

**Arizona Balance of State**  
**Veterans Working Group Meeting Notes**

June 24, 2020

*Members Present:*

Brandice Sonderegger (VA)- phone	Joanna Carr (AHC)- phone
Cameron Johnson (AZDVS)- phone	Jocelyn Muzzin (SAVAHCS)- phone
Casey Farrell (JAVC)- phone	Jolene Cook (VA)- phone
Danna Auriana (VA)- phone	Karen Johnson (VA)- phone
Darrell Reynolds (Catholic Charities)- phone	Miguel Villalpando (NCHP)- phone
Patrick Farrell (JAVC)- phone	Nancy Zatarain (NCHP)- phone
Glorianna Vercruyssen (CRN)- phone	Rocky Coronado (CBI)- phone
Hillary Evans (CRN)- phone	Shane Groen (AHC)- phone
Jason Ramos (NAVAHCS)- phone	Tianna Cann (NCHP)- phone

*Staff & Guests*

Ryan Vernick (ADOH)- phone

Everyone was welcomed and introductions were performed. The minutes from the April 29, 2020 meeting were motioned for approval by Darrell and seconded by Shane, with unanimous approval.

**Agency Updates**

Each area/program gave a rundown of what has been happening since the last meeting.

- JAVC is expanding Stand Downs into La Paz; works closely with the Veterans Treatment Courts; working on a project called Operation 6, which is a 25-unit Transitional housing “hands-up” voluntary program currently being constructed; at the JAVC facility will be an in-house full-time therapy/life skills center; fostering partnerships (Goodwill, Arizona@Work, etc.).
- AHC has developed a landlord toolkit to foster good relationships between tenants and landlords; Stand Downs will hopefully recommence in the fall.
- AZDVS MFRF still is available, although applications have slowed down; the Veteran Toolkit will be starting again the 1<sup>st</sup> of July; VBC offices are helping record numbers.
- NCHP has expanded into Imperial County in California; still accepting in-person visits in Yuma; a barrier to getting veterans into permanent housing is the lack of ID’s, and with the Department of Motor Vehicles being shut-down to in-person visits it’s difficult to help clients get identification.

- CRN has been working with different groups on tracking vulnerability to COVID-19; setting up new agencies into HMIS.
- NAVAHCS has hired a new CE Specialist (Brandice Sonderegger); in Kingman, they are calling and keeping in contact with veterans, the project-based housing is being built, and they have hired a social worker and will be hiring a nurse.
- CBI is hiring for substance abuse employment specialist positions; doing a lot of outreach.
- SAVAHCS is working with CE systems in Pinal, Yuma, and Cochise Counties to match/expand the HUD VASH interest lists to make sure all the veterans are being engaged with;
- Catholic Charities have been busy providing shelter to veterans due to COVID-19; the shelter in Bullhead City will be opening soon, in phases- phase 1 on July 1<sup>st</sup> will be day services, on July 6<sup>th</sup> the family shelter will be opening, and then on July 27<sup>th</sup> the rest of the shelter will open for individuals.
- ADOH received the results to the NOFA application with a really good score; the [2020 PIT data](#) has been posted, with the county-specific results to be posted in mid-July; Crisis Contingency Safety Net Funds were given through contracts with over 40 groups for COVID-19 relief and assistance, but the Arizona Department of Economic Security will be in charge of the CARES Act funding; distribution of emergency supplies to shelters statewide was coordinated with the Arizona Department of Administration; the Rental Assistance/Eviction Prevention program is still an ongoing process, with several communities breaking off when they receive their own funding.

### **Built for Zero**

The BFZ proposal was brought before the GAB on June 18, 2020; there was a good discussion and the proposal was well received. However, due to all that is going on with COVID-19 and other issues that are currently taking priority at this time, it was decided to revisit BFZ in six months.

### **2019 Veterans Committee Strategic Plan**

The Working Group went through the Plan to refresh where things stand currently. In order to move forward, local veteran workgroups need to be convened to work on individual aspects of the Strategic Plan. The local planners will be:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| • Mohave County (Pat and Casey Farrell) | • Yuma (TBD)            |
| • Pinal (Jocelyn Muzzin & Tianna Cann)  | • Yavapai (Jason Ramos) |
| • Cochise (Jocelyn Muzzin)              | • Gila (TBD)            |
| • La Paz (Karen Johnson)                | • Apache/Navajo (TBD)   |
| • Coconino (TBD)                        |                         |

The goal is to meet locally at least once prior to the next Veterans Working Group meeting (August 26, 2020).

*Action Item: Jocelyn will reach out to people in each county to see if they can convene a local Veterans meeting.*

**Chair and Co-Chair Nominations**

Jocelyn was nominated for the Chair position and Joanna was nominated as the co-chair. Nominations can be made through July 2<sup>nd</sup> by close of business day.

With no further business, the meeting was concluded.

	2020.01-22	2020.02-26	2020.04.29	2020.06-24
AZDVS			X	X
AZHC	X	X	X	X
Catholic Charities	X	X	X	X
Community Bridges			X	X
CRN	X	X	X	
JAVC	N/A	N/A	N/A	X
NCHP	X	X	X	X
NAVAHCS	X	X	X	X
Primavera	X			
SAVAHCS	X	X	X	X
US Vets		X	X	
VA	X	X	X	X
VRCA/America's Finest	X		X	

Commonly used acronyms:

ADOH= Arizona Department of Housing	PHA= Public Housing Authority
AHC= Arizona Housing Coalition	PIT= Point-in-Time Count
ALIP= Arizona Landlord Incentive Program	Primavera Foundation
AZBoSCoC= Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care	PSH= Permanent Supportive Housing
AZDVS= Arizona Department of Veterans' Services	RFP= Request for Proposals
BFZ= Built For Zero	ROI= Release of Information
BNL= By-Name List	RRH= Rapid Rehousing
Catholic Charities Community Services	SAVAHCS= Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
CE= Coordinated Entry	SMI= Serious Mental Illness
CoC= Continuum of Care	SPDAT= Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
CRN= Crisis Response Network	SPM= System Performance Measures
CRRC= Community Resource Referral Center	SSA= Social Security Administration
DV= Domestic Violence	SSDI= Social Security Disability Income
GAB= Governance Advisory Board	SSI= Social Security Income
GEO= Geographic	SSVF= Supportive Services for Veterans Families
GPD= Grant and Per Diem	TA= Technical Assistance
HMIS= Homeless Management Information System	TH= Transitional Housing
HUD= U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	TIP= Transition in Place
JAVC= Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council	US Vets= U. S. Veterans Initiative
LCEH= Local Coalition to End Homelessness	VA= U.S. Department Veterans Affairs
LIHTC= Low Income Housing Tax Credit	VASH= Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing
MAG= Maricopa Association of Governments	VBC= Veteran Benefits Counseling
MFRF= Military Family Relief Fund	VISN= Veterans Integrated Service Networks
NCHP= National Community Health Partners	VI-SPDAT= Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool
NAVAHCS= Northern Arizona VA Health Care System	VOCA= Victims of Crime Act
NOFA= Notice of Funding Available	VRCA= Veterans Resource Centers of America
OVC= O'odham Veterans Celebration	