) I will make sure we connect and ensure you have all the information. Thank you!

**00:54:25 Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** Reacted to "I would like to brin..." with ❤️

**00:54:28 Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** Reacted to "I'd also like to org..." with ❤️

**00:56:57 Stephen Pusateri:** Reacted to "If you can email me ..." with 👍

**00:50:12 Leo:**  
Intersectional Issues in the Wellbeing of Women Veterans—A Discussion  
March 28, 2025  
12:00 PM-1:00 PM  
Online via Zoom  
Please join us for the first iteration of our Military & Veteran's Mental Health Lunch & Learn Series for Spring of 2025!  
Program Cost: \$10.00, request discounted fee for Students/Staff/Faculty  
CE Credits: Continuing Education Credit Available to Attendees  
Presenter: Dr. Jenny D'Olympia  
<https://web.cvent.com/event/ffdd4140-510d-4ba2-bcb0-ea3b3557090e/summary?Refid=MasterCalendar>  
  
Student Volunteers  
Clinical Psychology Psy-D  
Various Psychology/Counseling MA  
[Patricia\\_Matlock@williamjames.edu](mailto:Patricia_Matlock@williamjames.edu)

- 00:56:30**     **Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:**  
@Liam Gale can you post your contact info
- 00:56:43**     **Liam Gale:**  
[liamgale@mit.edu](mailto:liamgale@mit.edu)
- 00:57:03**     **Robin Cody (DPH):**  
@Liam Gale I'm the co-chair for the MA DPH Veteran Employee Resource Group. We're developing a mentoring program. Please feel free to get in touch...would love to chat more with you
- 00:57:51**     **Liam Gale:** Reacted to "@Liam Gale I'm the c..." with 👍
- 00:58:28**     **Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** Reacted to "@Liam Gale I'm the c..." with 👍
- 01:01:34**     **Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative:**  
Submit Events:  
<https://events.riseup.vet/tkf2/submitEvent/c44ef3e118b311e6a8332d1762528068>
- 01:02:31**     **Will (Clear Path for Veterans):**  
Thank you!  
Have to head out. Thank you all! ☺
- 01:03:27**     **Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:**  
Frost Call

### Veterans Game Night

The Boston Vet Center and Frost Call are teaming up to bring you an evening of connection and camaraderie through gaming. Join us for video games, board games, and card games.

**Friday, March 7 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Boston Vet Center**  
7 Drydock Ave in Boston



- Free parking in front of building (marked visitor spots only).
- Overflow, validated parking in the ABM Marine Park Garage across the street.
- Vet Center is on the 2nd floor.
- Veterans are encouraged to bring a guest.
- Well-behaved kids are welcome.
- Free pizza!





Learn more about both groups here





- 01:03:35**     **Liam Gale:**  
Thanks!
- 01:03:40**     **Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):**  
Thank you all for your help and networking! See you next month!!



## TRANSCRIPT

**00:01:53.560 --> 00:01:56.569**

**Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative:** We'll probably give a minute or 2. It looks like folks are still hopping on. For those just coming in, you can put your name and contact into the chat, and we'll get started shortly.

**00:04:43.360 --> 00:04:44.880**

**Christopher Feugill:** Good afternoon, everybody. It is just after 3, 3:33, want to get started. Want to introduce myself. I'm Christopher Feugill, Veterans Employment Counselor with MassHire America Career Center and the Vice Chair of the Greater Boston Veterans Collaborative. Here we have Rachel Mcneil. She's our President and Chairperson. I want to ask if anybody is here for the first time to introduce themselves.

**00:05:17.220 --> 00:05:19.040**

**Hayley Slaughter:** I'm here for the first time. My name is Hayley. I am the outreach coordinator for a nonprofit called DOVE, which is Donor Outreach for Veterans. We work with veterans who need life-saving kidney transplants, and we help them find living kidney donors, and we also do outreach and education, and support the donors, and I myself am also a donor through DOVE. I was Team 18. It'll be 3 years in June, and we just celebrated our 53rd transplant.

**00:05:43.280 --> 00:05:43.910**

**Peggy.D.Shea:** Great.

**00:05:48.520 --> 00:05:53.480**

**Paul Furbush:** Hi! I'm Paul Furbush. Good to see you, Chris. I am with the Office of the Veteran Advocate, Central Liaison.

**00:06:02.640 --> 00:06:03.140**

**Peggy.D.Shea:** Awesome.

**00:06:03.505 --> 00:06:06.010**

**Paul Furbush:** Is from my understanding, we have a spot in to talk about us.

**00:06:17.660 --> 00:06:28.159**

**Peggy.D.Shea:** I am Peggy Duffy Shea, from the Executive Office of Veterans Services. I'm with the Women Veterans Network. I am the coordinator, and this is my first time attending the meeting.

**00:06:32.100 --> 00:06:32.949**

**Christopher Feugill:** Welcome, everyone.

**00:06:33.550 --> 00:06:45.420**

**Kelly Harper:** Hi, I'm Kelly Harper. I'm a researcher at VA Boston. It's my first time attending the meeting and I want to talk about a research study that we're recruiting for if there's time. Thanks.

**00:06:50.170 --> 00:06:51.080**

**Kailee Valliere- Military OneSource:** Hello! My name is Kailee Valliere. I am the new Massachusetts State Consultant for Military OneSource. If you guys aren't familiar with Military OneSource, we offer free confidential services for active duty, reserve, and guard members. So, looking forward to connecting to y'all.

**00:07:26.170 --> 00:07:28.349**

**Christopher Feugill:** Okay, do we have anyone else that's new?

**00:07:32.600 --> 00:07:51.630**

**Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):** Hi, everyone. I'm Courtney Leavitt. I work over at TRACTS Research at Jamaica Plain VA. We're basically for post 9/11 veterans. Anyways, I don't want to take up a lot of your time. I can also speak about this next time, but it's good to be a part of this group. So, thank you for having me on.

**00:07:59.640 --> 00:08:10.949**

**Robin Cody (DPH):** Hi, everybody! My name's Robin Cody. This is my first meeting, and I am the co-chair for the Department of Public Health's Veteran Employee Resource Group. Tickled to be here. Thank you.

**00:08:21.940 --> 00:08:23.179**

**Christopher Feugill:** Glad to have you welcome. Okay, Anyone else new? All right, let's go around then, starting with the federal government – the VA.

**00:08:49.490 --> 00:08:51.439**

**Michelle Glaser, LICSW,BCD -CEPC VA Worcester county:** Hi! I can go first.

**00:08:51.620 --> 00:08:52.120**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thank you.

**00:08:52.710 --> 00:09:08.659**

**Michelle Glaser, LICSW,BCD -CEPC VA Worcester county:** Sorry, kind of on the road. My name is Michelle Glaser. I'm a Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator for the VA and I focus specifically on Worcester County. I had dropped some information into the slack. If you guys have access to that about our save the date for our Community Baby Shower for service member and veteran women. So, it's a regional baby shower. No one needs to be affiliated with the VA or eligible for the VA. Any drill status, any component are welcome, and it can be – it's very, very open. So, anywhere in your pregnancy journey, recently delivered, just starting out, currently pregnant. So, it's going to be the weekend of December 13th. We are currently expanding that coalition so if folks are interested in maybe getting part, like getting involved or being part of it, or possibly looking to volunteer that weekend. That's great. Just go ahead and contact me. My information is in the chat at the beginning of the chat stream, and I just wanted to also highlight one of the other coalitions that I'm working with, which is the Senior Benefits Coalition. This month they're actually going to have the National Cemetery Administration come and talk about eligibility, how you access those benefits, and all about the NCA, opportunities for end of life care, around burial, of course. So, if folks are interested, reach out to me and I can send you the link to register. It's a 1 hour webinar. And then in April, we'll be having the VBA come and talk about their mission, and how long it will take to get a claim processed. And then in June, we'll be having VA SAVE Training. So, that's all, that's all I got for you. Thank you so much for letting me pop on.

**00:11:07.730 --> 00:11:09.730**

**David Hencke:** Hey, Chris, it's Dave!

**00:11:09.850 --> 00:11:11.279**

**Christopher Feugill:** Dave, how are you?

**00:11:11.470 --> 00:11:15.369**

**David Hencke:** Good brother, good love the background! Love what you've done with the place.

**00:11:15.960 --> 00:11:16.520**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thanks.

**00:11:18.030 --> 00:11:25.649**

**David Hencke:** All right. So, for VA Boston, there's a few of our folks online here in the healthcare side, between research there and Kelly, and then Courtney is going to tell you about some of the work she's doing also in research there, but just for overall for VA, as of course you all aware, those of us in the federal government are going through some turmoil right now, and may have just heard about the next round of cuts that are apparently coming up for this summer. They're going to cut the VA workforce by about 15% it looks like. So anyway, that remains to be seen, and what other folks may have to say. But anyway, we will continue to march. I don't know anything. We haven't had any change of mission as far as I know. The VA is still committed to providing full health care, and then in benefits and services, immediate things – I think Rachel had posted some of these already, but of course the big event is next Monday. I'm sorry, next Tuesday and Wednesday, the 11th and 12th, at Gillette Stadium, and that's the Veterans Experience Action Center. The VEAC. And folks aren't aware – that's two days of, it's 9 to 4 each day, and we'll have about 60 of our VA and community support agencies, all tabling out there, state of Massachusetts, Rhode Island. And then the federal agencies as well, and it'll be huge focus on establishing disability claims as well as all the VA enrollment, healthcare enrollment, all that stuff. Anyway, it'll be a really really big show. Really big event taking place there next Tuesday and Wednesday. It'll be the biggest veterans event in Massachusetts probably that we've held today. So, looking forward looking to about 400 to 500 in attendance each day. And beyond that, that's the biggest thing on the calendar right now.

**00:13:21.770 --> 00:13:23.759**

**Christopher Feugill:** That's on the calendar.

**00:13:24.666 --> 00:13:31.690**

**David Hencke:** Let's see who else got from VA? I see, Kelly, you're right there. Do you want to jump in and tell us real quick about your program and what's coming up?

**00:13:31.690 --> 00:13:53.309**

**Kelly Harper:** Yeah, happy to. Thanks for having me. So, I'm Kelly Harper. I'm a clinical psychologist and also a researcher in the National Center for PTSD at VA Boston, and we are running a research study right now for sexual minority veterans. We're testing a brief intervention to see if it's helpful for reducing symptoms of depression and anxiety. So, I posted the information about the study in the slack. But, I will also put the study flyer in the chat, so you all can see it. It has information about inclusion criteria who the study might be relevant for, helpful for. And also I'll put my contact information in case you have any questions or anything like that. You're welcome to share this information with any veterans that it might be appropriate for who or who might be interested, and then also feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Thanks.

**00:14:28.870 --> 00:14:30.930**

**David Hencke:** Courtney, are you there?

**00:14:32.770 --> 00:14:59.869**

**Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):** Yep, thank you, David. Similar to Kelly. I work with TRACTS Research over at Jamaica Plain. So, we do have a lot of ongoing studies geared towards post 9/11 veterans and their deployment in combat zones. So, your days, a bunch of testing cognitive disorders, anything like that. You meet with a clinical psychologist, and it's a full day event that the veteran has to go through. They will be provided breakfast. They would be provided lunch. They would also be provided a stipend depending on how much they complete throughout their study. But, we want them to feel welcome. We want them to, you know, come in, feel like it's just like another home. So, it's not feeling like you know, you're going into an appointment. We want to make it feel pretty welcoming to the veterans themselves. So we are going to have a table at the VEAC on

March 11th and 12th to give more information regarding the study. We've had over a thousand participants already, and reoccurring participants every 1, 5, and 10 years. So you can track the developments in TBI and PTSD stuff. So, if you guys have any questions, please let me know. I'll do the same as Kelly did. Thank you. I'll put my information in the chat. If you know of any veterans that are interested, have them give us a call.

**00:15:56.340 --> 00:15:59.609**

**David Hencke:** Go, Navy. Thank you, Chris. I know you appreciate that.

**00:16:00.270 --> 00:16:01.380**

**Courtney Leavitt (TRACTS):** So, Navy be done.

**00:16:03.320 --> 00:16:06.330**

**David Hencke:** Anybody else from VA Boston, from the healthcare side?

**00:16:07.160 --> 00:16:08.150**

**Nini Dizayer:** Hi, Dave! My name is Nini. Everybody, I am a social worker in the caregiver support program here at VA Boston. And so, we help support caregivers who care for our veterans. They could potentially get a stipend and being a caregiver, and then we have education and supportive offerings, and so I will also be at the event next week as well. So, if you're there, come by our table to get more information. Or, if you have any services in your agencies that help provide any type of support to caregivers, please reach out to me. We're always providing any information to our caregivers, whether that's you presenting, or just any information, so that we can pass that along to them. So, thank you all.

**00:17:03.070 --> 00:17:06.190**

**David Hencke:** Awesome, anybody else from VA Boston?

**00:17:07.079 --> 00:17:10.229**

**Damien Powell - VA Boston CDCE:** This is Damien. I got nothing, just wanted to say Hi.

**00:17:10.650 --> 00:17:16.550**

**David Hencke:** Damien from Volunteer Services and Community Development. Thanks, Damien. Appreciate it. Anybody else?

**00:17:18.460 --> 00:17:20.760**

**David Hencke:** Alright, thanks, Chris.

**00:17:21.700 --> 00:17:22.607**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thank you, Dave. So, from the federal government, let's go down to the state. Do we have EOVS? Doesn't look like anybody from EOVS today. That's a bummer.

**00:17:41.780 --> 00:17:46.409**

**Peggy.D.Shea:** Sorry. Sorry, I am from EOVS. But we are, yes. I am. I work more so with the Women Veterans Network and we just have a bunch of events coming up. We will also be at Foxborough next week. But as far as the other programs that they're working on, I don't have that information in front of me.

**00:18:05.400 --> 00:18:08.549**

**Christopher Feugill:** Would you like to speak on anything from Women Veterans Network?

**00:18:08.550 --> 00:18:28.480**

**Peggy.D.Shea:** Sure. We are holding our annual conference on May 17th in lovely Southbridge, Massachusetts. We're trying to do more outreach across the state. So, we have that coming up. We're about to launch the Deborah Sampson Award application. So, if you have any female veterans that you would like to acknowledge and put forth an application regarding them being an amazing woman veteran, we'll be doing that soon. It'll be going out in our newsletter. And then, lastly, we will be doing our Annual Recognition Luncheon, and that will be on June 17th in Worcester. More of this information will follow with our emails and our social media campaigns.

**00:18:51.430 --> 00:18:53.140**

**Christopher Feugill:** Fantastic thanks. OVA?

**00:18:58.830 --> 00:19:15.840**

**Anthony Langone (OVA):** Hey! What's going on everybody? I know you already met Paul. He's one of our regional liaisons from the Central Region here today. What I'm thinking of doing is every one of these calls we'll try to have one of our new liaisons come in so they can link with the groups in their area, that sort of stuff. So, anybody in the Central Region, Worcester County, please reach out to Paul. He's a great contact. So, on the OVA's end, a couple of things we have going on. So, liaisons are on board. One of the things we're actually diving into right now is, we have a Policy Analyst that came on to look into TRICARE. So, what we're trying to do right now is map TRICARE, what that looks like in the Commonwealth, and then provide a report on that. Once we're finished up with that, we'll have more information on that. Probably towards June timeframe, looking forward to sharing that. We will also be at Gillette next week, so please look out for us. We'll have some rotating staff there. I think we have a suite off the side. So, come by, say hi. Looking forward to seeing everybody out there. And also, one of the things just to kind of follow up on Dave's comments earlier, you know, we're kind of realizing that's a rapidly changing environment on the federal side. And, we're trying to figure out what the impacts are. I know a lot of people are here in Massachusetts. So, if you have a story or anything like that, we're going to put some information out on our social media. But, we're trying to kind of figure out what the impacts are for veterans here, caregivers, VA employees. We want to try to collect that info. So, I'll put our, I'll put my contact info in here as well as the OVA general email. We're happy to hear what's going on out there. And that way, we can kind of log it. So, that's about it from our end. Thank you.

**00:20:38.236 --> 00:20:39.340**

**Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative:** I do have a state update if there aren't any others. So, I'm the chair for the Massachusetts Veterans Equality Review Board, and we fall under EOVA. What we do is, we review discharges for veterans that received other than honorable discharges, so that they can receive state-based veterans benefits. This is relevant for veterans who are very low income, who are applying for the safety net benefits as well as veterans who are 100% service connected, and who would qualify for the annuity benefit. Under the HERO Act, there were some changes that give some more flexibility. So, veterans who have, say a general "under honorable conditions" discharge wouldn't need to go through the board. But, we do see some of those. So essentially, if you have any question about a person's, basically their discharge status and impacting their benefits, they can put in an application to our committee, and then we can review it and make a recommendation to the secretary. So, somebody might be in progress of trying to upgrade their discharge. Or maybe they have – the VA has made an exception so that they can receive benefits. Those are the kinds of cases that we can review, for somebody who's just kind of, you know, dealing with a lot of housing issues. So, we typically meet once a month, but as long as an application comes in, we try to review those right away.

**00:22:07.900 --> 00:22:08.760**

**Christopher Feugill:** Excellent. That's some good work. Any other state organizations.

**00:22:21.920 --> 00:22:45.819**



**Will (Clear Path for Veterans):** Hello, everybody! How you doing? My name is Will from Clear Path for Veterans. We actually have a branch out in the Merrimack Valley over in Lawrence, Massachusetts. What we do is, we actually have a couple of grants. One of them is the Hope Grant. So, if you have anybody who's dealing with homelessness who's a National Guard or Reservist, you know, we're able to take care of them. Help them out. We also do have an EOVS grant as well. We also have the SSVF grant, and we're able to help out veterans who are about to be or are homeless, actually homeless, right now. We also have a small food pantry that's available for veterans, and a small food and clothing pantry available for veterans who are in need. You know, we were able to just take care of some today. So, this is a resource available for all the veterans. So, just glad to be here with everybody and thank you for all you guys do. Thank you.

**00:23:22.280 --> 00:23:26.959**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thanks. Will, you guys do good work in Lawrence. So, not hearing from any other state groups, let's go to nonprofits. Thanks, Will, you hit the nonprofit already

**00:23:46.110 --> 00:23:58.440**

**Hayley Slaughter:** Hello again. So, I am with the nonprofit DOVE, and we work specifically with veterans who need kidney transplants, and we offer support for them and helping them get that out there and finding living kidney donors. As far as events coming up, if you go to our page [dovetransplant.org](https://dovetransplant.org), you can see our calendar. I am actually doing a kidney BINGO event at my local library on March 13th, which is World Kidney Day. I am spreading awareness and sharing my story as a living donor, to let people know that they can be donors, and to just get the conversation started. As far as for March, that's all I see, and we don't have anything yet on the calendar for April. But, if anyone has any questions, I put my email in the chat, and I can also put the DOVE website in there as well.

**00:24:39.050 --> 00:24:46.290**

**Sarah Blomstedt:** I'm happy to go. My name is Sarah Blomstedt, and I'm the New England Program Coordinator at America's VetDogs. We are based in Smithtown, New York, but we serve veterans and first responders with disabilities all across the country, and we're looking to expand our outreach in New England specifically. So, the mission of our program is, we provide service dogs with veterans and first responders with disabilities. All areas and all branches of service. So, if you'd like to learn more, I'm happy to talk with you, and really just looking to collaborate and connect with folks in New England as well. So, I did put my information in the chat and feel free to reach out.

**00:25:23.530 --> 00:25:24.710**

**Bob Savin:** Hi, everyone. Okay, Bob Savin with Irreverent Warriors. Our mission is to bring veterans together to improve mental health and prevent veteran suicide. We've got a couple of events coming up in the next couple of months. In April, on the 13th, we have our fundraiser at Craft Roots Brewery in Milford, and then in May on the 24th over the Memorial Day weekend, we have our annual Silkies Hike in Milford. And, a Silkies Hike is really just an opportunity for veterans to come together, to put their silkies, their you know, their tiny shorts on, and throw their rucks on, and and go for a hike. And, it's not an athletic event. It's just simply, you know, bonding and you know, a chance for veterans to talk to each other to relive that brotherhood, that sisterhood, and just have an overall good day.

**00:26:19.170 --> 00:26:35.800**

**Jennifer Baublitz:** All right, I'll go next. Hi, everyone. Jen Baublitz, here with HomeFront Strong. We are partnering up with Westfield State University's Veteran Services Department to offer a three-part workshop series on Storytelling. This will actually be the pilot for our reimagined Storytelling Volunteer Training. They are going to take place at Westfield State University. The first one is the final Wednesday in March, the second one will be April 22nd, and the third one – date is yet to be set. I did put the flyer in the chat. Also, we have our

Annual Golf Tournament coming up on the 1st Friday in May that is going to be held at the Heritage Country Club in Charlton, so I will share that flyer in the chat as well. Thank you.

**00:27:19.170 --> 00:27:20.400**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thank you, Jennifer.

**00:27:21.450 --> 00:27:29.540**

**Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** I'm Chelley. I am with the family support team at Home Base. I know there's a couple of new people, so Home Base is, so many things, but – no cost mental health care. We are a program of Mass General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation. So, we are not DoD-connected. We serve all eras, regardless of discharge status, family as well. Very loosely and broadly defined. Family members can get care, clinical care, in Massachusetts, also at no cost without their veteran or service member getting care. So, there's no prerequisite to them being involved with care. Hold on to your hats because I have some stuff. We have a new parenting group, Building a Strong Home Base, aimed at like attachment style, parenting, and looking at how past traumas and experiences can impact your parenting and your child. That just started, registration's open online, and I will drop so much stuff in the chat. We have Skillful Parenting, which we've had for a while now, the next group, starting on April 7th. Impact of Trauma Course. These are all virtual, by the way, so they're nationwide. These are all psychoeducational. Impact of Trauma is a 4-part series. It looks into PTSD, TBI, impact on the individual as well as the family, community, and some of the treatments that we utilize at Home Base. We have resiliency programming. Our next one starting for Resilient Warrior, which is veteran and family. I'm sorry – veteran and service member – is April 14th. For family, which is any adult that's military-connected, 18 and up, is April 30th. And, our Resilient Youth programming for elementary and middle school starting April 7th and for high school, April 8th. Not done. We have an Adventure Series coming up. Those are no cost events for military families, veterans, and service members. We have a Glass Workshop on April 12th and then a walk through wildlife sanctuary on April 19th. Looking for volunteer opportunities? I know you are. Our Memorial Day flag planting in Boston Common is May 21st. I believe that's when we're all doing it. And then, the Run to Home Base. That is our, maybe everyone knows through home bases – 5K or 9K – and you finish crossing over home plate at Fenway. That is on June 26th. And then, we have a Native Intensive Clinical Program. That's our 2-week program in Boston, in person. That's coming up in June. So, I'll drop a flyer for that. Obviously, it's a very specific cohort, but we are working on outreach for that now. We'll also be at Gillette, so look for us. But wait, there's more because I don't see Wes here. I hope this is giving you some comedy relief. So, for Frost Call – change gears – Frost Call, for Dr. Sanders here, this Friday is the Boston Vet Center gaming event from 6 to 8. Don't ask me where it is. It's a secret. Next Tuesday is the Tabletop Night at Tavern of Tales. It's a lot of T's. And then, from March 29th to 30th at the Bristol Community College is Operation Game On. Thank you. Sorry, I just took the entire time. I appreciate you all. I'll drop a bunch of info. My contact's also in the chat. So, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, let me know. And, I will probably be emailing a handful of people because I'm really excited to make some connections. Thank you.

**00:31:34.320 --> 00:31:38.770**

**Christopher Feugill:** The Frost Call event Friday night is at the Vet Center.

**00:31:41.220 --> 00:31:42.219**

**Chelley Carroll-Worth (she/her), Home Base:** You're the best.

**00:31:46.010 --> 00:31:48.469**

**Christopher Feugill:** Dry Dock Ave. 7 Dry Dock in Boston, the Seaport area. Nice facility. Okay, so any other announcements, any other information to get out nonprofits?

**00:32:11.160 --> 00:32:12.139**

**djones@vbocnewengland.org:** Sure I'll go. So, David Jones, here, I'm the Associate Director for the VBOC of New England. That's Veterans Business Outreach Center. So, we cover all of New England, and that's for any veteran active duty, military spouse, guard, reservist. If anybody's looking to get into entrepreneurship, we're the nonprofit arm that falls underneath the Small Business Administration. So, we have a lot of partners within the SBA, as well as financial lending partners. Our flagship program is the Boots to Business. It can be offered on military installations – in person, 2 days, or a virtual, one day event. We host probably 3 or 4 of those a month anyway throughout New England. I just came back from one in Maine on Monday. We also have a government contracting series coming up for anybody interested in getting into government contracting for their businesses. That's a 4-part series, starts tomorrow. But, we run that throughout the year. There's a few other ones, like revenue readiness, and to help programs which basically take it from pre revenue concept to the actual business startup and growth phase. But, if you have any veteran or military spouses that's looking to start or grow, or exit their business, you can literally just send them directly to me, and I will make sure that they're assessed, evaluated, and brought to the right people. So, I can be your point of contact for that. Some of you may know Jenny. She's the executive director. She may have been on here before, but I work with her, and that's all.

**00:33:44.040 --> 00:33:45.199**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thank you very much. And Chelley, you did not take up too much time. Not at all. We're here to get the information out to as many people as we can best we can. That's our purpose is to connect each other. So, not too much time at all. Anyone else?

**00:34:06.740 --> 00:34:07.260**

**Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** I'll go next.

**00:34:07.260 --> 00:34:08.760**

**Kailee Valliere- Military OneSource:** Yes! Oh oh.

**00:34:09.380 --> 00:34:10.480**

**Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** You want to go, Kaylee, go ahead.

**00:34:10.489 --> 00:34:11.499**

**Kailee Valliere- Military OneSource:** No, you can go to her.

**00:34:11.500 --> 00:34:37.489**

**Tori Jessop-Crowley, PM, BSF NE:** I'm Tori, program manager for Blue Star Families of New England, and just our little update. We are in the middle of our Peer to Peer Fundraiser, which is our snow campaign, just to bring back some more local funding here to our programs. What I have in the plans right now, I am expanding through the Hanscom area. I've had some families reach out. So, we're going to be hosting our first Coffee Connect up there. And, we are working in Westfield for our Month of the Military Child, as we know that's in April. So, we have a lot planning up there, and I'm again looking for collaboration for Military Spouse Appreciation for May, and some respite care. So, I will be reaching out to you, Nini, and then if you have anybody that wants to volunteer in those particular areas, please send them my way. I am a 2-person team, and I love collaborating with you all. Thank you.

**00:35:11.490 --> 00:35:30.899**

**Kailee Valliere- Military OneSource:** Okay, I guess we'll go next. So Hi, me again, Kaylee, from Military OneSource. So, my job as a State consultant is to really connect service members and their families to resources that's just going to make their lives a whole lot easier. I'm an 11-year Air Force veteran still actively

serving in the Air National Guard, and like holy smokes, like there's just a plethora of resources out for all of us, and it blows my mind now, being in this position, seeing what's available for our community. So, I'm here to help spread those, spread your resources, along with my own. So Military One Source, you know, it's a confidential service we offer non-medical counseling, financial advice, relocation assistance. It's really all tailored to your specific needs. I like to think of it as like a one-stop shop for really whatever you kind of need going on in your life right now. We're halfway through our mil tax season. So, what that means is that active duty, guard, reserve members, they can file their federal taxes for free up to three states regardless of what's going on, could be, you know, with deployments, relocation, PCSing, all that jazz. And, we do have tax experts on standby that can assist with doing that. Another program that we have coming through the grapevine is that here at Military One Source, I'm sure y'all learn, know as well, our Guard and Reserves are struggling with getting second time reenlistments because a big portion of that is childcare. So, we do have a really awesome childcare program coming up where eligible members will actually be able to negotiate the price of child caregivers throughout their states. So, that's all I have. But yeah, some pretty good stuff. And hopefully, next time I'll have even more fun things.

**00:37:08.280 --> 00:37:10.149**

**Christopher Feugill:** Welcome, Kailee, and thanks for sharing. Looking through and trying to see who has not spoken yet. Jack.

**00:37:30.260 --> 00:37:37.750**

**Jack Regan:** Hi, everyone, I'm Jack Regan at the Veterans Legal Clinic at Harvard Law School. I guess I can quickly report on three things without going into a lot of detail. We had a meeting, our quarterly meeting several weeks ago with EOVS. This is a meeting that involves the Harvard Veterans Legal Clinic, our colleagues at Veterans Legal Services, and an organization called Mass Law Reform Institute, which is an expert on benefits and entitlements generally, and this is something that this – these meetings were something that came about in connection with the HERO Act, that it was decided that we'd all work together to have that legislation, but that there was going to be a process after the legislation to draft regulations, to implement it, and then to get those commented on and promulgated. So, we've been involved in a very helpful quarterly exchange between the three nonprofits that are on the ground dealing with, we in veterans legal services, of course, deal directly with veteran clients, low income veteran clients, to have an exchange with EOVS about what we're seeing on the ground, and what they need to consider and take into account when they're drafting their regulations. Part of the process involves updating the very antiquated procedures under Chapter 115, and the appeals that happen if there's an initial denial of benefits under Chapter 115, and the hope is that through these meetings and this collaborative exchange of views that we'll end up with a better set of regulations implementing the HERO Act than we might have if EOVS is working in a vacuum. Second thing that I would quickly mention is that our colleagues at Boston College Law School reached out to us for us to become involved in a grant they received. So, it's an interesting grant. It has to do with how to best effectuate the passage of generational wealth in the African American community, where, as you know, there's been a big disparity, and we have a lawyer here, one lawyer who does estate planning for low income veterans. And so, she's been brought into the conversation to see in the veterans community for African American veterans those who might need assistance with simple wills and or wills and simple trusts in order to, for those who are homeowners, how to how to best effectuate transfer of homes upon death, because there has been apparently an issue with respect to that. Historically. So, this is up and going and it's going to be a 2 to 3 year process with a lot of community outreach and education. So, we'll see where that goes. And then, lastly, I would just say that, you know, we're roaring on here with our regular work. We have about 8 law students in the Veterans Clinic, and I'm pleased to say we have two wonderful army veterans, one a former Black Hawk helicopter pilot, the other a former Army Intelligence Officer, and we have a young woman who on graduation is going to become an Air Force JAG officer.

**00:41:35.380 --> 00:41:36.960**

**Christopher Feugill:** Excellent. Thank you, Jack. Okay, scanning through the room. Anyone else who has not spoken that wants to?

**00:41:47.770 --> 00:41:49.860**

**Leo:** I haven't spoken. I'm Leonard Hall. I am a clinical psychology student at William James. I'm part of the Train Vets to Treat Vets program. The safe storage of weapons training that's coming up this Friday is full. But, we do have a Impact of Trauma series – oh, wait, that's, I'm reading your thing! Okay, we have an Intersectional Issues and Wellbeing of Women Veterans discussion coming up on the 28th of March. It's 12 to 1. There is a CE credit for that. I'm gonna drop that in the chat. And we have clinical PsyD students and a variety of psychology and counseling students that are always looking for volunteer opportunities. You can contact Patricia Matlock for, if you have any volunteer opportunities that might be suitable, and drop that in the chat, too, and that's all I have.

**00:43:22.900 --> 00:43:23.830**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thank you. Leo. Okay, Darren.

**00:43:30.790 --> 00:43:31.480**

**DARREN BRADSHAW:** Hello!

**00:43:31.480 --> 00:43:32.980**

**Christopher Feugill:** Darren, how are you, Darren.

**00:43:32.980 --> 00:43:47.429**

**DARREN BRADSHAW:** Good. How are you? I came in late, so I missed my regular turn. So we have – Darren Bradshaw, MassHire Framingham, Veterans Employment Representative – we have a job fair coming up in Dedham on the 26th Wednesday, the 26th. I think it's from 10 to 1, but I've put the flyer in the chat box. It's labeled, MassHire Job Fair data – oh, look at that! Somebody changed it. Good job! Whoever did that? Oh, no, I said that, right below it says Community Job and Resource Fair. That's what it is. Okay. So that's all I have. So thank you.

**00:44:20.430 --> 00:44:22.709**

**Christopher Feugill:** I'll post that flyer up on the slack as well.

**00:44:22.900 --> 00:44:23.430**

**DARREN BRADSHAW:** Thank you.

**00:44:25.240 --> 00:44:29.470**

**Christopher Feugill:** Vivian, do you want to add anything for MassHire Downtown, for MassHire Boston?

**00:44:32.410 --> 00:44:45.919**

**Vivian.Rogers:** Yes. Hello. Good afternoon, everyone. As stated, I am MassHire ABCD Boston. We just opened our new location the 18th of February. So, it's in the heart of the city you could say, but I still interact and connect with other MassHire sites, and I'm doing outreach within the community, and it seems like everybody knows we're there. So, we're getting busy, and we do have some events coming up, and they are on the mass.gov, MassHire website. And, that's all I have.

**00:45:16.300 --> 00:45:17.300**

**Christopher Feugill:** Thank you, Vivian.



**00:45:17.550 --> 00:45:18.859**

**Vivian.Rogers:** You're welcome.

**00:45:20.330 --> 00:45:22.269**

**Christopher Feugill:** Okay. Anyone else. Liam.

**00:45:23.850 --> 00:45:32.221**

**Liam Gale:** Hi, everyone. For those who I don't know, my name is Liam, and I run the Student Veteran Success program at MIT. I have a couple of requests and just some updates. So, we are in the process of updating our veteran memorial at MIT. It's currently in Lobby 10. But, it only covers World War 2 through the Vietnam War and I am in the process of researching ways to update this in a sense of bringing it up to speed with the times, if you will. So, there are digital displays that I'm looking into over in our ROTC building. So, trying to make it a more formal veterans memorial. So, if anyone has any experience kind of in this, I guess, world, any feedback or input is helpful as we're kind of planning this out with ROTC. Last year we kicked off the very first PGA Hope Student Veteran Golf Clinic. BC, Harvard, Northeastern, and MIT students attended. This year, it has expanded. I've reached out to about 14 schools in Eastern Massachusetts, and I only say Eastern, because we're limited to I guess, the location. So this year will be in, Brookline Golf Course. But if anyone has student veterans in their network or in their families or in their circles, just please send them my way so I can get in touch with them and see if this is something they'd like to participate in. Like I said, I've got about 14 schools right now that are interested and I think this is a great opportunity to get student vets out of the classroom and just socialize and just have some fun and and be a normal, you know, regular person for a couple of hours, and – my dog is protecting me. And finally, if there are folks out there that have contacts for veteran military employee resource groups at you know, any company organization I would like to get in touch with them. I am in the process of building out some workshops that, to bring some ERGs to MIT to talk to some of our students that are thinking about entrepreneurship, or you know their next chapter, if you will, after school. So, I have taken down the names of Kailee, Tori, and I think it's Daniel at the VBOC. So, this is helpful to have you in this chat. So, if there are any thoughts about that as well, please send them my way, as we're trying to really focus on the career and professional professional development side for our students. I appreciate it. Thanks.

**00:48:18.510 --> 00:48:25.209**

**David Hencke:** Hey, Liam, you're, that lobby you're talking, that memorial you're talking about there's Lobby 7, is the big dome right? And then, yeah, it's lobby. Yeah. Lobby 10 is right in the middle, the infinite mile, and it's.

**00:48:32.036 --> 00:48:37.919**

**Liam Gale:** As you can imagine trying to get that updated. It's, there's a lot of red tape. So.

**00:48:37.920 --> 00:48:41.729**

**David Hencke:** Marble walls with inscription, it's really impressive. Yeah, I've seen it.

**00:48:41.730 --> 00:48:46.139**

**Liam Gale:** Yeah, trying to make it more accessible, but also potentially mobile. So, we can move it from ROTC. This is kind of a starting point. So, we're in the early stages.

**00:48:55.430 --> 00:49:02.650**

**David Hencke:** Okay, I got a couple ideas for you for some of the affiliations MIT folks. So anyway, I'll connect with you outside.

00:49:02.650 --> 00:49:03.270

Liam Gale: Thanks.

00:49:14.810 --> 00:49:17.649

Christopher Feugill: Okay, Rachel, did you have something else?

00:49:18.660 --> 00:49:37.290

**Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative:** Sure. So, for those who are new. I'll give a little overview of some of our resources so that you can kind of navigate our website and find what information you need. For those who don't know me, I'm the co-founder for the Veterans Collaborative. We've been meeting now for just over 10 years. We're all volunteers, and around half of the service providers who've come through the network and engage with us are also veterans. So, we definitely try to connect folks, but we don't provide direct services to veterans other than kind of supporting them in their work with the veteran community. We also have – it's like 3 different websites that I'll show to you. So, I'll put the link in the chat as I go through. But, basically our vision is for the military and veteran community to be served by a connected and supportive network of organizations working together to enrich their lives. So, we focus on encouraging community, building strategic coalition, and fostering a data driven understanding of the needs of the veteran community here in Massachusetts. I'm currently in DC representing the collaborative as part of the Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families Community of Practice, which is a mouthful. But, it is a collective learning network, focused on sharing insights and best practices among service provider networks across the country. So, we'll get started tonight, but we do have a reception tomorrow night where we'll be interacting with congressional staffers. So, feel free to let us know if there's anything you think we should have to bring up in conversations. We can try to do that. I want to share my screen here so that I can let you kind of see what we have going on. For those who have heard it mentioned – we do have a slack that we share. So, if you go to [collaborate.vet/slack](https://collaborate.vet/slack), you'll find this, and you can, if you're already a member, you can click to “log on.” Otherwise, you can “sign up” for the slack, and that will get you set up so you can communicate with folks in between different meetings and share flyers and different things like that. We do, on our website, also have regional pages. I pulled up Central Mass because I had somebody say they were in central mass, but we have a lot of different regions represented. On all the pages you'll find links to basically – census data, if you follow these numbers, you'll find different events happening just in that region. And, if you submit an event to the calendar and tag it say #central, or whichever area it's in, it'll automatically show up at the top of these regional pages. And, there's a link to submit the events there. There's also just an overview of kind of the resources that are in the area, the different outreach centers and their events, VA-accredited representatives. They're not loading on my wifi right now, but we have a lot of different services available and kind of organized in a way that makes it easy to find. And then, we do have some data from different sources that are available. So, you can kind of browse through that. If this is, you know, one of these are your areas where you operate. And then, we have different resource pages under the resources tab that pull together information in a different way, where it's based on the topic area. So, on our Health page, for example, you'll find health-focused events, the kind of dental clinics that are going on where – one thing we hear about is, veterans have limited access to dental care. So, we have just different things that make it easy for folks to understand, you know what services are available there in general, and what other resources are offered, and kind of how to sign up. So, if you have, you know something that you think should be on on these pages, you can always reach out to us, and we can update those pretty easily. In terms of our calendar, we have a shared calendar page. If you go to [MA.vet](https://MA.vet), you'll show up at this page on our website. And, this is where you can kind of access things broken down – if you just want to see what events are happening in the different issue areas. And then, [RISEUP.vet](https://RISEUP.vet) is just, if you're you don't want to load all those events on one page. It's kind of sorted out in a different way, and you can easily submit an event right from that. So, that is all available to everyone in the network. And, if anybody has any questions about like how to use that, or if you're just kind of seeing this for the first time, you can definitely let me know, and I can give you some instructions – right now, or you can reach out to me at [info@collaboratevet](mailto:info@collaboratevet). But, I will share just so that

you have it in the chat, the link to submit events. And, just remember those tags – they basically put it on the appropriate page on the website without anyone having to do anything. But, if you didn't tag it or you have questions, you have any issues with it, you can always let us know, and we can edit the events that you submit to the calendar. Any questions? No? All right. And, if you're an organization that has recurring events that are in there – definitely let us know, too, because we can always update those so we don't end up, you know, with kind of zombie events that aren't happening anymore. But, we do try to periodically go through and review those and make sure that they're all still current with the food pantries and things like that. And, that's all I had, Chris. I don't know if you're still there.

**00:55:10.400 --> 00:55:13.042**

**Christopher Feugill:** I am. Thanks. I was uploading a, one of the Darren's flyers up and on slack, so.

**00:55:21.980 --> 00:55:25.260**

**Rachel McNeill, Veterans Collaborative:** I did see, Mary hopped on, in case she has an update. Mary Finnegan.

**00:55:31.420 --> 00:55:32.220**

**Christopher Feugill:** Mary.

**00:55:37.370 --> 00:55:42.489**

**Mary Finnegan, RN:** Nope, I'm good, just joining and catching up. Thank you.

**00:55:47.290 --> 00:55:51.760**

**Christopher Feugill:** Anyone else? Great to see everyone. We meet monthly, the 1st Wednesday of every month, 3:30. So, keep up on slack and keep, stay connected and see you next month.

**00:56:13.120 --> 00:56:13.910**

**Anthony Langone (OVA):** Bye, everyone.