



**HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**

\*\*\*\*\* State  
of Oklahoma

**VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION TASK FORCE  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 20, 2023, 0900  
OKLAHOMA STATE CAPITOL, 4S.5  
2300 N LINCOLN BLVD  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73105**

**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING:**

The Veterans Suicide Prevention Task Force held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 0900. This meeting was held at the Oklahoma State Capitol 2300 N Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.

**AGENDA:**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

**A. DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ROLL CALL**

**ROLL CALL PRESENT:**

Johnathon Shepherd  
Amista Chambers  
Colonel Lindy White  
Alfonso Garza  
Brett Martin

**ROLL CALL NOT PRESENT:**

Senator Paul Rosino  
Representative Jay Steagall  
Brandi Woods-Littlejohn  
Robert Redwine

**B. VERIFICATION OF PROPER NOTICE TO SECRETARY OF STATE AND POSTING OF THE AGENDA: YES; Notice was posted 24 hours in advance and online.**

**III. INVOCATION** Al Garza

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Commissioner Martin

**V. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO VISITORS AND GUESTS:** Alicia Fry, Lorraine Hildebrandt



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**VI. BUSINESS**

**A. DISCUSSION REGARDING HEALTH & WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

- i. VA's plan to prevent and eliminate veteran suicide to include stigma reduction and mandatory training for staff.-Al Garza spoke about the matter.

**B. DISCUSSION REGARDING DATA, VETERAN SUICIDE RATES, DEATHS NOT CLASSIFIED AS SUICIDE, PRIMARY FACTORS, MEASURABLE PLAN OF ACTION, STATEWIDE COALITION, COLLABORATION, IDENTIFYING VETERANS IN NEED.**

- i. Johnathon Shepherd prompted the round table discussion by stating desire to create an agenda based on collaboratively chosen past and present data to be used by entire task force. VA/DOD data chosen.
- ii. Importance of quality mental health rooted in evidence-based practices.
- iii. Possible legislation for veteran mental health
- iv. Non-profits verbalizing desire to have suicide awareness/mental health speakers often
- v. Importance of being proactive and reaching active-duty military personnel.
- vi. Alicia Fry discussed current progress with public health approach started by the VA, 2 years ago, to work in catchment areas doing coffee socials, women, and tribal veteran coalitions. Also, the increase of suicide rates in the first year of discharge-M2VA program that screens for suicidal ideation and assists with transition and the "hold my gun initiative.
- vii. Johnathon Shepherd suggested a collaborative resource list for people to utilize across the state or ideas of how to have organizations that are already associated with OK VALOR assist with maintenance of the website.
- viii. Request form House to pull useful data on VSO's, registered businesses, and non-profits in the Oklahoma for the task force to utilize.

**VII. DISCUSSION OF HOMEWORK FOR NEXT MEETING**

- i. ODVA and VA to pull and disperse data to task force.
- ii. Think about what deliverable points we will present and what "vital communications" mean.
- iii. Begin a foundational power point to be utilized for presentation of task force final results.

**VIII. DISCUSSION OF RESCHEDULING MEETINGS DURING SESSION**

- i. Meetings, February- May 2024, changed to the third Thursday of the month at 1400, 2300 Lincoln BLVD. OKC, OK 73105, 4s.5

**IX. DISCUSSION REGARDING NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DATE**

**A. NEXT MEETING**

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 0900

2300 Lincoln BLVD. OKC, OK 73105, 4s.5

**X. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADJOURNMENT**

- i. Motion to adjourn by Chairman Brett Martin, Seconded by COL. Lindy White, vote, unanimous in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned 1015.