

Charter
Veterans Subcommittee
Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council

Mission: To ensure that veterans, service members and their families are involved in developing recommendations to improve access to behavioral health services which are relevant to military culture in collaboration with key provider organizations and other stakeholders.

Vision: There is an expanded and identifiable network of service providers and community supports to adequately meet the behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members, and their families which includes training provider staff about key elements of military culture and organization as well as ongoing engagement of veterans, service members and family members in eliminating barriers to treatment and in creating flexible treatment and recovery options.

Purpose: The Subcommittee will continue the planning process to develop behavioral health peer services for veterans which was started under the Kansas Veterans Initiative. The Subcommittee will also address the broader behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members and their families, and work toward increased collaboration among providers in the public behavioral health system and the VA and other provider networks that focus specifically on veterans, service members and their families.

Membership: Membership on the Subcommittee will be balanced to reflect the following stakeholders: veterans and service members who experience behavioral health disorders, family members of veterans and service members, behavioral health service providers who are specifically funded to assist veterans and active duty service members, representatives from the public mental health system, state agency prevention staff, educators, and other stakeholders, including veterans service organizations. The Subcommittee will designate a chair or co-chairs. A state agency liaison will be appointed from KDADS to provide staff support to the Subcommittee.

Prospective Goals for the 1st Year:

1. Gather data regarding the existing behavioral health care resources for veterans, service members and their families in partnership and awareness with the mental health work group of Joining Forces. This will include VA treatment facilities as well as services established for active duty personnel.
2. Identify veterans who are trained as peer mentors and develop training opportunities to expand the pool of peer mentors to meet the needs of veterans and service members.
3. Identify opportunities to expand behavioral health care treatment resources for veterans and service members.
4. Identify training resources for behavioral health care providers that will raise the level of awareness about military culture and appropriate interventions for all veterans, service members and their families.
5. Identify barriers to effective behavioral health care treatment for all veterans, service members and their families and recommendations to address those barriers.