

NFSG Veteran Wellness Coalition

Minutes from the May 1, 2024 Meeting at the American Legion, Lake Ella, Tallahassee

Present: Nicole Dempsey, Nancy O'Farrell, Grant Kimball, Brian Sims (via TEAMS virtual), Stephen Passetti, Rodney Keener, Keisha Washington, Jane Driber, Rodney Keener, Randy Soule, Berline Belizaire, Sarah Parker-Pike, Maria Medina-Nigaglioni, Eddie McMillian, Debbie Mann, Doyle Combs, Washington Sanchez, Ed Hood

Meeting began at 11:20

Chair: Nicole Dempsey

Nicole asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Minutes were approved. She welcomed everyone and we went around the room and introduced ourselves.

Due to space issues and previous meeting activity, Nicole proposed we meet at 11:30 am in the larger space, at the next meeting.

Nancy O'Farrell gave a brief summary of the Stand Down Veterans meeting. She has been attending the planning meetings and identified that several Veteran Service Organizations will have a table. Since we are in process of identifying logo and goals/missions, suggested to group that we aim to have materials for the following years Stand Down 2025.

Special guest Brian Sims from Project Rebirth was present via Teams to help with the organization and development of the NFSG Veteran Wellness Coalition. Project Rebirth trains vets to work with vets in need to navigate the Veterans Administration and connect them with resources. Brian is a vet at Post 19 in Orlando. Here are some points he covered:

- certification process
- definition of recovery
- online website to easily update information and reduce printing costs
- business card with website and qr code of website
- homeless peer support group is included

Nicole asked how to recruit volunteers, and Brian said the volunteers will decide goals. Someone suggested Substack platform to create the website and agreed to work on that.

Nicole suggested two subcommittees:

1. The first committee would be the peer support to help vets coming out of the hospital. After this meeting, she and some of the attenders planned to go to the hospital to meet with administrators to coordinate that effort.
2. The second committee would focus on building a website of resources.

Nicole asked group for show of hands of who wants to join one of the two subcommittees. List of members of each subcommittee to follow.

The next meeting is June 5, 2024, at 11:30am at the American Legion Lake Ella.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

Minutes by Jane Driber