1. Call to order 2:00pm

- a. Welcome
- b. Attendance
- c. Review of Agenda
- d. Review of meeting minutes
 Motion to approve: Shawnell Willer 2nd: Diana Hall
- e. Next meeting: October 22nd 2020 @ 2:00pm

2. Purpose of Committee Statement- Lonnie Wangen

a. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the efforts and data provided by the ND VA homeless program with the goal of receiving support to move forward in the process of declaring functional zero for Veteran homelessness in the state of N.D. This would mean that the committee is in agreement that ND has established an effective housing crisis response system for Veterans.

3. Welcome new committee members:

- Chandler Esslinger, Statewide Programs Director CAP ND
- Cody Schuler, Executive Director FM Homeless Coalition
- Pat Gulbranson, Chief Executive Director of Family Health Care
- Mark Johnson, Administrator at the Lisbon Veteran's Home

4. Coordinated Entry Updates - Samantha Navratil

- VA met with ND Association of County and Tribal Veteran Officers
- b. VA and SSVF have developed a monthly meeting
- c. VA participates in quarterly COC (continuum of care) meetings. Contact Shawnell Willer for information on the COC 701-328-8043

5. Purpose of Committee – Samantha Navratil

- Committee members to understand USICH goals to end
 Veteran homelessness
- b. Give feedback on VA data presented
- c. Support VA in moving forward with submitting data to declare functional zero

"Functional Zero" – Presentation of goals (See power point) - Samantha Navratil and Diana Hall

- a. Is the community able to identify all Veterans experiencing homelessness? Yes.
- b. Is your community able to provide shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing homelessness? Yes.
- c. Does your community have the capacity to assist Veterans to move into permanent housing in 90 days or less? Yes.
- d. Does the community have sufficient permanent housing? Yes.
- e. Are Veterans offered transitional housing only in limited instances? Yes.



- f. Has your community ended all chronic homelessness among Veterans? Yes.
- g. Does your community have the resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future? Yes.

7. Vote of Support

- a. Unanimous vote in support VA in moving forward with submitting functional zero data to the United States Interagency Counsel on Homelessness (USICH) review board.
- b. Feedback from USICH on data submitted will be reviewed at the 3rd ND Committee to End Veteran Homelessness meeting.

8. Questions and information sharing:

- Q: How is the availability of resources in rural areas of the state compared to Fargo?
- A: In general, most rural areas do have less to offer the homeless population for resources. However, each community does have access to a Veteran service officer and a SSVF worker for emergency assistance (i.e. emergency travel funds or emergency shelter at a hotel)
- Q: When speaking about offering permanent housing solutions to Veterans, what is a reason a Veteran would decline housing?
- A: Some Veterans are content with a transient lifestyle and prefer not to plant roots in any one community. Other Veterans who have been homeless for some time might be anxious about committing to permeant housing and taking on the responsibilities that come with it. Lastly, there are Veterans with mental health, substance abuse, or other disorders can make accepting an offer of permanent housing overwhelming and complicated.
- Q: Has the VA identified any obvious gaps in the coordinated entry system at this point?
- A No. Currently the VA feels confident that the state of N.D. has the resources and system in place to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence for Veterans. Identification of gaps in services is partly why this committee was created.

<u>Chandler Esslinger</u> – Shared updates on additional funding that SSVF is being granted to hire a health care navigator position and to begin a pilot project to work on engagement with tribal areas. <u>Diana Hall</u> – Shared updates on how homeless individuals were managed through COVID-19, largely with assistance from SSV in providing emergency hotel vouchers.

<u>Senator Judy Lee</u> – Shared updates on Second Chance Act funding that is being provided by state and local governments to reduce recidivism and address substance use through reentry and housing services.

9. Identifying Community Gaps

The group did not identify any gaps in services or resources being provided to homeless Veterans currently.

10. Goal date for declaring Functional Zero:

Veteran's Day 2020 - 11/11/20

Committee Member Roll Call for 8/20/20 Meeting

ND Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA):

X Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner

ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness Chairman

701-239-7165

lwangen@nd.gov

Fargo Veterans Affairs Health Care Services (VAHCS):

X Diana Hall- Homeless Programs Supervisor

ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness Co-Chair

701-239-3700 ext. 3472 701-610-9230 (mobile)

Diana.Hall2@va.gov

X Samantha Navratil- Coordinated Entry Specialist

ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness Co-Chair/Secretary

701-239-3700 ext. 3483 Office

701-200-1013 (mobile)

Samantha.navratil@va.gov

ND Community Action Partnership (CAP) Directors

___ Andrea Olson- Executive Director, Fargo

701-232-2452 Ext 119

andreao@capnd.org

www.capnd.org

X Chandler Esslinger- Statewide Program Director CAP ND

3233 University Drive South

Fargo, ND 58104

Tel: 701-232-2452 Fax: 701-298-3115

programs@capnd.org

www.capnd.org

ND Community Shelter Directors

Jan Eliassen- Director, Gladys Ray Shelter, Fargo

701-476-4117

JEliassen@FargoND.gov

Continuum of Care (COC)

X Shawnel Willer- ND COC Coordinator

701-328-8043

701-471-9926 (mobile)

smwiller@nd.gov

ND Association of County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers (NDACTVSO)

Mary Vetter- President

Richland County

(701) 642-7807 maryvetter@co.richland.nd.us ND Coalition for Homeless Persons (NDCHP) Andrea Olson- Executive Director, Community Action Fargo (represents CAP also) 701-232-2452 Ext 119 andreao@capnd.org www.capnd.org **ND Human Services-ND Homeless** Nicole Berman-Behavior Health Division 701-328-8949 nberman@nd.gov **ND Housing Authority Directors** X Jill Elliot- Deputy Director, Fargo Housing Authority 701-478-2551 jille@fargohousing.org Mark Austin, Minot Housing Authority Director markaustin@minothousing.com **ND Legislators ND Senate:** Kyle Davison-Senator, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair 701-261-8703 (Mobile) kdavison@nd.gov X Judy Lee- Senator, Human Services Committee Chair (701) 282-6512 jlee@nd.gov https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/committees/senate/human-services Dick Dever- Senator, Appropriations Committee- Lead for Human Services, NDDVA and Veterans Affairs X Budget. Chair of legislative veterans' caucus. Past GVA chair and Human Services member (701) 222-2604 ddever@nd.gov **ND House:** Jim Kasper-Representative, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair 701-799-9000 jmkasper@amg-nd.com jkaspter@nd.gov

Robin Weisz- Representative, Human Services Committee Chair (701) 962-3799
rweisz@nd.gov

https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/committees/house/human-services

https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/committees/house/government-and-veterans-affairs

National Guard	
	Warren Pauling (COL)
	COL, EN, NDARNG
	NGND G1
	W: 701-333-3013
	C: 701-390-6608
	warren.l.pauling.mil@mail.mil
	Al Palmer (General-Retired)- ND Air National Guard. Grand Forks area homeless
	701-317-2284
	apalmer310@outlook.com
	United States Interagency Counsel on Homelessness
	Katy Miller
	katy.miller@usich.gov
<u>Veterans Home</u>	
	Mark Johnson-Administrator
	701-683-6501
	mjohn@nd.gov

Family Health Care

<u>X</u> Pat Gulbranson – Chief Executive Director <u>Pgulbranson@famhealthcare.org</u>

FM Homeless Coalition

<u>X</u> Cody Schuler – Executive Director <u>cody@fmhomeless.org</u>

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION! WE LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING MORE OF YOUR FEEDBACK AS WE WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF DECLARING FUNCTIONAL ZERO!

ND PLANNING COMMITTEE TO END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS August 20th, 2020 2:00pm Zoom meeting

AGENDA

2:00 PM Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner ND Department of Veterans Affairs

- Call to order
- · Review of agenda
- Approval of meeting minutes 5/21/20
- Purpose of committee statement

2:10 PM Samantha Navratil-Coordinated Entry Specialist Fargo VA Health Care System (VAHCS)

- Welcome to our new members:
 - Chandler Esslinger, Statewide Program Director CAP ND
 - Cody Schuler, Executive Director FM Homeless Coalition
 - Pat Gulbranson, Chief Executive Director of Family Health Care
 - Mark Johnson, Administrator at the Lisbon Veteran's Home
- Coordinated Entry Updates

2:20 PM Diana Hall -Homeless Programs Manager, Fargo VA Health Care System (VAHCS)

Samantha Navratil-Coordinated Entry Specialist Fargo VA Health Care System (VAHCS)

- Purpose of committee
- "Functional Zero" presentation of accomplishments

2:45 PM Wrap up Questions

2:55 PM Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner ND Department of Veterans Affairs

- Closing statement
- Goal date Veteran's Day 2020

3:00 PM Adjourn

Members: Lonnie Wangen-NDDVA, Diana Hall-VAMC, Samantha Navratil-VAMC, Andrea Olson-CAP & NDCHP, Chandler Esslinger-SSVF, Mary Vetter-CVSO, Nicole Berman-Dept of Human Services, Jill Elliot - Housing Auth Fargo, Mark Austin-Housing Auth.-Minot, Senator Kyle Davison-GVA, Senator Judy Lee-H.Svcs, Senator Dick Dever-Past GVA and H.Svcs, Representative Jim Kasper-GVA, Representative Robin Weisz-H.Svcs, Col. Warren Pauling-NDNG, General Al Palmer NDNG (Ret.), Katy Miller-USICH, Pat Gulbranson -FHC, Mark Johnson-Vets Home, Cody Schuler-FMHC

Welcome! 2nd ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness

Presenters:

Lonnie Wangen, ND Veteran's Commissioner

Diana Hall, VA Homeless Programs Supervisor, Fargo VA

Samantha Navratil, Coordinated Entry Specialist, Fargo VA

Planning committee members:

Andrea Olson, Executive Director CAP ND * Chandler Esslinger, Statewide Programs Director, CAP ND * Jan Eliassen, Director, Gladys Ray Shelter, Fargo * Shawnel Willer, ND COC Coordinator * Mary Vetter, ND Association of County and Tribal Veteran Services President * Nicole Berman, ND Human Services, Behavior Health Division * Jill Elliot, Fargo Housing Authority Director * Mark Austin, Minot Housing Authority Director * Kyle Davison, Senator, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair * Judy Lee, Senator, Human Services Committee Chair * Dick Dever, Senator, Appropriations Committee – Lead for Human Services, NDDVA and Veteran Affairs Budget. Chair of legislative Veterans' Caucus * Jim Kasper, Representative Government and Veterans Affairs Chair * Robin Weisz, Representative Human Services Committee Chair * Colonel Warren Pauling, ND National Guard * General Al Palmer, ND Air National Guard-Retired Katy Miller, United States Interagency Counsel on Homelessness * Cody Schuler, Executive Director FM Homeless Coalition * Pat Gulbranson, Chief Executive Director of Family Health Care * Mark Johnson, Administrator at the Lisbon Veteran's Home

AGENDA

2:00pm

Lonnie Wangen-Commissioner ND Dept. Vet Affairs

- Call to Order/Roll Call
- · Review of agenda
- Approval of meeting minutes 5/21/20
- Purpose of committee statement

2:10pm

Samantha Navratil-Coordinated Entry Specialist Fargo VA

- · Welcome to our new members
- Coordinated Entry updates

2:20 PM

Diana Hall -Homeless Programs Manager, Fargo VA Health Care System (VAHCS)

Samantha Navratil-Coordinated Entry Specialist Fargo VA

- · Purpose of committee
- "Functional Zero" presentation of goals
- Vote of support

2:45 PM

· Wrap up Questions

2:55 PM

Lonnie Wangen - Commissioner ND Dept. Vet Affairs

- Closing statement
- Goal date Veteran's Day 2020

3:00 PM

Adjourn

Welcome new members!

Chandler Esslinger, Statewide Programs Director, CAP ND

Cody Schuler, Executive Director FM Homeless Coalition

Pat Gulbranson, Chief Executive Director of Family Health Care

Mark Johnson, Administrator at the Lisbon Veteran's Home

Coordinated Entry systems updates

- VA held a meeting with the ND Association of County and Tribal Veterans officers to
 establish a relationship for education, information sharing, and invited all County and Tribal
 Veteran Service officers to participate in BNL calls and report on any homeless Veterans in
 their area.
- VA and Supported Services for Veterans and Families have established a monthly meeting to support one another in providing effective and efficient services to Veterans
- VA participates in quarterly ND COC (continuum of care) meetings, as well as several other smaller task group committees whose purposes are for all homeless service providers across the state to come together to share information on resources, streamline processes statewide, and problem-solve issues for all homeless individuals, including Veterans.
 - If you are not a member of the COC and would like to be involved please contact Shawnel Willer, our ND COC coordinator for more information.

Shawnel Willer smwiller@nd.gov

PO Box 1535 | 2624 Vermont Ave | Bismarck, ND 58502-1535**p:** 701-328-8043 | **tf:** 800-292-8621 | **f:** 701-328-8090



PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE: SUPPORT VA Homeless Program In Declaring Functional Zero

*Functional Zero: Does not mean there are no homeless Veterans in our state, but that as a state, with all our combined resources, we can make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time occurrence.

We want you to understand the goals that have been placed on us by the United States Interagency Counsel on ending Veteran homelessness and support us in declaring that we have reached those goals.

Your job in this committee is to ask us questions and give feedback on whether you agree that we are at a spot to declare functional zero. Do we have any gaps in our homeless crisis response system?

Ultimately, today we'd like to get the committees' approval for VA to move forward with submitting data to the United States Interagency Counsel on Homelessness for review.

Is the community able to identify all Veterans experiencing homelessness?

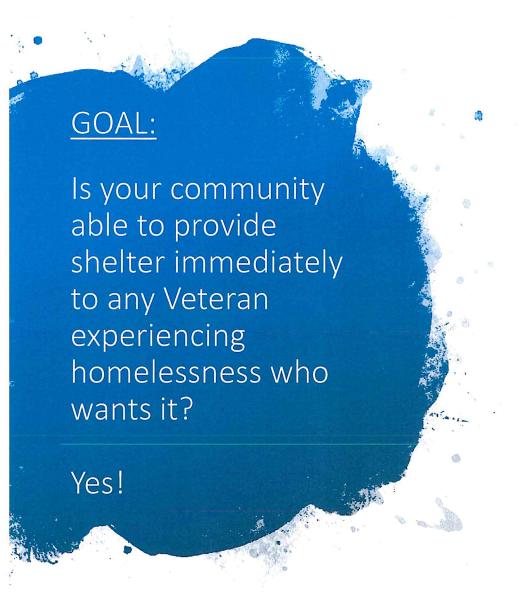
Yes!

- VA and non-VA homeless providers conduct street outreach
- Any homeless provider, VA or civilian is invited to provide data to the Veterans By Name list (homeless tracking system).
- If you know of a homeless Veteran seeking assistance or would like to be a participant in the ND By Name List call, contact:

Samantha Navratil, Coordinated Entry Specialist at the Fargo VA samantha.Navratil@va.gov

701-200-1013.

- The state (Continuum of Care) also has a data base (Homeless management
- information system) that tracks data for ALL homeless individuals, which the VA also participates in.
- As of 8/20/20 we had 46 Veterans Identified as homeless across the state of ND (Including those that are not eligible for VA healthcare).



- Emergency shelters
- 4 VA contract bridge housing beds at Micah's Mission (Moorhead)
- Grand Per Diem Transitional Housing (Project Hart Fargo)
- Emergency hotel funding through Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF). These are utilized especially in rural areas.
- Any homeless individual across the state can inquire about emergency shelter options at any time of day by calling 2 1 1
- For a Veteran specific questions during business hours you can contact:

Samantha Navratil, Coordinated Entry Specialist at the Fargo VA samantha.Navratil@va.gov

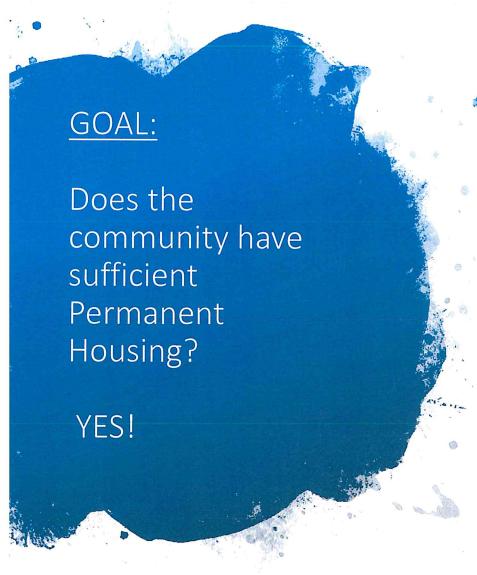
701-232-3241 Ext: 3483.

 As of 8/6/20 we had 12 individuals across the state utilizing emergency shelters and SSVF emergency hotel funding

Does your community have the capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing? (90 days or less)



- Follow housing first principles to reduce barriers to Veterans pursuing housing
- ND has HUD VASH vouchers, SSVF assistance, and other subsidized voucher programs through housing authorities.
- From the time a Veteran stated they wanted housing to the time they exited homelessness into a permanent housing option was an average of 40 days.



- 275 available HUD VASH vouchers across the state, including 2 tribal areas (White Earth/Turtle Mountain). Out of those 275 vouchers 243 are spoken for. HUD VASH is only available to VA healthcare eligible Veterans.
- Veterans can also access project-based properties and section 8 vouchers from the housing authorities.
- Total number of Veterans exiting homelessness across the state into permanent housing from 3/1/20-5/30/20 = 29
- Total number of newly identified homeless Veterans across the state from 3/1/20 - 5/30/20 = 29

That means as a state, we are exiting Veterans from the homeless system into permanent housing equally as fast (or faster) then they are coming into the system!

Are Veterans offered transitional housing only in limited instances.

Yes!

Veterans are only offered transitional housing in the circumstance that:

- They are offered a permanent housing option and decline that offer because they want to work on resolving clinical barriers to housing in the transitional setting
- They have been offered permanent housing and accepted the offer; however they require a place to stay in the interim and would utilize the transitional housing only as a bridge to the permanent housing
- As of 8/20/20 our grant per diem, transitional housing facility has 15 homeless Veterans and there is 1 homeless Veteran in the contract beds at Micah's Mission.



Goal: Have you ended all Chronic homelessness among Veterans in your Community? Yes!

- Each of the 11 chronically homeless individuals who are currently on our homeless tracking system has either:
 - -Been offered housing but declined (These individuals continue to be offered housing every 14 days)
 - -Been offered housing but declined and instead chose to enter transitional housing (These individuals continue to be offered housing every 14 days).
 - -Accepted an offer of permanent housing but are currently still homeless as they are waiting to move into the housing.

Does your community have the resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future?

YES!

- SSVF offers funding assistance for things like re-housing and eviction prevention.
- VA offers HUD VASH vouchers across the state available to VA healthcare eligible Veterans.
- VA refers Vets not capable of independent living to the Lisbon Veterans Home
- Veterans have access to and are often referred to or co-case managed by appropriate non-VA resources such as Family Health Care Center, Human Service Centers, Housing Authorities, Salvation Army, Social Services, Prairie St. Johns, Lutheran Social Services, Gladys Ray, Cooper House, Etc.
- VA works with shelter staff and SSVF to provide emergency shelter
- Veterans have access to transitional housing
- Veterans have can get employment assistance from VA and non-VA providers
- VA participates in the ND Continuum of Care goals to end homelessness, information sharing meetings, and task groups.
- VA holds weekly By Name list call in which all homeless providers identify homeless Veterans, case consult with other providers, and make appropriate referrals.

Would you need any other information to feel confidant in approving the VA to move forward with submitting functional zero data to the United States Interagency Counsel for review?

LET'S VOTE!





THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SIT ON THIS COMMITTEE!

Next Meeting: Thursday,
October 22nd at 2:003:00pm Central Time