

Veterans' Healthy Minds Advisory Council – South Texas
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VHMACST Meeting Minutes 19 January 2023

I. Call To Order

Council Chair Dr. Dave La Pointe called to order the regular meeting of the Veterans Healthy Minds Advisory Council South Texas on 19 January 2023 at 1300, via Zoom & in person at AACOG.

Council Chair Dr. Dave La Pointe called council roll.

Roll-Call Chair called role: Present or Excused: Angie Bukowski, Becki Williams, Dr. Betsy Davis, Carlos Acosta, Dr. David La Pointe, Fred Thomas, John Nelson, Kevin Crozier, Larissa Martinez, Laura Knoll, Leah Smith, Michael Carrion, Priscilla Bell, Dr. Scott Rheinschmidt, Dr. Shirley Johnson.

Not Present: Amanda Jenkins, Edsel Thomas, Karah Smith, Kristie Steinmeier, LaKeisha Howard, Leah Whitmire, Troy McGrath.

II. Approval/Review of Previous Minutes/Current Agenda

Council Chair, Dr. Dave La Pointe motioned to accept previous meeting minutes (November 2022). Council member Kevin Crozier seconded. Minutes were approved and adopted by the council members with unanimous vote.

First Things First: Council Chair Dr. Dave La Pointe wanted to make sure everyone had cards and name tags.

III. Old Business

Veterans Resilience and Recovery Collaborative– Dr. Betsy Davis (Local Recovery Coordinator at South Texas VA and Staff Lesion for the Council). Had to cancel resilience and recovery collaborative meeting and there was not a lot from the executive team meeting (now called Mental Health Community of Practice Meeting). She was able to get officers from the council (Dave and Larissa) on Mental Health of Community Practice meeting in an ongoing way as standing members. This is an internal VA meeting that about program managers and coordinators that talk about VA changes, strategic planning, problem solving when issues come up. She is excited for the Council's role to be able to give that Veteran perspective, be able to share based on experiences, and receive care which is a critical piece. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST– Dr. David La Pointe discussed active and inactive members. The National Council has an end of the year report that is due, gives feedback on what has gone on throughout the year, and the people that have been involved in the outreach programs. If you have done anything, in addition to any scheduled events, make sure to inform him so it can be included. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST Subcommittees: Woman Veterans Subcommittee/Outreach Subcommittee; Dr. David La Pointe stated there has not been a chair for a month and no one has volunteered. He is concerned these committees will dissolve and if when/if need to figure out how to get these committees back up and running. Not as many as people are helping but are getting a lot of people in programs. We need people to help out and start volunteering in these roles. These committees will be dissolved and reinstated in needed in the future. **(CLOSED)**

VHMACST Strategic Planning Committee– Dr. David La Pointe reported we wanted to start a Strategic Planning Committee but can't depend on VA staff to do these things. They can't serve in these kinds of roles, we need participation, we need your help. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST Secretary Dr. David La Pointe reports we are still in a need of a secretary. Everything is mostly set up by him, just needing someone to type the minutes. Zoom meetings are recorded and can be played back. He is hoping someone will volunteer as we need to start spreading the efforts amongst the council. There are 6 people who are mostly involved and showing up for events/outreach. One day a month for an hour meeting is nice and appreciated but is not what we need. We are needing more involvement from other council members. If you have ideas on how to get more people involved, we are interested to hear your thoughts/input. Kevin Crozier nominated Becki Williams for secretary, she will think about it, and follow up with Dr. Dave La Pointe. If anyone else would like to nominate anyone we can call and ask them. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST Website Kevin Crozier discussed adding pictures to the website for the Unaccompanied Burial Memorial Service outreach on 18 January 2023. Total web count as of 18 January 2023 is 559,660, an increase of 1,300 from last month. There is 1 set of numbers he needs to relook into for the VA information from last year, he believes the counter was inaccurate, hit count should be going up. Also, added as of 17 January 2023 there has been a change in coverage for Veterans in a suicidal crisis. He has added information to website, blog, and Facebook. **(OPEN)**

Dr. Betsy Davis provided the following information:

- “COMPACT ACT overview: Starting this month, VA will provide, pay for, or reimburse the cost of eligible Veterans’ emergent suicide care and treatment at a VA, or non-VA facility – including ambulance transportation costs, inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for no more than 90 days, including social work.”
- “COMPACT-eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:• Former members of the armed forces who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.• Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an

unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. • Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.”

Kevin reports he will be attending the Elizabeth Dole Hidden Heroes Zoom Meeting, will not be an annual thank you luncheon for military caregivers, will be a 2-day event, and will be having breakout sessions. He will be updating this to the website as well as information regarding Got Your 6 Summit. He updates the websites as soon as he is given new information. At the Martin Luther King Parade, he made contact with the new command staff at the Woman Veterans of San Antonio. He is hoping they will provide more information on what they are about and outreach programs.

Website: <https://veteranshealthymindsadvisorycouncilsouthtexas.com/home/> FB page

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VHMACST/?ref=br_rs

IV. New Business

VHMACST Guest Speaker– Dr. Dave La Pointe stated the gentleman who runs Fort Sam made a 6-7 minute speech before the service on 18 January 2023, was very interesting that 227,000 veterans have been interned at Fort Sam, adding there are approximately 20 new Veterans interned each week. Fort Sam in one of the largest military cemeteries in the country. Dr. Dave La Pointe is hoping to have him as a guest speaker in March. His speech was remarkably interesting, insightful, and had a lot of good information. Additionally, we will concentrate on getting caregivers, providers, and different clinic representatives for our guest speakers. **(OPEN)**

VHMACST PowerPoint– Dr. Dave La Pointe shared a PowerPoint:

- Listed current members & pictures of themselves with past and present roles
- Listed events, outreach, training, and miscellaneous events with pictures **(CLOSED)**

VHMACST Outreach– Dr. Dave La Pointe discussed an outreach Castroville, they are no close VA outreaches there, they were excited to see our table, they had no idea something like the VHMACST even existed.

VHMACST Ballot Results– Dr. Dave La Pointe discussed results:
Results will be attached to these minutes. **(CLOSED)**

VHMACST Possible Conversion to A Non-Profit Organization–

Discussions were presented by Fred Thomas and Dr. Betsy Davis concerning the advantages and possible disadvantages of the Council converting to a non-profit organization. In depth information will be provided and the council will vote on this initiative in an upcoming Council meeting. **(OPEN)**

2023 Spur's Mental Health Awareness Night – Saturday, 28 Jan 2023– Dr. Dave La Pointe has received 10 tickets for the event for having a table. We do have a reserved seating area together. After we attend our Outreach Table activities we will be able to enjoy the game together! Updated email with specifics is already in your email. **(OPEN)**

V. Next Meeting 16 February 1300

VI. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 1412

VII: End of Minutes

Minutes Submitted by Priscilla Bell

Minutes will be reviewed/approved by Council Chair, Dr. David La Pointe