



Purpose: To reinforce the strong veteran advocacy in the greater Wichita area and stimulate the interest, participation, collaboration, and coordination of veteran and military family focused community service providers (e.g., nonprofit, county, state, federal, informal councils, church, veteran groups, etc.) to enhance the delivery of services provided to our veterans and military families, and to assist with informing them about these services.

Vision: An integrated collection of veteran and military family service providers delivering various and multiple services focused on resolving problems and preventing them from falling through the “gaps” of existing greater Wichita area programs.

Mission: Improve the support of the veterans and their families in the greater Wichita area by:

- Inspiring and encouraging collaboration and cooperation among service providers and veteran service organizations.
- Advocating on behalf of veterans and their families for better integration of services.
- Improving communication between veterans, their families, and providers.
- Providing guidance and leadership that could affect positive local changes.



Subcommittees

I. Veteran Homelessness:

Goal: Eliminate veteran homelessness in the greater Wichita area.

Mission: Help create a network in the community that can identify contributing issues, prevent homelessness, or immediately provide adequate shelter; then, as required, provide treatment, counselling and assistance which helps the veteran remove the stigma(s) and or barriers that caused their homelessness, and ultimately provides the necessary assistance for the veteran to become a contributing member of our community; improve and increase the awareness of the associated VA systems.

II. Veteran Employment:

Goals:

1. Develop an accurate picture of veteran and military spouse unemployment in the greater Wichita.
2. Through the collaboration of city and county leadership, the Chambers of Commerce, Workforce Center, Regional VA, military installation leadership, and businesses, attract, hire, and retain veterans and their families in the greater Wichita area.

Mission: Initiate a coalition of government agencies, businesses and employment advocates, technical schools and colleges who are committed to improving veteran and military spouse employment in the greater Wichita area.

Methods for consideration:

- Partner with military installations, VR&E, local DOL Representatives, National Guard and Reserves to attract veterans and their families to the Wichita area
- Educate businesses on hiring and retaining veterans and military spouses
- Share best practices
- Collaborate on and share employment opportunities
- Host veteran internships, training with industry programs, apprenticeships, and fellowships
- Enable veteran employees and military spouses to overcome their personal barriers to employment with mentoring and support programs
- Provide career enhancing opportunities for veteran employees by leveraging existing veteran education programs
- Enable and encourage veteran entrepreneurship



III. Public Transportation – VA provided Grant to the city of Wichita in 2020. (VAB is to revisit annually)

Goals

1. Make the Ride For Free program permanent for veterans in the Wichita community.
2. Extend the hours of the program to support shift work in our manufacturing facilities.
3. Extend some routes to support greater access.

IV. Veteran Treatment Court

V. Veteran Chamber of Commerce

***If you would like to be present at a future Board or Subcommittee meeting, please email:**

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