



**Family Support Working Group Zoom
Conference Call
Thursday, January 14, 2021
9:00 AM EDT to 9:39 AM EDT**

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Chair, Teri Wanamaker, NAS Jacksonville – Child & Youth Programs
Lacey Allen, Hurlburt Field
Jack Ballantyne, Military Child Education Coalition
Maria Barkmeier, Florida Military Family Special Needs Network
Cindy Brown, Florida Senate
Diana Caldwell, Florida Senate
Ray Collins, Enterprise Florida
Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville
Kandi Debus, Navy Region Southeast
Ryan Fierst, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Laura Fogarty, Clay County School District
Barbara Gerdes, Duval County Public Schools, Assistant Principal
Michelle Griggs, Enterprise Florida
Annamaria Haley, Command Spouse Leadership Course
Damera Hopkins, Florida State University Schools
Donna Huneycutt, WWC Global/Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Tim Jones, FDA Board/Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Kellie Jo Kilberg, FDA Chair
Tyrone Martin, Office of the Florida Attorney General
Beth Medina, Enterprise Florida
Chris Middleton, NW Florida Defense Alliance
Liz Miller, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance
Lavender Morrison, Humana
Chuck Nygaard, Crowley Maritime
Gary Pheabus, Office of Representative Michelle Salzman
Patty Piazza, Military Spouse/ Family Employment Advocate for NE FL
Erin Pickard, SLO, NSA Panama City
Kay Rasmussen, TCDSI/Okaloosa County EDC
Jennifer Renner, Florida House of Representatives
Representative Michelle Salzman
Liz Sherr, Steven A. Cohen Clinic at Centerstone Director
Jamal Sowell, Secretary of Commerce, President & CEO Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Sharon Strickland, NS Mayport
Michele Taylor, Navy Region Southeast
Charlie Tramazzo, USO
Yolanda Triplett, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Felicia Trumpler, Florida Department of Education
Clarence Zarnes, St. Cloud, Florida

Kellie Jo Kilberg, Florida Defense Alliance (FDA Chair), welcomed everyone to the meeting

- Thanked Teri Wanamaker and her Team on the Family Support Working Group (FSWG) for their hard work to move the Purple Star School of Distinction (PSSD) program forward

- Moving quickly in the Department of Education
- Most important part now is to make sure that we end up with the product that will make a difference both to our families and students and get the recognition needed at DoD
- Turned the meeting over to Teri Wanamaker, Family Support Working Group (FSWG) Chair

Presentation on Blanket Support for Purple Star Schools of Distinction by Chair, Teri Wanamaker

- The work the FSWG has done with the PSSD program is solidly in the hands of the Florida DOE
- We have consulted on a couple of issues, but the DOE will work through the program to develop a distinction that is unique to Florida and meets the needs of our military population.
- To frame our FDA's FSWG next steps let's use an educational strategy: **So What, Here's What, Now What**

So What:

- The goal is to provide support and assistance to schools throughout the state when seeking the Purple Star Distinction
- The 5 pillars of the PSD outline the criteria for achieving the distinction – most are best practices, but a some will need support.
- DOE has added a sixth pillar: Academic Achievements
- How can we assist, and where is our assistance needed?
 - Staff Development
 - Extracurricular Star/Additional Requirements
 - Hosting an event: Military Appreciation, Month of the Military Child, Veterans Day, Memorial Day
 - Public displays throughout the schools honoring veterans and active-duty military members
 - Adopt a school
 - Yellow Ribbon Program
 - Junior ROTC
 - Provide outreach for military parents/children to connect with and feel supported by the surrounding community
 - Relief fund for struggling students
 - Scholarship opportunities funded by the local community
 - Cooperative community projects
 - Structures to provide parents with community resources
 - Involvement from Girl Scouts

Here's What

- Map of Base Locations: gap between the Panhandle and NE Florida, also between Central Florida and Central South Florida
- Map of Florida Military Reserve Units: wider distribution but gaps between the Panhandle and East Florida; South Central Florida
- Map of Florida National Guard Units: the FDA FSWG used a wide definition when making recommendations to the DOE; wanted the National Guard included as well as reserve units; those families should also be supported and benefit from the PSSD program; the Florida National Guard covers the state in 55 communities
- This process benefits both military students and all students who attend PS schools
- This distinction should be accessible to all schools; not only schools in proximity to military bases
- PS can be a point of pride for schools in their community, especially when the entire community is involved
- FDA's next step is looking to blanket the state schools with a network of support for this distinction

- Military School Liaisons Designated Area of Responsibility (AOR)
- Most will look to Military School Liaisons as a natural support; most are prior educators; most have firsthand experience with the military whether through direct service or the spouse/parent/child of servicemembers; natural fit
- Questions asked such as:
 - Can the school count on the SLO for training?
 - Can the schools contact the SL for special events?
 - Will the SLO help our school with the application process?
 - Our school is not near a base, who can help us with programming and application?
- Military schools' liaisons throughout the state and their areas of responsibility:
 - Panhandle: six SLs in the panhandle to help schools with this process
 - Gap between the Panhandle and NE Florida
 - NE Florida: two SLOs covering Nassau, Duval, Clay and St. John's counties
 - Central Florida: two SL who cover a very large area; located at Patrick SFB and MacDill AFB
 - Gap in South Central Florida
 - South Florida: two SLOs covering the southern part of the Florida
 - Shocked there's not more coverage by SLOs
 - Regional SLO covers seven states, as well as GITMO; located in Jacksonville; her responsibility is to cover all counties/schools/districts not currently covered by an installation SLO
- Where military populations reside within the state:
 - Data from DOE from past 2019-2020 school year
 - Counties marked with yellow dot are counties that have close to or over 100 military students that are not covered by a SLO
 - 13 districts do not have a connection to a SLO
 - Palm Beach County: over 500 military-connected students; no SLO
 - How to get support to these counties?

Now What:

- Can we identify organizations in those remote/uncovered counties to support the PSSD?
-
- Create a database of resources; if you have information to add to the database, please contact the FDA FSWG through Michelle Griggs at mgriggs@enterprise-florida.com or (850) 661-7871
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- Revisit needs after Florida Department of Education finalizes details of PSSD

Damera Hopkins, DOE:

- Currently finalizing
- Discussing requirements as opposed to something that the school can choose from
- Military 101 course used as an overall aspect for the entire state; up to the district to decide on another course to benefit their school
- Providing the schools information on the military, military families
- **Teri Wanamaker:** Sharon Strickland, Monika Woods and Bob Buehn: involved in/participated in the Military 101 course at UNF; good resources
- **Kellie Jo Kilberg:** Look at the services and work with their POCs on their Military 101; might be tweaks; have a Navy, Air Force, Army, National Guard, Coast Guard, have several 101s depending on location and which services they're working with; place online;

IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS:

Erin Pickard, SLO, NSA Panama City:

- Girl Scout Troop Leader
- Girl Scouts are vested in their communities and believe it's important to give service back to the community
- Believe military families are a good priority right now, especially since communities need more love and kindness
- Girl Scouts is a good organization
- Scouts can help at the schools, especially those that don't have a strong military presence

Rick Miller:

- Once the program is through DOE and active/finalized, put together a robust online resource page on both on the FDA and the state DOE site as a starting point for schools in those uncovered counties
- Include How To lists, Frequently Asked Questions to get a running start on their own
- Outreach campaign to all uncovered county school officials to make aware of program and where to go for immediate online support
- **Teri Wanamaker:** This is the goal; want to ensure the uncovered counties have access to information, application and process; housing it on the FDA website is a good idea, as well as putting it in the hands of the regional SL **Michele Taylor**, so she can make the connections to those in their area
- FDA can provide strong support; need everyone's help

Felecia Trumpler, DOE:

- Everything discussed today is pivotal in what we do when it comes to PSSP implementation, once everything is up and running
- Hopeful this program will provide great services on top of what's already provided for students and families
- Will take ideas presented today take back to team at DOE and see if they can make some movement

Jack Ballantyne, Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC):

- Encouraged by the State of Florida and where they're headed
- MCEC can assist school campuses to meet the criteria to be awarded the PSSD
- Requirements align with the services they provide and can assist districts and campuses to achieve certification

Liz Sherr:

- Offering Military 101 course throughout the state
- Working on training with General Mike Fleming
- Can do something that can be tailored more to military children, from a mental health perspective, as well
- **Kellie Jo Kilberg:** Also working with the Florida Defense Support Task Force and those representatives who work directly with the legislators on issues that need to work through the legislative process; looking at having a coordinated front on this matter, so consistent message with everyone on the same page; get support behind this to move quickly and get it established as soon as possible
- **Teri Wanamaker:** we will look to the DOE representatives to communicate where they're at in the process and how we can continue to support, as the Governor wanted the DOE to bring this forward, either legislatively or administratively

Felecia Trumpler, DOE:

- DOE is moving forward and will keep everyone updated on the process
- Confident it's moving in the right direction
- Need to ensure the program is comprehensive when implemented and meets the needs of the military-connected families

Laura Fogarty, Clay County School District:

- Very excited about this upcoming program
- Looking forward to earning the PSSD
- Working on preparations, as soon as finalized they can move forward

Barbara Gerdes, Duval County School District:

- Looking forward to participating and want their schools on board
- Early stages, will have questions as they continue forward
- Wonderful opportunity and want all their military-connected parents/families/students to have these opportunities

Teri Wanamaker:

- Monika Woods suggested working closely with the Navy League
- Need names, organizations, phone numbers, emails to create database

Michele Taylor:

- Look into local Chambers of Commerce, often will have non-profits to reach out to someone willing to make those contacts

Kellie Jo Kilberg:

- Working with the state group that works with the local chambers and the Florida Economic Development Council to get information to the local economic development groups to create a broad base group
- Will also work with local regional planning councils and school Superintendents Association
- We'll have a communications plan in place that hits many different associations to make sure all aspects are covered

- Thank you to everyone and look forward to working with everyone as we roll out this program

The presentation from this meeting can be found here:

<https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/wp-content/uploads/FDA-Presentations-2021.pdf>

Information from Zoom Chat:

Gary Pheabus: Good morning, I'd like to introduce myself. I am Gary Pheabus, the Legislative assistant for District-1, Rep. Michelle Salzman. You are welcome to email me any time at Gary.Pheabus@myfloridahouse.gov

Kay Rasmussen: Good morning, Gary. I'm Kay Rasmussen in Okaloosa County. Feel free to contact me: kay@oneokaloosa.org

Elizabeth Sherr, LMHC: Cohen Veteran Network in Jacksonville offers a Military 101 training
Elizabeth Sherr, LMHC: Mike Fleming does the training

Jack Ballantyne: Terri and FDA members, you can count on MCECC supporting PSSDP adoption in FL.

Lacey Allen, Hurlburt Field School Liaison: Would MCEC be available to provide support to help those remote districts who may not have a School Liaison?

Jack Ballantyne: Lacey, yes, MCEC can assist remote districts who may not have a School Liaison. Please contact me at:

John Ballantyne

Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Military Child Education Coalition

Desk: 254.953.1923 ext. 1124

Mobile: 254.541.3152

John.Ballantyne@Militarychild.org

Jack Ballantyne: For information about PSS program, please visit

<https://www.militarychild.org/purplestarschools>

Jack Ballantyne: Also see

https://www.militarychild.org/upload/files/purple%20star/Purple_Star_One_Pagers_SCHOOLS_2.06.pdf

Minutes for the Florida Defense Alliance Teleconference on Wednesday, March 17, 2021

The Florida Defense Alliance held a teleconference from 09:00 AM – 10:37 AM EDT.

Present at the Meeting:

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Pauline	Akauola	Duval County Public Schools
Katie	Allen	Bay Defense Alliance
Jack	Ballantyne	Military Child Education Coalition
Brian	Baluta	EDC of Florida's Space Coast
Maria	Barkmeier	FL Military Family Special Needs Network
Pamela	Berkowsky	South Florida Defense Alliance
Diana	Caldwell	Senate Military Affairs Committee
George	Cheros	National Center for Simulation
Jennifer	Codo-Salisbury	CFRPC/FDA Exec Board
Ray	Collins	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Eli	Converse	Office of Senator Tom Wright
Chad	Corriveau	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Dave	Dahl	Navy Region Southeast
Kandi	Debus	Navy Region Southeast
Tim	Farrell	Military Child Education Coalition
Igor	Garcia	JAS Alloy
Barbara	Gerdes	Duval County Public Schools
Ileana	Gonzalez	USSOUTHCOM
Debi	Graham	Greater Pensacola Chamber
Michelle	Griggs	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Sarah	Hayenga	Homestead Air Reserve Base
Jim	Heald	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Paul	Hirsch	Madison Government Affairs
Donna	Huneycutt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Keith	Hoskins	Florida Defense Support Task Force
Tim	Jones	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance/FDA Board
Penny	Justice	Interactive Government
Dawn	Kaunike	NAS Whiting Field
Kellie Jo	Kilberg	FDA Chair

Buck	MacLaughlin	Avon Park Air Force Range
Joe	Marino	Veterans Florida
Tyrone	Martin, Esquire	Florida Attorney General's Office
Ernest	McClees, Jr	Saint Leo University
Beth	Medina	Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Chris	Meinhardt	Veterans Florida
Chris	Middleton	West Florida Defense Alliance
Liz	Miller	Department of Economic Opportunity
Rick	Miller	South Florida Defense Alliance
Dawn	Mills	Navy School Liaison Officer at MWR
Steve	Murray	Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
Dave	Murzin	Escambia County, FL
Tom	Neubauer	FDSTF/Bay Defense Alliance
Chuck	Nygaard	Crowley Maritime
Mark	Oglesby	Florida Department of Military Affairs
Amy	Phillips	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Jim	Philpitt	Tampa Bay Defense Alliance
Kay	Rasmussen	Okaloosa County EDC/DSI Committee
Leslie	Reed	Department of Environmental Protection
Gaye	Sharpe	Polk County
Matt	Schellhorn	Navy Region Southeast
Eric	Sherman	DoD Liaison for the State of Florida
Barbara	Sistrunk	Duval County Public Schools
Chris	Smith	96 th Test Wing Eglin AFB
Ted	Spangenberg	Gulf Power
Ruthy	Srun	Hurlburt Field
Michele	Taylor	Navy Region Southeast
Cassandra	Thomas	University of South Florida
Luis	Visot	United Way Suncoast
Teri	Wanamaker	NAS Jacksonville Child & Youth Programs
Laura	Waterman	Florida Department of Emergency Management
Venetia	Waters	MacDill AFB School Liaison Officer
Kent	Wimmer	Defenders of Wildlife
Monika	Woods	Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

Agenda: See below

ZOOM / Teleconference Meeting Agenda

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98180190394?pwd=UVhZcnBScG9NSXIMOFdGd0M2RTdGdz09>

Meeting ID: 981 8019 0394

Passcode: 603356

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

0900 – 1030 EDT / 0800 – 0930 CDT

0900 – 0905 Welcome & Topic Overview..... Kellie Jo Kilberg, Chair

0905 – 1015 Partner Updates for Session..... Beth Medina

- DEM - Statewide Mitigation Meeting Laura Waterman
 - FEMA BRIC 2020 Update

- DEP - Resilient Florida Update Leslie Reed
 - HB7019/SB1954: Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience
 - HB1211/SB1480/SB1510: Florida Forever

- FDSTF Update Ray Collins
 - HB1357/SB1796: Military Installations
 - HB0429/SB0938: Purple Star School Campuses
 - HB3783: Hillsborough PSSD

- DMA Update Mark Oglesby
 - HB1069/SB0654: Public Records
 - SB0770/HB0873: DMA Statute Updates
 - DMA Budget

- FDVA Update Steve Murray
 - HB0231/SB0260: Services for Veterans & Families
 - HB0071: Veterans Suicide
 - Veterans' Benefits Guide 2021

- Veterans Florida Update Joe Marino
 - HB0435/SB0586: Veterans Employment & Training (Statewide Skillbridge)

- FRCR/PC Update Jennifer Codo-Salisbury
 - SB0062: Regional Planning Councils

1015 – 1025 Other Bills of Interest.....By Region

1025 – 1030 Closing Comments & Adjournment.....Kellie Jo Kilberg, Chair

A quorum being present, **Michelle Griggs** began the call on March 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM EDT.

1) Agenda Item I: Welcome & Topic Overview

Tim Jones, FDA Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly discussed the meeting's agenda.

2) Agenda Item II: Partner Updates for Session

Beth Medina thanked the partners for participating in the meeting, during which will be presenting several important local, state and federal bills with key updates.

Leslie Reed, Chief of Staff at the Department of Environmental Protection, provided an update and discussion on current bills the DEP is following. leslie.reed@floridaDEP.gov; (850) 245-2011

HB7019: Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience

Establishes Resilient Florida Grant Program within DEP to fund costs of community resilience planning; requires DEP to complete data set & assessment, develop Statewide Flooding & Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan, & submit plan to Governor & Legislature; requires water management districts to submit proposed projects to DEP; provides for legislative funding of certain projects; authorizes local governments to create regional resilience coalitions; establishes Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research & Innovation within USF; requires hub to submit report to Governor & Legislature; requires OEDR to include flood control information in certain assessments.

SB 1954: Statewide Flooding and Sea-level Rise Resilience

Establishing the Resilient Florida Grant Program within the Department of Environmental Protection; requiring the department to notify the Legislature when specifically referenced sources or standards are updated or replaced; requiring the department to develop a Statewide Flooding and Sea-Level Rise Resilience Plan and annually submit the plan to the Governor and Legislature by a specified date; establishing the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation within the University of South Florida College of Marine Science for a specified purpose; requiring the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to include specified information relating to inland and coastal flood control in certain assessments, etc.

HB1211: Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Extends date by which Legislature intends for bonds issued to fund Florida Forever Act to be retired; requires specified annual appropriation to Florida Forever Trust Fund.

SB 1480: Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Extending the date by which bonds issued to fund the Florida Forever Act are intended to be retired, etc.

SB 1510: Land Acquisition Trust Fund

Extending the date by which the Legislature intends for bonds issued to fund the Florida Forever Act to be retired; requiring a specified annual appropriation to the Florida Forever Trust Fund; prohibiting the use of certain moneys distributed from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for specified costs, etc.

Ms. Reed also discussed the Governor's support of Florida's environment, \$2.5 billion invested during his first term, environmental priorities, the Resilient Florida grant program (grants to state and local governments to address the sea level rise, flooding, storms; provide funding to key regional assets), investments in properties through Florida Forever (\$50 million) and the strength of this program, need to find opportunities to build partnerships for conservation and base buffering opportunities (Avon Park Air Force Range and NAS Whiting Field), challenges of climate change and sea level rise, Governor's announcement of \$1 billion over the next four years to be invested using federal funding from Relief Act for resiliency efforts, the Governor's proposal will help local communities with vulnerability assessments and critical preparation of climate change and sea level rise.

Ray Collins, Executive Director of the Florida Defense Support Task Force, provided an update and discussion on current bills the FDSTF is following. rcollins@enterprise-florida.com; (850) 878-4578

HB1357: Military Installations (Representative Thad Altman)

Authorizes conveyance to natural person or private entity property taken by eminent domain if it is used in buffering military installations against encroachment.

SB 1796: Military Installations (Senator Tom Wright)

Authorizing the conveyance to a natural person or private entity certain property taken by eminent domain if it is used in buffering military installations against encroachment, etc.

HB 0429: Purple Star Schools (Representative Patt Maney)

Requires DOE to establish Purple Star School Program; requires department to adopt certain procedures; requires department, in consultation with certain entities, to adopt program criteria; specifying minimum criteria; requires annual reporting.

SB 0938: Purple Star Campuses (Senator Tom Wright)

Requiring the Department of Education to establish the Purple Star Campus program; specifying program criteria for participating schools; authorizing the department to establish additional program eligibility criteria; authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet such criteria; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules, etc.

HB 3783: Supporting Military Students & Families in Hillsborough County Public Schools

Provides an appropriation for the Supporting Military Students & Families in Hillsborough County Public Schools. APPROPRIATION: \$277,476

Mr. Collins discussed the movement of each of these bills in the House and Senate, various versions and amendments.

Teri Wanamaker added her concern over the discrepancy between the bill being available to all educational organizations, as the framework that the DOE is working on specified K-12 public education institutions. The PSSD program looks to be inclusive of private schools, universities and pre-schools.

Kay Rasmussen is tracking the PSSD bills from Okaloosa County area and created a task force to help regional schools understand the application and apply once legislation is passed. She will contact **Representative Patt Maney** to discuss changing the language to include charter and private schools/ modify the language in the bill. *(Please see Kay's bill comparison at the end of these minutes)*

Beth Medina noted that bill that went through the Senate yesterday was very inclusive of schools (campuses) as the Senate Bill uses the word **campuses** while the House Bill uses the word **schools**. The bill language needs to be worked for common, preferred language as it comes through legislation.

Alex Kerr, the Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at the Florida Department of Military Affairs, provided an update and discussion on some bills the DMA is following. alexander.p.kerr.mil@mail.mil; (850) 414-9049

HB1069: Public Records/Department of Military Affairs

Provides exemption from public records requirements for records in custody of Department of Military Affairs which are protected from disclosure under federal laws; provides certain information may be disclosed only in accordance with federal & state laws; provides for retroactive application; provides for future legislative review & repeal of exemption; provides statement of public necessity.

SB 0654: Public Records/Department of Military Affairs

Providing an exemption from public records requirements for certain records in the custody of the Department of Military Affairs which are protected from disclosure under specified federal laws; providing that certain information may be disclosed only in accordance with applicable federal and state laws; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity, etc.

SB 0770: Military Affairs

Deleting a provision requiring that certain military personnel have the same salary and benefits as career service employees; modifying minimum qualifications and duties of the Adjutant General; specifying that a court-martial is an administrative procedure under the executive branch of state government; authorizing the Adjutant General, the Adjutant General's designee, or a military judge to issue and execute search authorizations under specified circumstances, etc.

HB 0873: Military Affairs

Revises provisions relating to military positions in certain employment classes & officer appointments; requires Adjutant General to serve as Commanding General of militia; establishes Florida Code of Military Justice (FCMJ); authorizes courts-martial to try Florida National Guard members for offenses punishable by FCMJ; revises provisions relating to courts-martial & punishments adjudged thereby; authorizes military judge to issue pretrial confinement warrants & subpoenas; revises membership, terms, & meeting requirements of Armory Board; provides members of Florida National Guard are subject to FCMJ regardless of status; revises circumstances under which physician may practice medicine during emergency, disaster, or federal military training.

DMA Budget

Governor DeSantis has recommended adding \$41.7 million in Federal funding to the FLNG budget to update the Immokalee Armory.

Steve Murray, the Communications & External Affairs Director at the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, provided an update and discussion on current bills the FDVA is following.

MurrayR@fdva.state.fl.us; (850) 491-1092

HB0231: Services for Veterans and Their Families

Authorizes DVA to establish Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide behavioral health care referral & care coordination services for veterans & their families; authorizes DVA to contract with certain nonprofit entity to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide such services; provides for statewide delivery of specified services by program teams; requires Florida 211 Network participants to collect program implementation data & submit such data to DVA; requires DVA to submit report to Governor & Legislature.

SB 0260: Services for Veterans and Their Families

Services for Veterans and Their Families; Requiring the Department of Veterans' Affairs to establish the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide behavioral health care referral and care coordination services for veterans and their families; requiring the department to contract with a certain nonprofit entity to enter into agreements with Florida 211 Network participants to provide such services; requiring Florida 211 Network participants to collect program implementation data and to submit such data to the department; requiring the department to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature by a specified date, etc.

SB 764: Veterans Treatment Courts

Authorizing certain courts to create and administer veterans treatment courts for specified purposes; providing standards for admission to a veterans treatment court program; specifying eligibility requirements for participation in the program; revising eligibility for certain pretrial programs to include certain individuals eligible to participate in a veterans treatment court program; specifying applicability of the act to participants in certain court programs in existence as of a specified date, etc.

HB 7023: Veterans Treatment Court Programs

Authorizes courts to create & administer veterans treatment court programs; requires such programs to adopt certain policies & procedures; provides eligibility criteria for participation in program; authorizes court to impose condition requiring certain probationers or community controllees to participate in treatment programs.

HB0071: Recognizing Veteran Suicide

Urges Congress to recognize veteran suicide & fully fund suicide prevention efforts by United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans' Benefits Guide 2021

FDVA has just published the 2021 edition of the Florida Veterans Benefits Guide. Please email him or the Team an email to have some sent directly out.

Mr. Murray also discussed the Florida Veterans Support Line which helps veterans, active duty servicemembers and family members in crisis; they are looking to expand the 211 Crisis Center with legislation and place skilled veterans who have backgrounds in behavioral health at those centers; and FDVA's website <https://floridavets.org/> has a button on their homepage to track all veteran-related legislation in real-time.

Joe Marino, Executive Director of Veterans Florida, provided an update and discussion on current bills Veterans Florida is following. marino@veteransflorida.org; (850) 296-8116

HB 0435: Veterans Employment & Training

Directs Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to serve as state's principal assistance organization under United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program; prescribes duties of corporation to facilitate administration of SkillBridge program.

SB 0586: Veterans Employment and Training

Directing Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to serve as the state's principal assistance organization under the United States Department of Defense's SkillBridge program; prescribing duties of the corporation to facilitate the administration of the SkillBridge program, etc.

Mr. Marino discussed the creation of a statewide SkillBridge awareness initiative throughout the state; this will create an opportunity for an active duty servicemember who's separating or retiring to work for an employer through an internship, apprenticeship or fellowship during their final six months in uniform, while DoD continues to pay their salary and benefits; creates a talent pipeline; no limit on the industries/employers who can participate; movement of the bills through committees; the SkillBridge program will not require any new funding; will promote existing SkillBridge programs; and they will have a standard template for organizations with whom they work.

Kay Rasmussen added that the SkillBridge program is one of the most successful in their area. There is no obligation/risk free to the employer to retain the servicemember/employee at the end of the program, but that happens often. **Terry Cowan** at CareerSource Okaloosa will be happy to discuss the success of this program in their area.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury, Deputy Director/Planning & Administrative Director of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, provided an update and discussion on current bills CFRPC is following. jcodosalisbury@cfrpc.org; 863-534-7130 Ext. 178

SB0062: Regional Planning Councils

Revising a requirement for the Executive Office of the Governor to review and consider certain reports, data, and analyses relating to the revision of the state comprehensive plan; eliminating the advisory role of regional planning councils in state comprehensive plan preparation and revision; repealing provisions

relating to the Florida Regional Planning Council Act; authorizing local governments to recommend areas of critical state concern to the state land planning agency, etc.

Ms. Codo-Salisbury added that the bill has been heard in the Senate Community Affairs Committee in January, it passed with an amendment, since then the next Committee that the bill was referred to was the Judiciary Committee, but it has not been placed on their agenda at this time. If it passes the Judiciary Committee it would then need to be heard by the Rules Committee. At this time no House Companion bill has been filed. There has been a significant amount of testimony in support of the importance of the Regional Planning Councils in Florida which includes local programs such as transportation planning; statewide programs including emergency management and the statewide evacuation planning as well as the regional collaborations that benefit resiliency, sustainability and military installation mission protection. She will notify the Team if anything changes.

Laura Waterman, Florida Department of Emergency Management, provided an update and discussion on FEMA BRIC Grants. Laura.Waterman@em.myflorida.com; (850) 815-4512

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is a new FEMA program funded by taking 6% of every disaster response in the country each year and placing that into a fund. Each year FEMA pulls out a certain amount, unsure of the amounts each year, which is a significant increase in mitigation funding compared to previous years. This year there was over \$400 million available nationwide. FEMA will put out the notice of funding in the fall then the states can also send out an additional notice of funding. The application period will be in the fall as the state will review the applications and contact the applicants to ensure they are complete, so once submitted to FEMA they have the best chance possible to receive funding since this program is nationally competitive. There is also a small funding available to each state, this year was \$600,000. The submitted grants will be graded by FEMA against all the other projects. The application period ended in January 2021 for the first fiscal year of the new BRIC program, DEM received 68 applications and submitted 22. FEMA is now in the process of reviewing those applications and she is hopeful she will receive notice in the summer as to which projects are selected. Next year's cycle will begin again in the fall. FEMA wants to fund resiliency, large infrastructure projects that improve an entire community, as opposed to just one structure, one residence. The BRIC program is intended to focus on the larger infrastructure projects such as military installation projects that are within the county that also affects the installations; two different jurisdictions would be higher on FEMA's list. The program will continue to evolve as this is its first year and the guidance was intended to be vague for room to evolve, improve the program over time. Priorities change each year, state agencies and local governments are eligible applicants, would require coordination with the local communities. Florida has Local Mitigation Strategy working groups set up in each county. She recommends getting involved with those folks because they're the coordinators of all mitigation within the county and the municipalities. They are the first to learn about grant opportunities with BRIC and other programs and the main group with whom they communicate daily.

Kellie Jo Kilberg suggested scheduling Zoom calls after awards have been given out, noting the areas who received funding/what projects have been funded and work on how we can coordinate funding from different grants and the strategy moving forward.

Beth Medina updated that DoD has initiated a grant program for the compacts on license reciprocity. **Eric Sherman** added that for this grant program Congress granted the DoD seed money to help the create these license compacts. There are three levels of effort in license portability: implementing existing policy; working on improving that policy so spouses can proceed through the process using an existing license; and licensing compacts which represent true reciprocity moving from state to state. Florida is moving toward that final stage of becoming a member state with the licensing compacts and now has enough funding for five new professions (teachers, dentistry, cosmetology, plus two others). Six compacts are currently moving through the Legislature. Florida is a member of the nurse licensure compact. Next year he'll work with Florida to join five other compacts.

Beth Medina introduced **Chad Corriveau** as the newest member of the EFI Military and Defense Team, as the Communications and Research Specialist.

3) Agenda Item III: Other Bills of Interest

Northwest Florida:

Chris Middleton, West Florida Defense Alliance, briefed that they are focusing on the Range Task Force and issues involving cyber and homeland security.

Kay Rasmussen, Okaloosa County EDC/Tri-County Community Partnership Initiative Committee, discussed that they are tracking the Military Mission Line and permanent Federal legislation to continue that moratorium.

Chris Smith, 96th Test Wing Eglin EFB. He is tracking the status of federal Senate Bill S.28 introduced by Senator Rubio and referred on 22 January this year. [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) does not report any progress beyond that date. Hopefully, this bill will gain some traction towards passage as its secondary purpose is to extend, via law, the GOMESA moratorium through 30 June 2032. His concern is that the Bill will not progress for passage, and the only protection of GOMESA for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range will then be former President Trump's memo to the Department of Interior withdrawing the moratorium area from energy exploration, development and production after GOMESA terminates on 30 June 2022. Recognizing that current or future administrations could rescind/revoke that memo, my hope is that the current rhetoric regarding U.S. and the global energy transition from less dependence on fossil fuels might have a positive influence on progress towards passage.

Jim Heald, Florida Defense Support Task Force, added that they don't have anything they are tracking but are working with the Federal Legislators on issues to try and help the ranges and protect the base. He is also on the Range Task Force.

Tom Neubauer, Bay Defense Alliance, briefed that they are not tracking but are happy to assist with the Military Mission Line issue as there is a short window to put that into legislation and protect it long-term. The Chief of Staff announced that First Air Force AFNORTH at Tyndall AFB will be the support component for US Space Command.

Kent Wimmer, Defenders of Wildlife, updated that they are not tracking any legislation but will submit their pre-proposal for the Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape next week. They have received much support from their partners and are optimistic they have a good application and hope they will be invited to submit a full proposal this summer. Three (3) to five (5) Sentinel Landscapes will be designated before the end of this year.

Northeast Florida:

Eric Sherman, DoD Liaison for the State of Florida, highlighted the work that the FDA has done to help with issues to avoid legislation. He thanked **Teri Wanamaker** and **Beth Medina** who helped him identify the policy that makes virtual schools available to military children as they are transferring out of state.

Chuck Nygaard, Crowley Maritime, updated that the NDIA chapter is looking for ways to connect and discussed the building of a new ship's simulator.

East Central Florida:

Brian Baluta, Economic Development Commission of the Space Coast, briefed that they are excited about the Florida SkillBridge program and look to establish a more concrete network among their investors to pair with their Chamber's Hire Our Heroes Program.

West Central Florida:

Tim Jones, FDA Vice Chair, congratulated **Donna Huneycutt** on her new position as President of the Tampa Bay Defense Alliance.

South Florida:

Rick Miller, South Florida Defense Alliance (SFDA), updated that USSOUTHCOM Commander Admiral Faller was on the Hill yesterday with his USNORTHCOM counterpart testifying about hemispheric security threats. It was recently announced, pending Senate confirmation, that later this year Admiral Faller is anticipated to be relieved by Lieutenant General Laura Richardson from USNORTHCOM Army North Command to be the new USSOUTHCOM commander. He is watching all resilience related topics and are working with the state funding previously received using grant funding to leverage OLDCC funding for greater resilience work, will line up for follow-up activities leveraging with FEMA BRIC or other resilience implementation solution dollars in the upcoming year. Within the Mission Sustainment Working Group he recently stood up a Florida Test and Training Range Task Force, **Chris Middleton** is co-chair, includes **Jim Heald** and are putting together a better narrative and informative education campaign related to the comprehensive network of test and training ranges across the state.

Jennifer Codo-Salisbury bought up SB 496 which looks like it will pass.

Growth Management; Specifying requirements for certain comprehensive plans effective, rather than adopted, after a specified date and for associated land development regulations; requiring local governments to include a property rights element in their comprehensive plans; prohibiting a local government’s property rights element from conflicting with the statement of rights contained in the act; providing that the consent of certain property owners is not required for development agreement changes under certain circumstances, etc.

4) Agenda Item IV: Closing Comments and Adjournment

Chair, Kellie Jo Kilberg thanked everyone for attending and asked members to please contact **Ray Collins** with any updates to bills as we’re working with **Representative Thad Alman** and **Senator Tom Wright** on opportunities and challenges.

Best wishes to **Beth Medina** as she leaves EFI on Friday. We look forward to her continued engagement with the FDA as a volunteer.

The next FDA meeting will be IN PERSON!

- **Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at the Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown**

The conference call was adjourned at 10:37 AM EDT.

Florida Purple Star School Distinction Legislation Comparison submitted by Kay Rasmussen

House Bill 429	Senate Bill 938
Purple Star Schools	Purple Star Campuses
--	Defining “military student”; Enrolled in a school district, charter school, or any school or educational institution participating in an educational choice scholarship program established pursuant to chapter 1002; dependent of current member...;

Purple Star School Program	Purple Star School Campus Program
Requiring the Department	Authorizing the Department
Consultation with certain entities	--
Adopt program criteria	Establish additional program eligibility criteria
Specify minimum criteria	--
Requiring department to annually submit a report	--
Providing construction	--
Providing for rule making	Requiring department to adopt rules
--	Authorizing schools to partner with school districts to meet criteria
Designation and training of a staff member to serve as the POC between school and military families	Designate a staff member as a military liaison
Student-led programs to create social connections	Maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning into the school
A dedicated webpage on the school website with information for military families	Maintain a webpage on the school's website which includes resources for military students and their families
Professional development opportunities for school staff	Offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students [<i>transitions</i>]
By December 31, 2021, and each year thereafter, the department shall submit a report ...	--
--	The department may establish additional program eligibility criteria by rule.
--	A school may partner with a school district to procure digital, professional development, or other assistance necessary for the school to meet the criteria specified in subsection (2)
Designation as a Purple Star School does not affect the substantial interests of a party and does not constitute a final agency action. The Purple Star School Program and designation are not subject to Chapter 120.	--



Purple Star School Program

The Purple Star Program is a state-sponsored recognition designed to emphasize the importance of assisting military children with school transition, and developing programs that recognize the value of military service and civic responsibility.

Discussion Points:

1. Military children face issues such as gaps and overlaps in curriculum, different graduation requirements, and course placement disruption, as well as difficulties related to socially and emotionally connecting with a new school and community.
2. State-sponsored Purple Star programs primarily designate schools as military friendly once they demonstrate a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. States such as Ohio, Texas and Virginia have recognized schools meeting criteria that:
 - Designate school staff as a point of contact for military students and families
 - Require professional development for staff assigned as a POC for the military
 - Designate a page on its website featuring resources and information for military families
 - Add at least one supplemental activity such as additional professional development, or the school board passing a resolution in support of military children
3. Through the Purple Star Program, states have also recognized schools with few military families that have used the criteria to emphasize military service and recognize veterans and active members of the National Guard and reserves in their community. Schools have established programs that:
 - Recognize the accomplishments of veterans and active members
 - Sponsor special events recognizing military service
 - Celebrate class members who commit to serving in the military



The average military-connected child will experience six to nine different schools during their K-12 education experience. With more than 1.1 million such students attending schools, issues surrounding school transition have become a top priority for families and some schools.

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Defense-State Liaison Office

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil>