

ALASKA COALITION FOR VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES



Alaska Coalition for Veterans & Military Families

VISION

Alaska's Service members, Veterans and Families (SMVFs) will be supported and cared for within their communities.

MISSION

Better serving Service members, Veterans and their Families in the communities in which they live.

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. REFER.

Coalition Goals

- Establish AKCVMF as the leading coalition on issues concerning SMVFs
- Expand resource sharing and services for SMVFs in rural Alaska
- Institute training opportunities for service providers in all focus areas to better serve SMVFs
- Improve collaboration efforts in an effort to share information, reduce redundancies and increase participation from service providers

Key Partners

- Alaska Legal Services Corporation
- Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
 - *Alaska National Guard, Family Programs*
- Anchorage Veterans Treatment Court
- Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve
- North Star Behavioral Health Hospital
- US Department of Labor Veterans Employment & Training Services
- VA Healthcare System
- VFW

Behavioral Health Alliance

- Quarterly in-person training opportunities for service providers
- Free online trainings provided by partners
 - *PsychArmor*

Employment Alliance

- Employment Fairs
 - *Organizational and marketing support*
- Transition Assistance Programs
 - *Members present and share information*
- Career Counseling
 - *Assist Veterans and spouses looking for employment: resume writing, employment referrals*
- Resource & Referral
- Spouse Employment
 - *Advocates for transparency and ease of employment transitions for spouses*

Legal Alliance

- Legal clinics in Anchorage and Mat-Su
 - *200+ Veterans served since January 2016*
- Wills clinics provided quarterly since March 2016
 - *Anchorage, Fairbanks, Bethel, Kenai/Soldotna*
- Network of 20+ pro bono attorneys to assist in civil legal matters
- Advocates for additional Veteran Treatment Courts
- Resource and referral for current Veteran Treatment Courts

Other Activities

- Inventory faith organizations and their services
 - *Provides Active Duty Clergy and Guard/Reserve Clergy options for referrals*
 - *Allows service providers to make referrals based on the needs of the SMVF*
- Family Nights provided by Alaska National Guard
- Information and referral services
- Redeveloping relationships with school districts
- Developing Military-specific training program for educators

Outcomes & Key Learnings

- Alaska Coalition for Veterans & Military Families recognized nationally as the convening organization for SMVF issues in Alaska
- Adoption of the “no wrong door” policy
- Increased free continuing education opportunities for service providers at all levels
 - *1,000+ CEUs on Military specific topics provided to service providers throughout Alaska since 2011*
- Significant increase in sharing of information and participation in trainings and events among service providers
- Veteran unemployment consistently lower than nonveteran unemployment rates
- Declining homeless Veteran population since 2011

Upcoming Projects

- Partnering with America's Warrior Partnership and Combined Arms to develop better referral tracking
 - *DMVA and VA are also partnering on this initiative*
- Fairbanks area service provider training summit
 - *In partnership with the VA (15 AUG 2019)*
- Social media campaign: #BuddyUpAK
 - *Encourages Veterans to connect with their battle buddies to reduce feelings of isolation*

Contact Information

- AKCVMF.org
 - *Resources*
 - *Calendar of Events*
 - *Online directory*
- <https://www.facebook.com/Alaskaforgetmenot/>

Contact information

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