



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TASK FORCE ON THE CARE, MANAGEMENT, AND
TRANSITION OF RECOVERING WOUNDED, ILL, AND INJURED MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES**

L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 18 May 2011

The meeting began at 8:01am with an opening by Lt Gen Charles B. Green, the Department of Defense (DoD) Co-Chair. Members of the Task Force who attended are in Appendix A. Members of the public who attended are in Appendix B. Lt Gen Green and the other members introduced themselves, along with a special note welcoming Command Sergeant Major Steven D. DeJong as the newest Task Force member, holding the National Guard position previously held by Master Sergeant Brett Hightower, who retired earlier in the year. Dr. Karen S. Guice, the Non-DoD Co-Chair announced that she would be resigned from her position as Co-Chair at the end of the second day, as she is taking a position in the DoD and could no longer hold her position as the Veterans Affairs Non-DoD Member.

After these announcements, the members began discussing the second round of installation visits which had taken place in April. Dr. Steven Phillips discussed the findings at Marine Corps Air Ground Command Center at Twentynine Palms, CA (29 Palms). A number of members noted that they felt MG Richard Stone would have more to say on the subject of 29 Palms. They then discussed visits to Naval Medical Center San Diego and visits to the Community Based Warrior Transition Units and Joint Force Headquarters in Florida and California. They noted issues about the lack of access to resources for service members and a lack of knowledge at some locations. At 9:45am, the members took a break until 10:18am.

The members then began to discuss the interviews that would occur with the Senior Oversight Committee. Ms. Denise Dailey, the Executive Director and Designated Federal Officer, had scheduled the interviews. Members offered times that they may be available in the coming weeks to come to Washington, D.C. and take part in the interviews. Master Sergeant Christian MacKenzie (USAF, SOCOM) and Mr. David Rehbein will be a part of the interview team. At 11:19am the members break for lunch and training.

The Task Force reconvened at 12:29pm with a briefing from Mr. John Campbell, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Wounded Warrior Care and Transition Policy and other members of his office. Topics included funding, employment initiatives, the Transition Assistance Program (TAP), the Recovery Care Coordination Program, wounded warrior information resources, and emerging issues with the Integrated Disability Evaluation Service. The Task Force specifically asked why TAP was not mandatory, what the success rates were for



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employment, and how information was not just provided, but actively distributed to those who need it.

The Task Force took a break from 2:29 to 2:38pm, reconvening to hear speakers from the Defense Centers of Excellence. Colonel Donald Gagliano, Executive Director, briefed on both the Vision Center of Excellence and the DoD/VA Center of Excellence for Traumatic Extremity Injuries and Amputations. Colonel Kathy Gates, the Interim Chief, presented on the Auditory Center of Excellence. The members were very interested in the training for vision surgeries and treatments, as a number of them had undergone vision surgeries. Responding to the members' questions, the panel noted that their information dissemination was currently a work-in-progress.

From 4:07pm until 4:14pm, the Task Force took a short break and resumed with a briefing from the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, which is run through Veterans Affairs (VA). As the Non-DoD Co-Chair, Dr. Guice, was the current executive director of the program, she led this briefing along with Ms. Lisa Arnold, Mr. John Bucholtz, Ms. Michelle Lee-Sing, and Ms. Verna Wells, all Federal Recover Coordinators (FRCs). Dr. Guice noted the client population's challenge to adapt to their new lifestyle in recovery, the confusing benefits, and the complexity of the client demographics. The Task Force asked questions regarding caregiver/FRC interaction, coordination with hospice, and networking. A break was taken at 5:16pm.

The Task Force resumed at 5:26pm with a short briefing by Dr. Charles Sneiderman, on the topic of Clinical Decision Support for Civilian Primary Healthcare Management of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

At 5:45pm, the members adjourned for the day.

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The second day of the meeting opened at 9:14am with the public forum session. The speakers were Ms. Julia Ray of Disabled Sports USA, Ms. Angela McConnell of QiRei Integrative Healthcare Consulting & Services, and Dr. Marianne Cloeren of Managed Care Advisors.

At 9:35am, the Task Force heard from a panel regarding employment of service members and veterans. The panel members were Mr. Skip Rogers Executive Director and Co-Founder of Able Forces, Inc (a veteran-owned 501(c)(3) non-profit providing professional, career-oriented employment exclusively to Wounded Warriors and Disabled Veterans), Mr. Michael Conklin, Chairman and CEO of Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation (providing scholarships to



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service members severely injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001), Ms. Jolene Jefferies, Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for DirectEmployers Association, Inc. (a nonprofit HR consortium of leading global employers formed to improve labor market efficiency through the sharing of best practices, research and the development of technology), and Ms. Nancy Adams, Branch Chief of Employment, Education, and Internships with the Army Warrior Transition Command (WTC). The members asked the panel about what they believe would be the best ways to assist recovering warriors to gain employment, what resources are available for them, and what the greatest challenges were to transitioning service members in gaining employment. They specifically questioned Ms. Adams on the success rates of the WTC form employment.

At 10:45am, the Task Force broke until 10:58am. At this time they heard from a panel on Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT), which consisted of Dr. Michael Pramuka of Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC)'s TBI Service, Dr. Rodney Vanderploeg of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program and co-principal investigator for DVBIC at the Tampa VA Medical Center, and Commander (Dr.) Michael Handrigan of the Traumatic Brain Injury Clinical Standards of Care at the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury. The briefers provided an overview of CRT as a strategy for addressing Traumatic Brain Injury to the Task Force, along with examples from WRAMC. The members requested more details regarding the metrics and specific examples to support findings and conclusions.

At 12:26pm, the Task Force broke for lunch and training until 1:05pm, when the Interagency Program Office (IPO)'s Mr. Wilbert Berrios, Deputy Director of the Office, presented. He gave a brief overview of the history of the IPO, along with data sharing between the DoD and VA. He gave data regarding the JAL- Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago pilot project to interface DoD and VA legacy systems to support an integrated DoD/VA facility with multiple care locations. The members asked about the security measures used to protect data, funding from the DoD and VA, and the availability of metrics for the North Chicago program.

The Task Force took a short break from 1:53 to 2:10pm, at which time they began the Counter Point panel. The panelists consisted of Mr. Michael Parker, a retired LTC and pro-bono wounded warrior advocate, Mr. Brian Buckler, the MEB/PEB Representative for The American Legion, Mrs. Patty Horan, and Staff Sergeant Nicholas P. Lanier. Mr. Parker and Mr. Buckler discussed concerns with the Disability Evaluation System. Mrs. Horan and SSGT Lanier addressed concerns with wounded warrior units as a model for delivering recovery services to injured service members. The Task Force asked numerous questions regarding the availability of



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resources, if or how these resources are presented to individuals and families in need, and education options for recovering soldiers.

At 3:29pm the Task Force broke for 18 minutes, resuming with a briefing by LTC Katryna Deary of the Special Operation Command (SOCOM) Care Coalition. LTC Deary discussed the mission and purpose of the Care Coalition. MSgt Christian MacKenzie, Task Force member, also expanded on the briefing as he is a Care Coalition Liaison. Additionally, she showed the different locations of the Care Coalition and the Chain of Command. The Task Force asked about the size of the Care Coalition and the possibility of applying the model elsewhere in the services. Points were raised that SOCOM is an elite group, usually older individuals compared to WTU members and that SOCOM is a smaller group in size. The Task Force took a break at 4:59pm.

The Task Force reconvened at 5:08pm to vote on the new Non-DoD Co-Chair. Ms. Dailey explained the voting procedure and that it would be done on paper ballots, which had been provided. At 5:12pm, Dr. Guice nominated Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones and Mr. Justin Constantine seconded the nomination. Dr. Russell Turner nominated Dr. Phillips and Mr. David Rehbein seconded the nomination. At 5:14pm, Mrs. Crockett-Jones spoke about her qualifications for the position, followed by Dr. Phillips. Voting commenced and the votes were counted at 5:17pm. The results were in favor of Mrs. Crockett-Jones. Following the election, Dr. Guice gave her final remarks and Lt Gen Green thanked Dr. Guice for her time and service to the Task Force.

At 5:32pm, Lt Gen Green closed the meeting.

Verified by:

Department of Defense Co-Chair:

Lieutenant General Charles B. Green, M.D.

Date: 27 July 11

Verified by:

Non-Department of Defense Co-Chair:

Dr. Karen S. Guice, M.D. M.P.P.

Date: 2 Aug 11



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Appendix A:

Wednesday, 30 March 2011

Members Present:

- CDR Timothy Coakley
- Mr. Justin Constantine
- CSM Steven D. DeJong
- Mr. Ronald Drach
- Lt Gen Charles B. Green (DoD Co-Chair)
- Dr. Karen S. Guice (Non-DoD Co-Chair)
- MG Karl Horst
- Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones
- Lt Col Sean P. K. Keane
- MSgt Christian MacKenzie
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- Mr. David Rehbein
- MG Richard Stone
- Dr. Russell Turner

Members Not Present:

- None

Members Arrived Late:

- MG Richard Stone – 10:15am

Members Left Early:

- None



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Thursday, 31 March 2011

Members Present:

- CDR Timothy Coakley
- Mr. Justin Constantine
- CSM Steven D. DeJong
- Mr. Ronald Drach
- Lt Gen Charles B. Green (DoD Co-Chair)
- Dr. Karen S. Guice (Non-DoD Co-Chair)
- Mrs. Suzanne Crockett-Jones
- Lt Col Sean P. K. Keane
- MSgt Christian MacKenzie
- Dr. Steven Phillips
- Mr. David Rehbein
- MG Richard Stone
- Dr. Russell Turner

Members Not Present:

- MG Karl Horst

Members Arrived Late:

- None

Members Left Early:

- CDR Timothy Coakley – 1:55pm



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Appendix B:

Sign-in Sheet:



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Last Name	First Name	Zip Code	Organization	Email
Difensore	Rod	20105	Focus Ops LLC	Rdifensore@focusops.com
Gadd	Jack	20006	The American Legion	lgadd@legion.org
Perovic	Louis	22204	The American Legion	lperovic@legion.org
Miller	Lee	20811	Master Program Recovering American Veterans	mlmillerSP@va.gov
Wilson	John		Disabled American Veterans	johnson3@dav.org
Holmes	Clay	21146	WVCTP	chad.holmes.ct@osd.mil
Carroll	Chris	20045	Stars & Stripes	carrollc@starsstripes.osd.mil
Conklin	Mike	94583	SENTHESIS	mconklin@SENTHESIS.COM
Milliser	Ellen	20816	Synopsis	emilliser@yahoo.com
Campes	Rene	22314	MOAG	rene@moag.org
CAISON	PRESTON	20548	CARD	caisonp@ga.gov
McConnell	Angela	22193	Q:Rei LLC	ginei.heath@qrei.com
Reve	Madelyn	22306	SELF	Ms.Preston@va.gov



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Last Name	First Name	Zip Code	Organization	Email
Milneser	Ellen	20876	Synopsis	emilneser@yahoo.com
LANIER	NICHOLAS	31313	U.S. ARMY	nicholas.p.lanier@gmail.com
Praker	Michael	22306	Self	Mc.Praeker@ttho.com
Coed	Jocob	28006	The American Legion	jgadd@legion.org
Madden	Bob	20026	Legion	amadden@legion.org
SEARLE	BARRY	20006	TAL	hsgarlett@legion.org
ADAMS	Nancy	22310	WTC	nancy.b.adams@us.army
DEARY	KATHRYN A	38611	USSECOM	Kathryn.A.Deary@USCOM
HENDERSON	Midquel	20801	DoD	midquel.henderson@tra.us.af
CEKNIICH	ALISON	28003	VA	ALISON.CEKNIICH@VA.GOV
PRAMUKA	Michael	20852	WDMC	michael.pramuka@wadm
Reaplan	Deathy	20809	DCoe	Deathy.Kaplan@tricare
Grossman	Patricia	20801	DoD	Patricia.grossman@tra.us.af

050.mil