

VSACT 19 July 2017 Meeting Notes

Steering Committee Discussion

- The Veteran Coalition of North Central Texas (VCNCT), out of Dallas, was unaware of VSACT's existence and were formulating plans to create their own coalition in the Fort Hood region. Kurt Rager was present at their last meeting and was able to inform them about VSACT. With the coordination of Katie Martin, we were able to welcome Ricardo Gomez from VCNCT, who attended our meeting on July 19th. A brochure for VCNCT is attached to this email.
- We're re-visiting the bike program since it fizzled out last year. We're looking to have the initiative take place around Veterans Day 2017; Denise will be looking into the possibility of having Goodwill donate some bikes or organizing some type of bike drive. We are also looking into companies/organizations that could potentially donate their time for a Bike Maintenance 101-type of training. In the meantime, we need everyone to track roughly how many Veterans their organizations see each month that could really utilize a bike for transportation.

Guest Speaker: Kurt Rager, State Community Support Coordinator – Army One Source (presentation on extensive data available for grants, research, etc.)

- The current data will not be accessible to any agencies after August 26th 2017.
- The data retrieved from this site comes directly from the Department of Defense.
- Data can be downloaded into a CVS file for easy manipulation.
- For access to this data you must contact Kurt Rager. He will set up a profile with your email address and create a password for you to gain access.
- Contact number: 505-269-6470

Guest Speaker: Officer Jason Schaefer, Killeen Police Department – Veteran Crisis Line

- The Crisis Line Program was developed on 11/13/2016.
- They have 12 reported cases and no reoffenders from Veterans Crisis Line Program since it began.
- How the program works:
 - Once a Killeen Police Officer is called to a scene and discovers a veteran is directly involved, they have the ability to ask the veteran if they would like to "speak with someone".
 - If a Veteran states "yes" the Police Office directly contacts mental health trained volunteers (social workers and LPC's needing extra training hours) to assist the veteran and further assess what support services will be needed.

- The volunteer will remain accompanied by a Killeen Police Officer until they no longer need their support.
- At this time Killeen Police Department is looking for more volunteers. They have been partnering with Texas A&M to receive volunteers.
- A brochure of the program is attached to this email.

Updates & Events between Now & August 16th

- Workshop: Veterans Government State Application Workshop August 23, 2017 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Flyer attached
- July 28, 29, 30 Fallen Warriors Memorial Wall Place
- Remember our Fallen: A Memorial Exhibit on July-28-30, 2017 from 8am-8pm. (They are still looking for volunteers to help with the exhibit; please contact Lori Spencer: 254-733-5582 or lori.spencer@va.gov for more info)