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**TESTIMONY TO** The Commission to Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's  
Veterans

**SUBJECT: THE MAINE MILITARY AND COMMUNITY NETWORK (MMCN)**

**28 October, 2015**

**1. HISTORY**

- Founded in 2003 as the Military Adjustment Program (MAP) by Civilian Behavioral Health Professionals, the Maine National Guard, and VET Centers
- Main focus was behavioral health, both traditional and alternative methods
- Trained over 300 BH providers on Military specific considerations, provided twice yearly seminars with overviews of treatments, gaining membership in Tri-Care (military health insurance), and other military issues
- “Handshake” network – not a 501c3 nor are they incorporated legally

**2. STRUCTURE**

- Statewide MMCN
  - Meets Ad Hoc, predominantly to coordinate the annual state-wide conference
- Regional MMCNs
  - Autonomous, meeting monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly
  - Sponsor, create, and support events including but not limited to:
    - Service Member, Veteran, and Family (SMVF) Resource Fairs
    - SMVF Job Fairs
    - Point In Time surveys for homeless
    - Military related cultural events
  - Currently, nine organizations
    - Aroostook (Houlton)
    - Washington (Machias)
    - Hancock (Ellsworth)
    - Greater Bangor
    - Kennebec (Augusta)
    - Lewiston & Auburn
    - Mid-Coast (Brunswick)

- Greater Portland
  - York County (Springvale)
- Maine Military and Community Leadership Council
  - Created by Executive Order in May of 2011
  - Meets quarterly to hear updates from the respective representatives, suggests initiatives for Statewide and Local MMCNs, oversees and approves the recognition program, and suggests, through The Adjutant General, possible legislative initiatives for the Governor
  - Comprised of:
    1. The Adjutant General
    2. Representative of DHHS
    3. Representative of DOL
    4. Representative of DOE
    5. Director, Maine Bureau of Veterans Services
    6. Maine National Guard Director of Psychological Health
    7. Director, Deployment Cycle Support
    8. Representative of Maine National Guard Medical Command
    9. Representative of Maine National Guard
    10. Representative of the Air Guard
    11. Representative of the Army Reserve
    12. Representative of the Marine Corps Reserve
    13. Representative of the Navy/Navy Reserve
    14. Representative of the US Coast Guard Coast Guard Reserve
    15. Military Spouse
    16. Representative of Brain Injury Services
    17. Representative of SAMHS
    18. Representative of Civilian based BH services
    19. Representative of MMCN
    20. Representative of Civilian Health Care Services
    21. Representative of Maine Council of Churches
    22. Representative of Veterans' Affairs
    23. Representative of the Maine Veterans' Coordinating Committee
    24. Representative of Criminal Justice System
- Maine Military Clinical Outreach Network
  - Legacy of MAP
  - Trains BH providers in best practices, alternative interventions, Tri-Care sign up
  - Coordinates Statewide Conference (recently in conjunction with the MMCN conference) to provide information and networking opportunities

### 3. SERVICES

- MMCN Web site: MaineMCN.org
  - Administered by the Family Assistance Center
  - Open to all who are supportive of Service Members, Veterans, and Families
  - Categorized by type of service
  - Categorized by geography
  - User Friendly
  - Advertises events
  - Under refurbishment in conjunction with DOL
- MMCN Facebook Page (1,110 likes)
  - Administered by the Family Assistance Center
  - Open to all who are supportive of Service Members, Veterans, and Families
  - Advertises and reports on events
- 24/7 Hotline: 1 888 365-9287, Coordinated with the Maine Family Assistance Centers
  - 5 personnel (640 cases opened in 2014)?
  - "live voice" 8AM-8PM; recording including immediate service number overnight. 30 Minute call back standard on voicemail
- Statewide Conference
  - 5 events over the last 6 years
  - Nationally respected Key Note Speakers
  - Average of over 200 attendees
  - Average of over 40 SMVF providers
  - Break Outs specific to needs of attendees
  - CEUs available
  - No Cost events
- Regional and Statewide Networking
  - Local and Statewide organizations encourage membership of SMVF supportive organizations and individuals
  - Pending marketing plan in conjunction with DOL
- Regional Resource and Job Fairs
  - Over the last ten years, over 40 events, servicing thousands of SMVFs
- Point In Time Survey
  - Participation increased Federal Financial Support for Veterans and Civilian homeless

### 4. FUTURE

- Expect to double in size with Marketing Plan and Web Site upgrade
- Greater collaboration with State entities
- Expanding role of conferences
- Tenuous with federal budget cuts and dependence on Federally Contracted workers