Veterans' Healthy Minds Advisory Council – South Texas
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Working with; Audie Murphy VA Hospital, San Antonio TX
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VHMAC-ST Meeting Minutes (16 Nov 2022)

I. Call to Order

Council Chair Dr. David A. La Pointe called to order the regular meeting of the Veterans' Healthy Minds Advisory Council South Texas, at 1104 on 16 Nov 2022, at the Polytrauma Clinic, VA Hospital, 7400 Merton Minter, SATX 78229 and via Zoom video/tele-conference.

Dr. La Pointe called the council to order at 1115.

Roll-Call Chair called role: Present or Excused: Angie Bukowski, Becki Williams, Dr. Betsy Davis, Carlos Acosta, Dr. David La Pointe, Edsel Thomas, Fred Thomas, John Nelson, Karah Smith, Kevin Crozier, Larissa Martinez, Laura Knoll, Leah Smith, Michael Carrion, Priscilla Cerbin-Cantu, Dr. Scott Rheinschmidt, Dr. Shirley Johnson, Troy McGrath, **GUEST – Dr. Jessica Stinson.**

Not Present: Amanda Jenkins, Jose Michael Gonzales, LaKeisha Howard, Leah Whitmire, Monica Garcia.

Secretary: Vacant – Dr. La Pointe noted that the position is still open and that we need someone to fill the role ASAP. **(OPEN)**

II. Membership Updates: New Members: Dr. Shirley E. Johnson.

We have 23 members, 20 voting members, 3 non-voting members (from VA staff), 17 veterans, 8 community partners, 5 remaining original members of the council (Dr. Davis, Dr. La Pointe, Karah Smith, Kevin Crozier, Carlos Acosta), 15 inactive members (those who want to remain connected to the council but cannot attend meetings). **(OPEN)**

Current address listing for the month will be attached to minutes. Please review and make sure to check your information and ensure it is accurate.
PLEASE forward an appropriate head shot to be posted on our website next you/your names. THANK YOU to those who have already provided but there are still too many missing!

III. Approval/Review of Previous Minutes/Current Agenda

Dr. La Pointe motioned to accept previous meeting minutes from October as published. Motion seconded by Ed Thomas and agreed to by all.

GUEST SPEAKER – Suzanne M. McEndree, MSW, LCSW, Social Worker, Intimate Partner Program Coordinator, South Texas Veterans health care System, 210-993-3575 (cell).

Ms. McEndree presented a thorough history/overview of the Intimate Partner Violence Program. In 2012 a task force was formed to look at services for domestic violence and intimate partner violence and they created

a plan for implementation. In 2018 funding was approved for a full-time IPV position. Ms. McEndree is the only person in the division of IPV. She described the roles of her position. She stated the mission of the program as "to have a comprehensive person-centered recovery-oriented assistance program for veterans, their family members, caregivers, and VA employees who experience intimate partner violence. (A link for Ms. McKendree's complete recording will be sent out for review).
Websites:

VA Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program

https://www.socialwork.va.gov/IPV/Index.asp

National Domestic Violence Hotline

Domestic Violence Support | The National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org)

1-800-799-7233 24/7 hotline

Intimate Partner Violence - PTSD: National Center for PTSD (va.gov)

Welcome to Strength at Home - Strength At Home

Ms. McEndree reviewed the "screening process" and that variety of ways to take advantage of the program. She highlighted the personnel issues vs. the needs requirements and has asked for increased staffing to meet those needs. With that in mind, and the councils concern of the lose of male IPV classes, these will be considered if/when the possibility of reengaging these classes at a later date.

IV. Old Business

VHMACST Veteran Resilience and Recovery Operation/ Collaborative. Dr. Davis – There are a lot of events at Endeavors focusing on marriage, families, and budgeting. These flyers were provided to council members through email earlier this month. She discussed many of the community partner events concerning the upcoming holidays and has provided those items as well in her email covering the notes from the Collaborative. She briefed on the "Promises" Program, and a Community Level Suicide Risk Assessment. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST – VA Mental Health National Call – Dr. Davis reported the national council call this month focused on sharing information about different outreach events among organization across the country. She also said they had discussions about the "Resource Listings" we are already working on here in locally. There was a discussion about nametags, shirts, items identifying council members and getting the awareness out about who/what these council are. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST – VA Mental Health Executive Team – Has change its focus, and a Dr. Davis is participating in a new council **(Community in Practice).** They concentrate on problem solving and working on initiatives coming down from the VA. She thinks there are a lot of opportunities to provide input for future programs. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST – Strategic Planning Sub-Committee – We need a non-VA council member to volunteer and take over as the committee Chair. This person would be working with other council members and Dr. Davis to move forward on initiatives discussed in earlier meeting about VHMACST Strategic Planning. If you are interested, please let an officer know ASAP. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST-- Women Veterans Sub-Committee. We will send out a ballot with a variety of items to include the choice: Do we need to continue this sub-committee? If so, we need a volunteer to take over as Chair. Interested persons – please contact one of the officers ASAP. **(OPEN)**

UNACCOMPANIED BURIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE – There was no service this month. **(OPEN)**

WEBSITE/COMMUNICATIONS – Kevin Crosier was at a City Council Meeting but did provide us with the updated website information. We currently stand at 555,811 hits on the site. On his Communications efforts, Kevin also attended several outreach events where he spoke about our council and gave out a large amount of council cards, brochures, and veteran "Thank You" cards. **(OPEN)**

V. New Business

- Dr. Davis provided the link for the "STAR – Tools for Healing" DVD. It contains "Tools to Aid and Restore". The disc itself is no longer in production but the link has all the information about the program. **(CLOSED)**
- Dr. Davis provided new/updated handouts on South Texas Veterans Health Care System and Same Day Mental Health Services. **(CLOSED)**
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VHMACST— Outreach Events:

- **San Antonio Spur's Mental Health Awareness Night** – February 2023
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VHMACST— Events/Training:

- **Cohen Clinic Community Meeting,** 1st Friday/month, 0830, link sent to your email.
- **National VMHC Online Conference,** 4-11 & 12 – 2023, 1000-1300 both days. Dr. Davis will provide more information.
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VHMACST— Resource Guide – Is currently being published on the website. The guide committee met several times and has combined information that was provided to us, and Kevin will post as he receives it from us. It will come in sections but – it will be done. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST— Other/Miscellaneous;

- **No input**

VI. Next Meeting - 15 Dec 2022, 1100, location, agenda and zoom-link will be provided later.
GUEST SPEAKER: **None at this time – please send ideas if you have any!**

VI. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 1209.

VII. End of Minutes
Minutes submitted/reviewed/approved by Council Chair, Dr. David A. La Pointe.

VHMACST			
Date 11/15/22			
** TOPIC **			
VOTING MEMBERS			
NAME			
Amanda Jenkins			
Angie Bukowski			
Becki Williams			
Carlos Acosta			
Dr. David A. La Pointe			
Edsel Thomas			
Fred Thomas			
John Nelson			
Jose Michael Gonzales			
Karah Smith			
Kevin Crozier			
Larissa Martinez			
Laura Knoll			
Leah Whitmire			
Michael Carrion			
Monica Garcia			
Priscilla Cerbin-Cantu			
Dr. Scott Rheinschmidt			
Dr. Shirley Johnson			
Troy McGrath			
NON- Voting Members			
Dr. Betsy Davis			
LaKeisha Howard			
Leah Smith			