

Veterans' Healthy Minds Advisory Council – South Texas

Thursday April 25, 2019, 11am
Audie Murphy VA Hospital – D001

- I. **Attendees** (*by phone):
 - a. **Members:** Wil Seda, Gingerlei Seda, Kara Smith (Wounded Warrior), Kevin Crozier (DAV), Lisa Firmin (UTSA), Michael O'Connell, Angela Sobery, Andrea Strong* (Endeavors), Carlos Acosta*, Elizabeth Talamantez*
 - b. **VA Staff:** Betsy Davis (LRC), Austin Lawler*, Michael Collins (Enrollment/Eligibility)

- II. **Dr. Nicole Braida** – Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health
 - a. Dr. Braida had hoped to join us this meeting to introduce herself, but was not able to attend. She plans to attend in May.

- III. **Finalize bylaws & vote**
 - a. The majority of the meeting was spent going through each section of the Council Bylaws and making final recommendations for additions and changes.
 - b. Dr. Davis will finalize this document and attach with minutes.
 - c. Michael O'Connell motioned to approve these bylaws as discussed. Lisa Firmin seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

- IV. **Office nominations**
 - a. The following nominations were made:
 - i. Chair: Keshia Delasbour & Michael Carrion
 - ii. Co-Chair: Michael O'Connell & Gingerlei Seda
 - iii. Secretary: Elizabeth Talamantez
 - b. Nominations will remain open until the May meeting. Nominees are encouraged to submit a brief statement to Dr. Davis in support of their election to Office by May 16, which will be disseminated by email prior to the next meeting. At the May meeting, nominees will have a brief period of question/answer, followed by voting for each Office.

- V. **Other business**
 - a. Discussion also included a recommendation for a future meeting to include a training on responding effectively to individuals in crisis, including those expressing suicidal thoughts. Dr. Davis discussed using the Veterans Crisis Line as a resource (can call with or on behalf of someone) and agreed to arrange a training for more information in the near future.

- VI. **Next meeting**
 - a. Thursday, May 23 at 11am in the same room, Audie Murphy hospital room D001.
 - i. Conference line: 1-800-767-1750 code 35149#
 - b. The group agreed to tentatively plan for the same monthly time and location (4th Thursday at 11am at Audie Murphy D001) for the near future.