



“Catch a C.A.B.!” Building and Sustaining Community Partnerships to Support Veterans and Families

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August 3, 2017

CCTP Webinar Series



Community Clergy Training to Support Rural Veterans Mental Health

*is a collaboration of the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health,
National VA Chaplain Center and VA Chaplain Service*



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration



Community Clergy Training Program (CCTP) Website

<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/clergytraining>

CCTP Webinars: <https://www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/clergytraining/webinars>

What we hope to cover in the webinar

1. Why do communities matter especially for Veterans?
2. How do you do community engagement and how does it differ from outreach?
3. Community engagement principles and practice
4. Models for community partnerships for Veterans
5. What are CCTP CABs and what do they do?
6. Lessons Learned?
7. What can you do now? Next Steps

Why Communities Matter

- Communities are built when people work together on things that matter to them
- When individual people who share a common interest come together, their efforts often have the weight to be successful
- Communities that engage diverse stakeholders have access to a variety of resources to meet a need or fill a service gap, vital during a time of shrinking budgets
- *“As citizens, we have a duty to shape the basic conditions that affect our lives with others in transforming communities, we are guided by shared values and principles that bind us in common purpose.” ~*
The Community Toolkit

Why are communities especially important for Veterans?

- Veterans come FROM and RETURN TO communities
- Real Veteran reintegration happens in community not VA
- PTSD as Post-Traumatic Society Disorder
- Communities are responsible for our Warriors:
“If we send ‘em, we must mend ‘em” ~ Wendell Berry
- Communities are our Veterans’ “first responders”

How do you engage Communities?

- Build and maintain relationships and partnerships with diverse stakeholders
 - Engage in their area of expertise
- Use measured data or real-world examples to identify a service gap or need in the community
- Identify a common goal
- Solicit expertise that leads to ownership
- Consistency and follow up are key

Community Outreach vs. Engagement

- Community outreach is done “for” the community
 - Education
 - Convincing an individual to do what you would like for them to do
- Community engagement is done “with” the community
 - Actions
 - An individual does something because they care

Community Engagement Principles

Communities are the “experts”

Based on community’s needs and resources

Self-Directed (local leadership)

Self-Sustained (funding)

Community Engagement Practice

Hard Work

Shared, changing, negotiated leadership

Funding isn't everything

Super-rewarding, fun, and energizing

Models for Community Partnerships to Help Veterans

- Oklahoma Veteran Families Wellness Alliance
- VA/Clergy Partnership CABS - Community Action Boards
 - Arkansas - need-generated, team-sustained hubs
 - Alabama - based on clergy training and ministerial alliance
 - Missouri - Veterans Care Ministries Network (Springfield area)
 - Ohio Military Ministry Network
- VA Veteran Experience Office - MyVA Community Veteran Engagement Boards (CVEBS)
 - VA generated, community leadership-led
- Joining Forces
- Livingfree2gether - Charlottesville, VA

What partnerships exist in your community?



Oklahoma Alliance and Army One Source

Army OneSource Alliance Development:

Planning Phase

- Assessment of State Community Needs and Assets
- Identification and Recruitment of Partners
- Planning Meeting Set Up

Vision and Goals

- Establish a Vision: What is Your Ideal Vision, the End State of the CAB
- Establish a Mission: What Are You Going To Do and Why
- Establish Goals: Specific Ways to Achieve the Mission

Action and Outreach Plans

- Create an Action Plan: Specific Steps to Achieve a Goal
- Create an Outreach Plan: Identify the Audience, Your Message, and the Desired Action

Sustainability

- Where Are We Going
- Is Our Structure Working

Oklahoma Alliance and Army One Source

Oklahoma Veteran Families Wellness Alliance

Mission

- Identify and create a network for Service Members, Veterans, their Families, and the community to provide outreach and education about behavioral health and spiritual wellness services throughout Oklahoma.

Goals

- Hosting four (4) regional Speed Sharing events, engaging any organization offering services and resources for Service Members and Veterans.
- Partnering with CCTP, host six regional clergy training workshops throughout Oklahoma in 2017.

Partners

- American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Heartline 211, NAMI Oklahoma, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Oklahoma Attorney Generals Office, Green Shoe Foundation, YWCA
- Oklahoma National Guard, Fort Sill Army Community Service, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs

Sustainability

- Alliance Action Plan
- Board of Directors
- Regular strategic planning sessions



What is a C.A.B.?

Community Action Board

What we thought:

A trained, clergy-led group identifying Veterans with mental health needs and referring them to VA or community resources.

What we got:

An organic hodgepodge of people who care enough to work together in a local community to help Veterans and their families with whatever.







Breakfast for Troops on Drill Weekend
Veteran Benefit Fairs
Pew and Couch Lunches
Clergy Trainings

Other Ideas





Lessons Learned from Building Partnerships

- Competing Coalitions
- Everyone is welcome
- Managing agendas
- Remember - Nobody's getting paid
- Small is good (10-12 people ideal)
- Expect Turnover
 - CABs are more like the USC marching band than Fleetwood Mac - turnover every 4 years not 40 years
- It's all about relationships
 - Answer emails, learn people's names, go to their events, help their Veteran

What have you all learned?



What can you do now?

- Host CCTP clergy “Viewing Event”
 - Interactive facilitated video training-discussion based
 - 4 Modules to choose from
 - Brings clergy, community, and VA together
 - You have a chaplain assigned to you
- Find fellow “champions” for Veterans in your faith/community
- Start meeting consistently in same place and time
- Get them doing something together
- Help a Veteran or family member

Takeaways from this webinar

1. Communities matter and we must engage them to help Veterans.
2. There are several ways to engage and partner with communities.
3. Community partnerships and C.A.B. building is hard work but it is the best way to bring our Veterans and families all the way home.
4. You can take a step and do this!

For additional exploration:

- CCTP Webinar: “Bringing Communities together to bring our Veterans all the way home”
 - <https://www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/clergytraining/webinars/bringing-community-together.asp>
- Host a CCTP viewing event: CCTP Core Curriculum: Module 4: “Building Community Partnerships”
 - www.patientcare.va.gov/chaplain/clergytraining
- Army OneSource Webinar: “Key Components of Building Community Networks to Support Our Military”
 - <http://www.aosresourcecenter.com/learn/training-library/relationships-library/event/36-key-components-of-building-community-networks-to-support-our-military>

CCTP Web Links



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