

Advisory Council Introductory Meeting Summary
January 29, 2024
2pm – 3pm

Roster – 1/29/24

Name	Organization	Available
Ann Annis, PhD, RN^	MSU College of Nursing	Y
Brad Blanchard	Great Lakes Bay Veterans Coalition	Y
Christina Blaschke-Thompson, LMSW	MSU School of Social Work	n/a
Kevin Bohnsack, MD*	Trinity Health Michigan, MI Air National Guard	n/a
Marcia Ditmyer, PhD, MBA, MS	SVSU College of Health and Human Services	Y
Craig Donahue	Michigan Health Council	Y
Mathew J. Edick, PhD	Michigan Public Health Institute	Y
Ryan Engle*	MDMVA Michigan Veteran Homes	n/a
Erica Farr^	MSU College of Human Medicine	Y
Patrick Forystek*	MSU Student Veterans Resource Center	Y
Eric B. Fretz, PhD*	Veterans Community Action Team, Region 9, UM College of Literature, Science, and the Arts	Y
Kai N. Gritter, MSHE	MSU Extension	Y
Ariel Hawthorne, MPH^	MSU Institute for Health Policy	Y
Joan Ilardo, PhD, LMSW^	MSU CHM Department of Family Medicine & Institute for Health Policy	Y
Christopher Imler*	MSU Extension	Y
Michelle Kees, PhD	UM College of Literature, Science, and the Arts	n/a
Jeff Kullgren, MS, MD MPH	Center for Clinical Management Research, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System	n/a
Adam LaVigne*	MI National Guard	n/a
Tammy Lemmer	MDHHS Bureau of Aging, Community Living & Supports	Y
Frank Lombard, BSW, MSW, US Army Infantry*	Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress, Region 1 VCAT	Y
Steve McCartney*	MDMVA Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency	Y
Emily Norrix	MDHHS Oral Health Program	Y
Heather Nystrom, LMSW, MBA*	MI Army National Guard	Y
Kathleen Oberst, RN, PhD^	MSU Institute for Health Policy	Y
Dawn S. Opel, JD, PhD	Food Bank Council of Michigan	n/a
Brian Pegouske*	VA Battle Creek Medical Center	Y
Abraham Poston*	VA	Y
Shaun Raleigh, MBA	Molina Healthcare	Y
Melissa Riba	Center for Health Research and Transformation (CHRT), UM	n/a
Anne Sales, PhD, RN, FAAN	Center for Clinical Management Research, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System; University of Missouri, Columbia, MO	n/a
Dave Schneider, MPA	Health Management Associates	n/a

Name	Organization	Available
Beth I. Sieloff, MPH, E-RYT, CMSgt, USAF (Ret) *	Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan	n/a
Dean Sienko, MD, MS*^	MSU Institute for Health Policy	Y
Inetta Smith, MSA	NovaCare Rehabilitation, Lansing Area Veterans Coalition (Region 7)	Y
Kayla Smith	MDHHS Bureau of Aging, Community Living & Supports	Y
Glen Stutzky, LMSW	MSU School of Social Work	Y
Ellen Sugrue Hyman	MI Oral Health Coalition	Y
Emre Umucu, PhD	The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)	n/a
Brandy Walkington*	MDMVA Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency	n/a
Brian Webb, MDIV*	MDHHS Bureau of Specialty Behavioral Health Services	Y
Gayle Witham, LMSW, ACM, BCD	VA Battle Creek Medical Center	Y

*Active/Retired/Veteran Status

^Administrative Core Team

1. Welcome and introductions

Participants provided brief introductions of themselves. The full roster of current Advisory Council members is shared above to facilitate determination of organizations not yet included.

2. Brief Administrative Updates

The domain name www.vhwc.msu.edu has been purchased. Staff turnover has caused a delay in activating the website. Once active, *MailChimp* will be used to manage public interest and participation. This will allow individuals to opt-in and opt-out of notifications at their preference.

3. Collaborative Road Map

Originating intent – sum would be greater than parts and there is strength in numbers. System changes require a group with influence that can share a common message with a louder voice.

- A brief description and reminder of the Advisory Council and four functional areas was provided. The role of the Advisory Council is not necessarily to implement specific projects but rather to identify priorities and suggest projects and activities. The four functional areas represent the level at which projects are carried out by individuals sharing that interest. The functional areas are: community engagement, education and training, advocacy, and research and evaluation. Advisory Council members may participate with specific projects as interest dictates and would be asked to help recruit others in their respective networks to project teams. Functional areas may evolve on their own timelines.
 - A suggestion was made to develop descriptions for what the functional areas will want to focus on. This could be operationalized at the inception of each area and would provide clarity for the various levels. Individual projects could further document the role(s) of participants along with the specific goals.
- The admin team suggested revisiting the Collaborative framework to enhance sharing of individual objectives and goals to better inform future Collaborative mission and vision statements and future activities. Several overarching questions, “why are we here” and “what can we do together for the common good” were offered as a springboard for discussion.

- Participants discussed the difficulty in putting together a collaborative in the face of many unknowns. Selected knowledge gaps currently include a full description of everyone working in this space, the goals/objectives of each organization, how they currently operate individually/collaboratively with others, and what obstacles they encounter as examples. Several existing state plan resources were shared and links are available in the appendix:
 - Healthy aging - not veteran specific
 - Preventing and reducing trauma (ACE) – not veteran specific
 - MDHHS Social Determinants of Health – not veteran specific
 - Veteran Navigator strategic plan is forthcoming – veteran specific with goal of zero suicides
- Data limitations were acknowledged with one major obstacle being the ability to identify everyone having military service. The language used to inquire about military service can impact self-disclosure. Some programs report activity based on engagement with services and are unable to quantify the potential population that would/should be participating. A suggestion to investigate potential for data modernization was offered as a future activity. Potential data sources to investigate include:
 - HMIS Network (homelessness)
 - 211/988 resource connections
- Members offered suggestions for organizations that should be approached for Collaborative partnership. The admin team requested a warm hand-off email for those with contacts at these and other entities. An updated concept paper is attached in the Appendix should you care to share it.
 - Additional university partners (CMU, EMU, WSU, etc.)
 - MI Dept of Corrections/Law enforcement
 - First responders
 - Additional health systems
 - Tribal organizations
 - Faith-based organizations
- A recommendation to **conduct an environmental scan and gap analysis** was made to document these aspects more completely with the hope of eliminating duplication. This would be brought back to the group to collectively decide upon what to build and support. Suggested elements of the scan for target participants/organizations include (but not limited to):
 - Existing state plan(s) and distinction of veterans as target cohort
 - Measurable objectives
 - Existing data availability/summaries
 - Regional or statewide focus
 - Desired end-states

4. Wrap up

Suicide prevention is a consistent theme across efforts of current participants. One early activity could include analyses of MI death certificate data across several decades to provide some descriptive statistics. There are known limitations to death certificate data however presenting these findings to the Advisory Council could inform different types of projects across a variety of functional areas. This activity could occur along with the environmental scan efforts. Those who are

interested in participating on a data analytic workgroup should contact Kathleen Oberst at oberstka@msu.edu as we draft a scope of work and application to MI Vital Records.

5. Action Item Tracking

Action Items					
#	Assigned Date	Description	Responsibility	Target Date	Completed Date
1.	1/29/24	Pass along strategic plan documents from individual organizations for inclusion to environmental scan.	All	2/28/24	
2.	1/29/24	Review roster and provide suggestions for organizations that should be contacted for participation.	All	2/16/24	
3.	1/29/24	Email Kathleen (oberstka@msu.edu) if interested in participating on the death certificate data analysis project	All	2/16/24	
4.	11/2023	Revisit mission statement development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define stakeholders 	All	Deferred	
5.	11/2023	Review organizational structure	All	Deferred	
6.	11/2023	Review charter	All	Deferred	
7.	11/2023	Recruit individuals for core area committees	All	Deferred	

Please provide feedback on the meeting so we can continuously improve. A survey link is available at:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cPc3clqHgLNwNRc

Appendix: Resource Links

Strategic Plans

- State Plan on Aging for Fiscal Years 2024-2026- <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/adults-and-seniors/behavioral-and-physical-health-and-aging-services/plan-on-aging>
- 2022-2024 Social Determinants of Health Strategy- <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/legislationpolicy/2022-2024-social-determinants-of-health-strategy>
- Michigan ACEs State Action Plan- <https://www.miace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Michigan-ACEs-State-Action-Plan-2023-Official.pdf>

Data Sources

- Statistics on Veterans and Substance Abuse- <https://veteranaddiction.org/resources/veteran-statistics/>
- Veteran Homelessness in the US Statistics & Facts- <https://www.statista.com/topics/3450/veterans-in-the-united-states/#topicOverview>
- AIDPH- The Oral Health of Veterans Living in Michigan (data one pager)-https://aidph.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/State-Profile_MichiganFF.pdf
- Wayne State, Phoenix: Population Health Outcomes Information Exchange- <https://phoenix.wayne.edu>

Organizations

- Make the Connection: Connect with Stories of Help and Hope- <https://www.maketheconnection.net>
- Team RWB: America's leading health and wellness community for Veterans- <https://teamrwb.org>
- WINC: For All Women Veterans- <https://wincforall.com/about-us>

Concept Paper:



2024_Veteran
Health_Wellness Coll: