

**Fort Carson Regional Growth Plan
Medical, Behavioral Health & Social Services Partnership Group Meeting
17 June 2011
Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Keith Anderson, Dept of Veterans Affairs
- Carrie Bailey, Veteran Trauma Court
- Wes Clark, Greater Colorado Springs Chamber, MAC/DMTF
- Bridget Fogelberg, Denver Options
- Kate Hatten, PPACG
- Katherine Crumrine, AspenPointe-Peer Navigator
- Tricia Miller, HQ Air Force Space Command
- Dan Molner, AspenPointe-Lighthouse
- Nancy Musso, Parkview Medical Center
- LTC Deborah Pina-Thomas, Fort Carson-EACH
- Anna Rodriguez, Parkview Medical Center
- Mike Smith, PPACG, AAA-Regional Advisory Council
- Steve Tucker, Penrose-St. Francis
- Ida Wade, El Paso County Public Health

Growth Plan Status

Ms. Hatten indicated that PPACG is finalizing the Growth Plan implementation status reports as part of PPACG's grant requirements with DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA). These reports are available on PPACG's website (<http://www.ppacg.org/military-impact/fort-carson-regional-growth-plan-intro/project-materials/growth-plan-documents>). As noted in the reports, PPACG staff continue to work with partnership group members and other stakeholders to implement the Growth Plan recommendations, including launching the Network of Care (<http://pikespeak.networkofcare.org>)

Additionally, PPACG has received an extension of its OEA grant, continuing the Growth Plan implementation and regional communication and coordination through December 2011.

Military System of Care

One of the tasks of the grant extension will be to conduct strategic planning and develop a strategic/operational plan for a military system of care in order to enhance care coordination for service members, veterans and their families. PPACG has obtained funding to hire a consultant to assist with the strategic planning process, including meeting facilitation, prioritization, and development of the strategic/operational plan. A request for proposals for the consultant services will be issued within the next 30 days.

It was noted that a regional focus and strategic planning have not yet been formalized, and it is hoped that the Military System of Care process will assist in identifying key priorities and strategies, as well as the implementation framework needed to move this effort forward. It was also noted that the Network of Care can assist in care coordination; however, additional public outreach is needed to ensure wide understanding and use of the site's features.

One possible effort that should be reviewed in the strategic planning process is the Community Blueprint – a pilot project recently announced for Norfolk, VA and Fayetteville, NC to implement community-based efforts to meet the needs of service members, veterans, and families. Information on the Community Blueprint (attached) was distributed to the group. It was noted that local efforts should work to streamline current processes to better serve active duty, veterans, and family members in the community, as well as address the (currently lacking) resources needed to serve all those in need. More information on this strategic planning and prioritization will be provided once the consultant has been selected.

Other Business

As noted above, the Network of Care was launched in early May. Identification of additional local services to be included in the service directory continues, and outreach efforts will be enhanced to make more people aware of this resource.

Carrie Bailey provided an update on the Veteran Trauma Court, noting that approximately 75 veteran cases have been heard in the court and the number of cases increases each month. The intent of the court is to divert active duty service members and veterans with PTSD and TBI from the legal system and into treatment. To-date, most VTC participants are obtaining care through the VA, as they have been able to keep their benefits. It is expected that the court will expand to misdemeanor court in the near future.

Mike Smith noted ongoing concerns with the ability of the VA to keep up with service demands, particularly for aging veterans. He noted that caseloads for VA physicians is extremely high and without sufficient funding, there are concerns that the VA will not be able to meet the needs of all veterans. Therefore, there are further concerns that communities will be required to “step up” to meet those needs. Keith Anderson indicated that the expanded VA clinic being built in town will assist in providing VA services locally. It was also noted that the Military System of Care effort noted above will need to include this issue in its ongoing strategic planning. One key issue will be the ability for providers in the region to “connect the dots” to identify and connect folks with needed services in the community. It was also noted that current programs, such as AspenPointe’s Peer Navigator, may be good examples of how to assist with care coordination and case management by providing a holistic approach to meet client needs.

The challenges faced by families who have children with special needs were also raised. The increased number of children with special needs has been addressed in the child development and K-12 partnership groups, but increased demands are also affecting social services and behavioral health providers. Ida Wade indicated that there are gaps in availability or accessibility to TRICARE or other services and that the stresses of deployments exacerbate challenges for families who have children with special needs. She noted that care coordination and identifying and providing access to a range of services is important in serving these families. Special needs services and resources will continue to be addressed across a variety of issue areas affecting military families.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

- The next Medical, Behavioral Health & Social Services Partnership Group meeting is scheduled for **Friday, 19 August at 1:00pm.**
- The next Colorado Defense Mission Coalition (CDMC) meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 20 July at 1:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.