

KC-FEB Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2020 – 1:30 PM (Thursday)
Location – Teleconference

ITEM	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION/ASSIGNMENT</u> <u>/POC</u> If/As Applicable																		
Opening / Introductions		Melissa Jacobson																		
Attendees	<p><u>Via teleconference</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">1. Melissa Jacobson (Chairperson)</td> <td style="width: 33%;">5. Jonni Christian</td> <td style="width: 33%;">11. Joshua Lansdale</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Dennis Johnson</td> <td>6. Arian Gilyot</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Dr. Zach Parrett</td> <td>7. Daniel Harper</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Tim Matney</td> <td>8. Larry Hisle</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>9. John Cleveland</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>10. Vanessa Thomson (scribe)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1. Melissa Jacobson (Chairperson)	5. Jonni Christian	11. Joshua Lansdale	2. Dennis Johnson	6. Arian Gilyot		3. Dr. Zach Parrett	7. Daniel Harper		4. Tim Matney	8. Larry Hisle			9. John Cleveland			10. Vanessa Thomson (scribe)		N/A
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GUEST SPEAKERS																				
Dr. Zachary Parrett, Kansas City VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator	<p>Dr. Parrett is a clinical psychologist and the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the KC VA. His team is at the helm to make sure the KC metro is doing the best it as can for VA and bring down suicide in population since our (veterans) population is higher than civilians.</p> <p>He talked about Operation SAVE model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs of suicide, • Asking about suicide, • Validating feelings, • Encouraging help, and • Expediting treatment <p>Anyone can do what they can for people to stay safe. He said one of the worst things is to not have connection with world around you, and the current events are the worst. Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, we have to maintain social distancing. We need to be aware of those already at risk and how current events will affect them. Dr. Parrett's team usually sees patients face to face, but now they can't do it. They will convert soon to telephone or televideo and make individualized calls to see who needs to interact. We all need to recognize the extra pressure on everyone. We are all stressed, but those at high risk for suicide are facing extra struggles. We all need to be extra help in this temporary time of crisis and keep connections strong.</p> <p>Melissa said she will share Dr. Parrett's contact info with group if there are questions, or want him to speak to our org.</p>	https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/																		

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Tim Matney, Wounded Warrior Project	<p>Tim Matney is an outreach specialist which covers Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska for the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). WWP is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses, or wound, co-incident to your military service on or after September 11, 2001. You may also be eligible for the program if you are the family member or caregiver of a Wounded Warrior. They partner with outside organizations to provide help for pre-9/11 warriors.</p> <p>WWP has 13 pillars that make up the organization, such as “Warriors to Work”, which helps vets with their resume or continued education to help them achieve what they’re looking for. WWP also provides monetary financing for clothes, couples therapy with local providers, and teambuilding.</p> <p>As an outreach specialist, Tim reaches out to community organizations and connects them with WWP to get more warriors in the area. He coordinates events from family to warrior, high and low impact events.</p>	https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/
NEW BUSINESS		
1. Future Meetings / Meeting Locations Needed	<p>KC FEB Veterans Affairs Committee meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 1:30-3:00pm. Due to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, the meetings for April and May will be teleconference only.</p> <p>Since the April meeting was supposed to be held at the KCVA Honor Annex, that will be our location for the October meeting.</p>	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR REPORTS		
a. Discounts & Events	No update.	Michael Ciliege
b. Veteran Benefits	No update.	Jeff Winters/Alan Edmonds
c. Stand Down - http://kcstanddown.org/	<p>The Spring Stand Down event scheduled for June 4 has been cancelled.</p> <p>They predict there will be Fall Stand Down event, but it has not been scheduled yet.</p>	Dennis Johnson (Providers) (816) 510-9802

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		DKJ@POBox.com
d. Women Veterans	No update.	Jonni Christian
e. Guest Speaker	Dean Scott volunteered to be the Guest Speaker Program Coordinator beginning in March. He will try to find a speaker for our next few meetings.	Dean Scott
Open Discussion		
Informational Topics	Recent updates to the COVID-19 situation can be found on the Department of Homeland Security's website.	https://www.dhs.gov/
NEXT MEETINGS:	<p>Apr 16, 2020 at 1:30pm. Teleconference May 21, 2020 at 1:30pm. Teleconference. Jun 18, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Jul 16, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Aug 20, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA.</p> <p>Sep 17, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Oct 15, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – KC VA Honor Annex. Nov 19, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA. Dec 17, 2020 at 1:30pm. Location – Kansas City VA.</p>	

Upcoming dates from prior meeting minute updates and emails:

None