Partnering to Support Veterans and Military Families
November 4, 2015  2:00 p.m. Eastern

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Catharine Grimes, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Peter Long, Blue Shield of California Foundation
Stephanie Powers, Council on Foundations
Some Thoughts About Military-Connected Families

Shelley MacDermid Wadsworth, M.B.A., PhD.
November 4, 2015

Presented for Grantmakers in Health
Strategic Goals

• MFRI has five strategic goals:
  • **Support** the military infrastructure that supports families.
  • **Strengthen** the motivation and capacity of civilian communities to support military and veteran families.
  • **Generate** important new knowledge about military and veteran families.
  • **Influence** policies, programs and practices supporting military and veteran families.
  • **Sustain** a vibrant learning organization.
Behavioral Health Needs and the OIF/OEF Generation

Rates
Spouses
Children
Continuum of risk
Needs

• Many problems are the same for civilian and for military; some are unique
• DoD and VA responsibilities
• Paying for treatment in National Guard
• Children and families
• Preparing community-based providers
Military and Veteran Families are Embedded Within Interlocking Systems
Behavioral Health Needs and the OIF/OEF Generation

• An MFRI approach
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The mission of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is to promote health equity and improve the health outcomes of populations disproportionately affected by serious diseases.
Veterans Mental Health Grant Program: The Need

- Currently 2.4 million Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan – with one million more separating by 2016

- Almost half of Veterans who seek services at the VA are diagnosed with a mental health disorder

Compared to the general population, these vets are more likely to:

- be unemployed
- get divorced
- be homeless
- commit suicide

On average, 22 Veterans commit suicide every day

We are Funding research-based pilot or demonstration projects that:

- Develop, implement and evaluate new models of community based care & supportive services
- Adapt existing, proven models and evaluate them in new populations

**Health Outcomes Research** studies the end results of medical care – the effect of the health care process on health and well-being of patients and populations

- Efficacy studies
- Operations research / Effectiveness Studies
- Implementation science
BMS-F criteria for funding includes inclusion of formal research protocol in all grant applications.

Such research studies must be:

- Conducted according to a protocol approved by the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Accompanied by informed consent procedures for all subjects involved in the study
- Conducted according to Good Clinical Practice
**Monitoring & Evaluation**

Most funders require all grantees to develop & report the results of their programs according to rigorously designed M&E frameworks.

M&E results are reported on a biannual basis and are reviewed to ensure progress is being made in line with the program’s stated objectives.

These data are used for internal management of the program by the grantees and for reporting to the funding organization.

Such M&E data are not generalizable and not suitable for publication.

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**Protocol Based Research**

The results of IRB approved research are generalizable: i.e. they can be applied to the general population of returning veterans.

The results of IRB approved research can be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

The methodology of published health outcomes research can be utilized to achieve replication of the intervention in other settings.

The value of replication can be further assessed through implementation science studies.
Efficacy Study Example:

**Organization:** Prevail Health Solutions

**Study Design:** RCT compared to lesser fidelity version of the full program

**Results:**
- As effective at reducing PTSD & depression as face-to-face treatments for low to moderate distress Veterans
- Delivered at a cost of less than .5% of face-to-face intervention
- Reaches veterans in rural areas or with transportation problems

Operations Research Example:

**Organization:** Boston University

**Study Design:** Testing the VetChange, online and app based patient self management tool for risky drinking and symptoms of PTSD in the real world setting. The RTC was done and showed significant improvement of both risky drinking days and symptoms of PTSD. We are looking to see if we get the same results in a non controlled setting.

Implementation Science Example:

**Organization:** University of Michigan Medical Center – PAVE project

**Study Design:** Taking the already proven Buddy-to-Buddy peer to peer program that was developed for the National Guard, adapting it, and implementing and testing it in college campus settings.
why every funder can be a veterans funder

Peter Long
President and CEO
Blue Shield of California Foundation
our mission

To improve the lives of all Californians, particularly the underserved, by making health care accessible, effective, and affordable, and by ending domestic violence.
over $322 million in grants since 2002

in 2014:

- $31.8 million
  - 481 grants

- $17.6 million
  - 292 grants

- $9.5 million
  - 156 grants

- $4.7 million
  - 33 grants

we want all Californians to be healthy and safe
preventing violence in the homes of military families

**stage I:**
laying the groundwork
investing in research to fill data & information gaps, piloting new tools and approaches at community level

**stage II:**
educating & shared learning
convening and connecting CA stakeholders, and sharing proven tools & programs
preventing violence in the homes of military families

stage III: engaging partners outside of CA
moving beyond local efforts to create broader networks and communities of practice

stage IV: institutionalization
multi-sector collaboration to create systemic change in the way we serve & support our vets, and scaling ideas that work
our lessons

• Any funder can be a veterans funder.

• Impact is achievable and concrete.

• Cultural responsiveness is critical.

• Resource navigation and coordination is in high demand.

• Veterans funders are eager to collaborate.
thank you

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Veterans Philanthropy Exchange

The Philanthropy Exchange online platform creates an unprecedented clearinghouse for philanthropic funders to share best practices. It provides a collaborative investing forum for foundations to align investments with other public and private partners for greater collective impact on services for veterans and their families.

The Veterans Philanthropy Exchange will help grantmakers efficiently gather and share high-value information, best practices, and real time communication across a variety of foundation types.

Some features of the Exchange include:

- Resource Library
- Mapping tools, powered by the Foundation Center
- Individual donor information
- Strategy building tools on best practices
- Peer to peer engagement and learning
- Calendar of Events
- Recent News on Veterans Funding
- Topical focus on issues, like homelessness, unemployment, mental health services, community reintegartion, family housing, and transition planning

To be eligible to enter the Exchange, your organization must:

- Fund or be interested in funding veterans’ and military families’ services
- Have an independent governance structure
- Not be a government entity

If you are a funder and wish to become a Veterans Philanthropy Exchange community member, send an email to membership@cof.org.

The Council on Foundations’ Philanthropy Exchange:

- Allows the funding community simple and instant access to discussions with their peers across the globe
- Provides a space for foundation staff to cultivate a searchable online library of best practices, resources and events
- Creates a private community where our sector’s leaders can candidly seek and give advice to their peers
Veterans Philanthropy Exchange

This community is for leaders interested in or currently pursuing veteran funding as a way to discover trends, share best practices, and engage in new thinking.

Recent Activity 
Discussions 
Shared Files 
Blogs 
Events 
Members 
Moderation

Latest Discussions

RE: Your thoughts about COF annual conference seem.
Posted in Veterans Philanthropy Exchange.

Sarah: thanks for the insight. Helps me know I am on the right track in thinking about this.

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Using the Exchange

Resources

Funding Map (Beta)
1. Your thoughts about COF annual conference session

From: Stephanie Powers
To: Veterans Philanthropy Exchange
Posted: Apr 16, 2014 7:36 PM
Subject: Your thoughts about COF annual conference session

Hi, all,

Just wondering if you like the idea of using a conference session at COF’s annual conference in June to bring together the US Conference of Mayors and League of Cities, some of the larger faith-based national associations like Catholic Charities and the National Council of Churches, and our foundation attendees to learn more about the important role needs of veterans and families at their first point of contact in the community to which they return.

It seems that this first point of contact after transitioning out is becoming a really important touch point in whether vets get off on the right foot in their communities. It doesn’t seem unreasonable to assume, after participating in many conversations this past year, that the first point of contact, when an individual or a family member starts to have problems or has critical needs, is a community-based agency or a faith-affiliated entity. The House Veterans Affairs roundtable last
This collection brings together valuable insights from nonprofit organizations, foundations, and government agencies who are working directly with veterans in communities across the country.

These case studies, evaluations, white papers, and toolkits provide us with a deeper understanding of the problems many veterans and their families face but also of the possible solutions we might build to address these very real challenges.

The collection is broken into five key areas where veterans are facing obstacles and where nonprofits and foundations have been focusing their efforts:

- Education & Employment
- Family & Community Reintegration
- Funding, Strategy & Evaluation
- Health & Well-being
- Poverty & Homelessness
- Women Veterans

81 resource(s) available.

Study on Children of Seriously Wounded Service Members
Mar 18, 2014
Caster Family Center for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Research University of San Diego

This study was conducted to better understand the needs of children of service members who have been seriously wounded in combat, as well as the programs and services that support these children and families.

+ More
OVER $276 MILLION IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS
Philanthropy - Joining Forces Impact Pledge
Watch the recap from the second annual convening of funders dedicated to supporting veterans and military families. READ MORE
Philanthropy-Joining Forces Impact Pledge

• Dedicated to supporting America’s veterans and military families through philanthropy.

• Voluntary Pledge - Launched in April 2014 – 5 year commitment

• Funder response to White House Joining Forces Initiative led by First Lady Michelle Obama and Vice President’s wife, Dr. Jill Biden

• Investments of 34 funders and corporations - nearly $270 million

• Grants and other forms of support

• First national funders community
Philanthropy-Joining Forces Impact Pledge

- Council Website: [P-JFIP Report and Profiles of all Pledge Members]
Philanthropy-Joining Forces Impact Pledge

“We commit to participate in the “Philanthropy Joining Forces Impact Pledge” that will support America’s veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and their families, as they rejoin our communities and continue their missions of service.

We laud the sacrifices they have made for our nation.

We pledge to use our capabilities and resources to make meaningful contributions to them and their families as they transition from active duty to civilian life.

We are prepared to make our participation in the Philanthropy Joining Forces Impact Pledge public and self-report on our results, on an annual basis for up to five years.”

To inquire about joining the Pledge in 2016, contact Don Cooke, Vice President of Philanthropy, Robert R. McCormick Foundation –DCooke@mccormickfoundation.org
Day for the Brave
November 11

• Unique crowdfunding campaign - pro-bono by Razoo

• Raises funds to provide housing essentials to veterans experiencing homelessness through the Welcome Home Kit initiative.

• Collaboration: Council on Foundations, Funders Together to End Homelessness, and Community Solutions

#DayfortheBrave
For More Information

Contact Stephanie Powers

stephanie.powers@cof.org

703-879-0626
Question?

Please type your question into the Chat Box or press *6 to unmute your phone line and ask a question