

NWCG Mental Health Subcommittee

Agenda: 07/09/2025 1300-1400 (Mountain Standard Time)

Invitees

Present: Alyssa Givens, Mack McFarland, Candace Shepherd, Patricia O'Brien, Catherine Kaminski, Dana Lee, Carmen Thomason, Darryl Jones, Craig Bondra

Guests: N/A

Absent: Narisa Tappitake, Scott Bovey, Brad Tausan, Eric Coulter, Mike Proud, Richard Smith

Agenda Items

1300 Welcome, Introductions & Updates (10 Minutes) – Chair, Alyssa Givens

Updates:

- Met with NWCG group (Sarah Lee, Eric Coulter, Chelsea McKinney, Omaira Falcon).
- Suicide Prevention Awareness Week Timeline:
 - September 8-12: Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (SPAW)
 - August 8: Letter completed and sent to Chelsea for review/edit of content
 - August 25-September 5: Eric will be creating Social Media posts to promote SPAW
 - September 1-8: Omaira will be updating the SPAW documents on the website
 - Friday September 5: Mail chimp with the letter will go out to the distribution list to build hype
- The suicide prevention letter was completed, and suggestions need to be collected by the group within the next 2 weeks to finalize prior to the due date to NWCG on August 8.
- Website review conducted and information sent to the group for review.
- Review of the Roster to update for the website.

Future Taskings for MHSC:

- Develop an SOP to show purpose, business rules, etc. of the group.
- Initiate meetings minutes that can be posted on the MHSC page monthly.
- Start planning the theme, products, and information the team would like to distribute for 2026 Suicide Prevention Awareness Week, initial planning meeting will start in October.

1305 RMC Chair Updates (5 Minutes) – Mack McFarland

Future of MHSC:

- During a listening session on the reorganization of NWCG, it was suggested that the MHSC be dissolved, and the FS/DOI Joint Program take over the taskings of the MHSC.
 - RMC does not believe this is the way forward due to the scope of the Joint Program being limited to federal employees. MHSC serves both internal and external partners.
 - Dana Lee, The Joint Program Director, agreed with keeping the MHSC under NWCG. The Joint program has a different scope and serves only federal employees.
- NWCG reorganization document comments and suggestions are due by Friday July 11, 2025. Mack will include the comments of the group and keep MHSC up to date regarding this effort.

1310 Round Robin (20 Minutes)

Member Updates

- Dana Lee, DOI: Wildland Fire clinical services launched June 16th. Currently, it is going well but working out the kinks to the provider network.
- Patricia O'Brien, DOI MHSC Advisor: No updates.
- Catherine Kaminski, BIA: No updates.
- Craig Bondra, US Fire Administration: Provided a copy of the 2024 US Fire Administration Summit Workgroup Report, pages 41-52, which contains issues, accomplishments, and recommendations from the Mental Health and Wellbeing Workgroup. Next Summit is scheduled for October 2025.
- Candace Shepard, FWS: No updates.
- Darryl Jones, NASF: TX A&M is helping with the response in TX. There are approximately 120 people providing aid, currently no unmet needs to report.
- Carmen Thomason, BLM: no updates.

1330 Website Review (10 minutes) – Carmen Thomason

Reviewed the document that was created to review the possible changes for the MHSC site.

- MHSC will not have any information to add to the "Correspondence" Tab. That is for official correspondence documents with specific NWCG letterhead.
- MHSC does not have any positions so this section will stay blank. If the NWCG determines in the future to endorse a position such as CISM or CISL then those would be linked in the "positions" tab but at this time the NWCG has not endorsed any positions that the MHSC would hold.
- No publications- these would need to have an NWCG publication # and the subcommittee does not currently have any.

1340 Closeout July Meeting (5 minutes) – Alyssa Givens

Review of Action Items:

- Subcommittee members to provide edits to the suicide prevention letter by 7/24/25
- Members to review the information on the website and determine if any changes need to be made

Topics for Next Meeting & Upcoming Meetings/Calls

Topics for Next Meeting

- Website – review suggestions and information to bring the information current
- Development of the MHSC SOP/Charter
- Updates for the Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (Sept 8-12) resources

Upcoming Meetings

- Date: August 13, 2025
Time: 1500-1400 Eastern Time
1400-1500 Central Time
1300-1400 Mountain Time
1200-1300 Pacific Time
1100-1200 Alaska