



## **New York State Dwyer Coalition Proposal**

The Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration (HVNCVR) has worked tirelessly to build a strong coalition with existing and emerging Pfc Joseph P Dwyer Programs throughout New York State to ensure the needs of Veterans returning home from military service get the continuum of care they deserve. While no two Veterans are the same, the coalition works to speak with one clear voice about the struggles Veterans face and how the Dwyer Programs assist them with successfully reintegrating into civilian society. With the expansion of the Dwyer Program to every county in New York State, there will be an even greater need to provide a single location for resources and a platform to support the work of each Dwyer Program on behalf of Veterans.

HVNCVR established the NYS State Dwyer Coalition in 2020, prior to becoming an official recipient of the Dwyer Program grant. Our passion for this program and desire to continue developing this coalition requires additional resources and dedicated attention. The expansion from 25 counties in size, with the expected growth to 62 counties will significantly impact the deliverables of quality of service. The resources below are critically needed to help build and sustain the NYS Dwyer Coalition:

### **2022 NYS Dwyer Coalition Deliverables**

- Hosted **12 Monthly Meetings** (1hr- 1.5 hrs.)
  - 2-3 Guest speakers monthly
  - Provided updated content to program managers
  - Facilitated and assisted with the liaison of program issues and concerns
- Dwyer Day Conference in collaboration with Senator Brooks's Office (Theme focused on all 25 Dwyer Programs and their accomplishments)
  - Attendees included all 25-Dwyer Programs (February 2022)
  - NY State Legislators
- Created 2 surveys accessible by all programs that addressed:
  - Developing a statewide website that encompassed all Dwyer County information
  - The challenges, concerns, and issues faced within programs
- **4 Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Panel Discussions** (1hr- 1.5hrs.)
  - Guest Speakers included MST Survivors
  - Division of Veteran Services
  - Dwyer Program Speakers (Oranges, Dutchess, Columbia, Erie, Ulster, Suffolk)
- Outreach/Conference Events-
  - February 2022- Spoke in Albany
  - December 2022- Spoke in Albany
  - (Traveled) Army National Guard Armory 1745 Armory Dr. Utica NY 13501
    - Engaged over 20 services members
  - (Traveled) ASAP Veteran Summit (Westchester NY)



- Presented on MST
- (Traveled) Mt. St. Mary's College Newburgh, NY- Substance Abuse w/ Veterans Discussion
  - Presented on substance usage and the gap in services with Veterans
- Website Design
  - Began building of the website
- Partnerships/ Collaborations
  - NY State Legislators (**Office representation**)
    - US Senator Chuck Schumer
    - US Congressman Antonio Delgado
    - NY State Senator George M. Borrello
    - NY State Senator John E. Brooks
    - NY State Senator Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
    - NY State Senator Michelle Hinchey
    - NY State Senator Sue Serino
    - NY State Assembly Member Didi Barrett
    - NY State Assembly Member Jonathan G. Jacobson
    - NY State Assembly Member Pamela Hunter
- **Community Partners/Supporters**
  - NY State District Injured Support Coordinator (DISC)- VISN 2 Wounded Warrior Regiment Headquarters- Marine Corps
  - NY State OutDoorRX Coalition
  - NY State ETS Sponsorship Program
  - NY State Division of Veteran Services
  - Soldier and Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA) 99th Readiness Division

### Central support:

Coordinate educational resources, directory of community partners and coalition members by:

- Hosting monthly webinars (MST, Understanding Service Connections, Self-care)
- Training (Suicide, Mental Health, Self Care, MST, PTS(D), substance abuse)
  - Utilizing Community- VA Health Care
- Speaking at conferences and discussing the peer-to-peer model of the Dwyer Program
- Traveling to counties with outreach materials and assembling relationships with community partners (Faith base, medical facilities, law enforcement Relationships)

Provide guidance to individual programs regarding best practices and sharing resources by coalescing the needs of Dwyer Programs into information for elected officials.



- Build and maintain a Dwyer Program Website and facilitate communication among programs
  - The website will provide updated and direct linkage to County Programs
  - Information and resources will help connect Veterans in each county
- Build and maintain social media content
  - Create a Facebook page that highlights all Dwyer Programs
  - Create a YouTube page with videos that explain and discuss issues and barriers experienced by Veterans and how peer-to-peer assists those challenges
  - Create a Twitter page that shares recent and current stories from all Dwyer Programs
- Coordinate Monthly Meetings of Dwyer Program representatives (1.5 hr teleconference)
  - Meetings will be attended by guest speakers
  - Allow all Dwyer Programs to collaborate and share resources
  - Guide and coordinate questions to correct representatives

#### Budget

- See attached