

AHEC Veterans Mental Health Project

WORKING WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Working with potential partners entails knowing what services they can provide for the project and what benefit they receive from being part of the project. That information is outlined below.

The first step is to decide what services you want/need for the project, and then contact the company/agency that can offer it. Invite them to the very next planning meeting and keep them involved throughout the planning process as much as they can or want to be involved. If they want to participate but cannot attend each planning meeting, they can be kept involved by receiving minutes from each meeting. For most of the partners listed above, a key benefit is listing their company/agency name as a partner on the marketing materials. Develop a list of the planning committee members along with their job title and organization, and place this in the handouts. This gives personal visibility to committee members.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Here is a list of potential partners for this project, along with 1) what they can provide and 2) how they benefit from being part of the project.

- US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) www.va.gov
 - **Contact them first!**
 - Locations include
 - Medical Centers
 - Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC)
 - Vet Centers
 - Can provide
 - Scope of the Issue speaker &/or Behavioral Health speaker
 - Help with marketing/promotion of the training
 - List of VA contacts <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/map.asp>
 - Their benefit
 - List as partner in marketing materials
 - Demonstrates collaboration with their community which is highly encouraged from VA Administration in Washington, DC.

- Military Installations
 - National Guard
 - State Family Programs Director
 - Director of Psychological Health
 - Chaplains
 - Reserve Units
 - Active Duty Installations
 - Medical Command
 - Military Treatment Facilities
 - Counseling Centers/Family Service Centers on bases
 - Chaplains
 - Can provide
 - Color guard
 - Scope of the Issue &/or Behavioral Health speaker

- Boots on the Ground speaker
 - Help with marketing/promotion
- Their benefit
 - List as partner in marketing materials
 - Collaborate with their community
 - Demonstrates increasing access to healthcare for service members by training civilian providers
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)/Community Health Centers (CHC)
 - AHECs are encouraged to include FQHC/CHC staff as a target audience for these trainings. Partnering with them to provide the training increases the likelihood that their staff will participate.
 - Benefit to AHEC
 - Increases the # of primary care and mental/behavioral health professionals reached in your service area.
 - Establishes or reinforces a relationship with health care facilities in your service area that provide access to health care for special populations who are often underserved
 - Benefit to FQHC/CHC
 - Helps them understand the need to identify and provide appropriate services for this special population.
 - Informs them about potential collaborations with AHECs in other areas.
 - List as partner in marketing materials
- State/Local Agencies
 - State Department of Veterans Services or Veterans Affairs (<http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>)
 - State Department of Health Services/Mental Health Services
 - Vets Service Officers
 - One in every county
 - Help with access to resources for speakers and for services
 - Veterans Services Coordinators at colleges, university and community colleges
 - Provide
 - Color guard
 - Boots on the Ground speaker
 - Help with promotion
 - Their benefit
 - List as partner in marketing materials
 - Demonstrates adherence to their mission of educating providers or providing services
- Community Organizations
 - Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs)
 - VFW
 - American Legion
 - Provide
 - Color Guard
 - Boots on the Ground speaker
 - Local music schools/church choirs to provide singers for national anthem
 - Nonprofit Organizations
 - Their benefit
 - List as partner in marketing materials
 - Demonstrates community service which is their mission