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Background

- Appointed as a Constituent Services Representative and the Veterans Liaison by Mayor Keller in 2018
- Accomplishments:
 - Expanded approved IDs for free rides for Veterans on City transportation
 - Updated Veteran Walls of Honor in City Senior Centers
 - Expanded Veteran Hiring Initiative to include military spouses and formally signed into City policy for the first time.
 - Reorganized and updated the Mayor's Veteran Resource Center Webpage
 - Reorganized and revitalized the Veteran & Military Affairs Advisory Board and the Mayor's Collaborative on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Amongst SMVF

Current Overview

- Beginning this year, Mayor Keller expanded my role and updated my title to Mayor's Liaison and Coordinator for Military and Veteran Affairs
- Tasked with:
 - engaging the Military and Veteran community and organizations to:
 - better understand the needs and programs, both current and desired
 - Explore and support collaborative efforts to address those needs
- New accomplishments:
 - City of Albuquerque is now a registered VA Work Study Site for the first time
 - Military Service Recognition program to honor currently serving and Veteran City of Albuquerque employees.

Veteran Homelessness: What We Know

- Differing criteria from government and non-profit entities for entry into homeless assistance programs
 - Collaborative efforts are vital in bridging the gap
 - Causes issues with presenting a full scope of the data
- Approximately 3500 homeless or at-risk in New Mexico on any given day
 - 250 estimated to be SMVF

Current Veteran Homelessness Efforts

- City of Albuquerque does not have direct programs to assist with homelessness for any demographic. The City provides support, whether through grants, City department budgets, or City Council, directly to partnering agencies.
- Veteran Agencies:
 - Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center
 - NM Department of Veterans Services
 - NM Veterans Integration Centers (VIC)
 - Goodwill Industries of New Mexico
 - Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)

Veteran Suicides in NM: What We Know

- Albuquerque was ranked 4th in the nation for suicide rates amongst Service Members, Veterans and their Families
- New Mexico is currently ranked 4th in the nation for suicide rates amongst all demographics
- Roughly 20 Veterans die by suicide each day across the US
 - 16 of which are not tied into VA resources
 - Firearms account for 69.2% of Veteran suicides; men 70.2%, women 49.8%
- Highest at-risk Veteran populations:
 - Within 3 years of separation from service
 - DOD ordered to participate in efforts
 - Retirement age, currently no concrete theories as to why
- Department of Defense has reported increased rates of suicide amongst all military branches
 - Navy had a decrease in 2020 but had the highest rate of desertions
- Air Force posted higher rates of suicide in its history, and of all other branches, in 2018 & 2019
 - Kirtland Air Force Base is partnering in collaborative efforts in the community along with building robust pathways and programs on base

Current Suicide Prevention Efforts

- Mayor's Collaborative on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Amongst Service Members, Veterans and their Families
- Governor's Challenge on Suicide Prevention Amongst Service Members, Veterans and their Families
- NM Department of Health Suicide Prevention Coalition: SMVF Subcommittee
- Together With Veterans
- Building Healthy Military Communities

Mayor's Collaborative on Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Among SMVF

Mission Statement: Prevent suicide among Service Members, Veteran's and their families by building safer, stronger, and engaged communities.

FOCUS AREAS	
Title	Description
Training	<p>The continuing source for information about upcoming trainings done through the collaborative, as well as collaboration on community trainings, scheduling community trainings, and training specific to suicide care for local clinicians. Any person or organization that wants to collaborate with the participants of the Mayor's Collaborative will go through this working group.</p> <p>Offer either through partners or collaborate to offer QPR and ASIST at least four times in 2021.</p>
Peer Support	<p>Tasked with compiling a list of veteran peer entities/groups including group supports, providing connections and linkages, and recommendations for additional needed peer services.</p> <p>Be able to have at least six peer entities we can inform agencies who are asking the question to refer to.</p>
Asking the Question	<p>Tasked with cataloging entities that currently ask the question "have you or a family member served in the U.S. military", and compiling the data from those entities about the number of persons served who answer "yes." Recommending data metrics specific to asking the question that is easy to report, in order to better tell the story of our community and where people are accessing services.</p> <p>Teach at least five programs/entities to "ask the question" (data metric is tracking how many entities begin implementing ask the question by a follow up three months after the initial ask the question training) and connect these agencies to peer support organizations from above.</p>



military &
veterans
affairs



VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Office of the Governor
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM



**New Mexico Governor's Challenge
to Prevent Suicide Amongst
Service Members, Veterans and Their Families**



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The Governor's Challenge was accepted in 2022 and is currently in the process of building the organizational structures, identifying key points of contacts and community stakeholders.

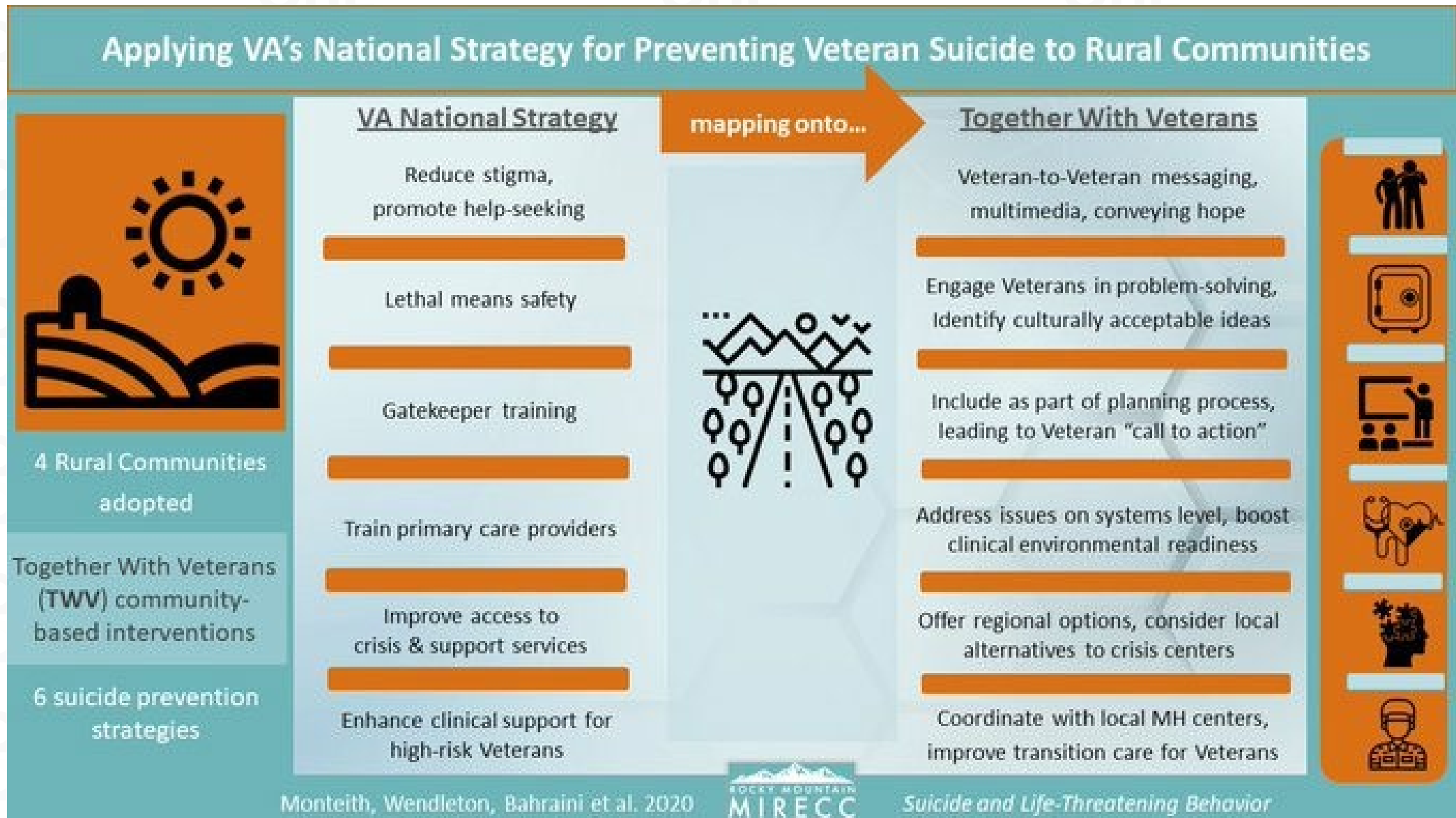
The idea is to build out the efforts of the Mayor's Collaborative to a state-wide level, building off the knowledge and experiences learned from those efforts.

For further information regarding the current status, please contact the NM Department of Veteran Services.

NM DOH Suicide Prevention Coalition

- Relaunched in 2020, building off a previous suicide prevention coalition in NM focused on youth. Now is focused on all demographics of New Mexicans
- The New Mexico Department of Health (DOH) proposes a Statewide Suicide Prevention Project (SSPP) with the goal of reducing the rates of attempted and completed suicide among the state populations
- The coalition expands suicide prevention by building statewide capacity in communities and schools to support populations who are at risk of suicide

Together With Veterans (TWV)



Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC)

- a pilot initiative intended to improve mission readiness, health, and well-being of geographically dispersed Military Service Members and their families through increased awareness and access to military and community resources promoting well-being.
- To achieve this goal, we are seeking to leverage three interventions: state coordinators, a strategic information campaign, and mobile-health technologies.
- The strategic information campaign and the mobile-health technologies interventions are focused on improving communication within the military community about resources available to Military Service Members and their families and improving resources to meet the real needs of the community.

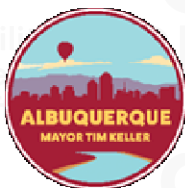


Ongoing Projects

- Research & development to implement Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) at the City of Albuquerque to create a Veteran ERG.
- Researching Onward to Opportunity (O2O) to assist with employment pipeline for Service Members departing from active duty on KAFB
- Veteran and Military Affairs Advisory Board
- Kirtland Air Force Base: Military Installation Resiliency Review

Veteran & Military Affairs Advisory Board (VMAAB)

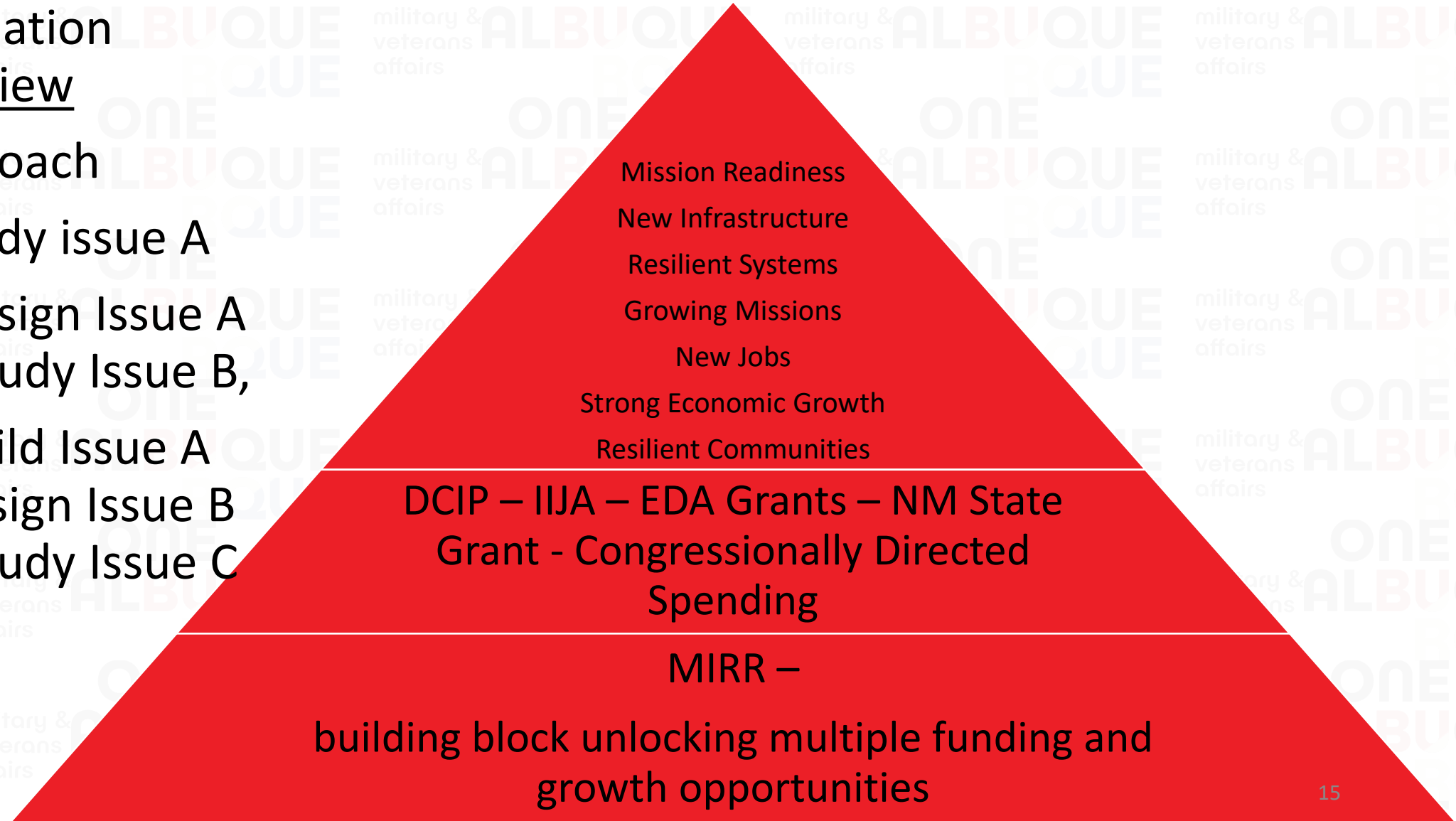
Subcommittee Mission Statements	
Title	Mission Statements
Transition & Reintegration:	<p>Identify programs and resources currently available in the community and determine gaps in services for the larger Military and Veteran community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine differing variables of transition (retiring, homelessness, end-of-service), and how they affect the veteran population • Determine efficacy of resources and where improvements can be made to increase positive outcomes • Submit report which examines all factors and makes recommendations on where CABQ can contribute to “Improve”
Critical Needs:	<p>Assess the needs of the community that are in a critical junction, such as homelessness, mental health, and behavioral health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information from community and government sources to determine the level of critical services needed. • Determine whether or not the City of Albuquerque or the City Council will be able to address those needs, or if it will need to be addressed through partnerships or other entities. • Create a list of current services and options for either policies or plans that the City of Albuquerque can take to address gaps of critical needs.
Community Engagement:	<p>Implement a plan of Veteran inclusiveness with key stakeholders, partners and agencies that removes barriers and stigmas of what Veterans are/need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify current programs and systems working to engage Veterans and military families • Create a program to develop a more engaged Veteran community with local partners and agencies • Develop an engagement package to promote business and Veteran community involvement



Kirtland Air Force Base MIRR

Military Installation Resiliency Review

- Phased approach
- Phase 1- Study issue A
- Phase 2 - Design Issue A
Solutions, Study Issue B,
- Phase 3 - Build Issue A
Projects, Design Issue B
Solutions, Study Issue C



Questions?

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