

2011

Warrior Support Network Conference

Herndon, VA

December 2-4, 2011

Sempermax Support Fund hosted for a weekend collaborative conference 25 veteran support organizations representatives. Each presented information about their programs and talked about fostering partnerships to better serve the wounded, ill, and injured.

24 survey participants

Conference Value

100% found value in the conference.

Goals

Attendance Goals:

- Resources
- Networking
- Education
- Exposure
- Inspire Funders
- Recruit

100% felt they met their goals.

Conference Size

71% found the size of the conference to be a good size (24% of that population felt it could be larger, but not too big).

29% found the size of the conference to be ideal.

Conference Fee

83% found the conference fee to be acceptable.

13% found the conference fee to be lower than expected.

4% abstained from answering.

Meals

37.5% stated the number and quality of meals provided were aligned with conference fee.

62.5% found the number and quality of meals provided to be excellent.

17% request dinners provided in the fee (75% of this population wanted off site dinners).
58% request more organized non-hosted dinners.
4% request dinners on own.
21% have no opinion on dinner (80% of this population were local to the area).

Recommendations

Admin.

- Temperature control.
- Vocalize ground rules about minimum Q&A time prior to brief start.
- Bell to signal break ends.
- Attendee list/contact sheet prior to start.
- More pre-conference information.
- Encourage speakers to use podium and mic.

Structure/Subject Matter

- Limit presentations to 15-20 minutes max and give more structure.
- Have more time for group directed questions and after action discussions.
- Have organizations share at least one lesson learned beside their mission.
- More time identifying gaps in services for warriors/vets.
- Add one more day and breaks more often.
- Organize panels, presentations and break out groups by themes.
- Offer session choices.

Invites

- Invite funding foundations/fundraising organizations to listen to vetted organizations.
- Invite subject matter experts or non-profit consultants on marketing, human resources, fundraising, grant writing, etc.
- Invite wounded warriors.

Lessons Learned

- Use of social media and twitter critical to current culture.
- Quantifiable capability statements and a ready "elevator" speech necessary to communicate efficiently with donors.
- Animal Programs indentified:
 - Dogs
 - NEADS
 - Vet Dogs
 - Puppies Behind Bars
 - Paws 4 People: slammer Dogz
 - Paws for Vets
 - TADSAW
 - Paws 4 Purple Hearts
 - Karen Jefferies – in Virginia
 - Horses
 - Saratoga War Horse
 - Spring Reins of Hope

Moving Forward

- Initiate restricted blog for continued networking and communication.
- Initiate a facebook page for Warrior Support Network.
- Register name Warrior Support Network and eventually trademark it.
 - Taglines: a collaborative voice, one voice - one mission
- Become a collective voice to identify and share gaps in service/care for sustained programs and needed policy changes.
- Use network to develop a collaborative funding strategy.
- Annual Conference

Friday, December 2, 2011

1730-1900 Hosted Dinner/Social Gathering
1900-1930 Welcome!

Saturday, December 3, 2011

0730-0900 **Breakfast/Social Gathering**
0900-930 SemperMax Support Fund
0930-1000 Code of Support Foundation
1000-1030 American Red Cross
1030-1100 Operation Route 66
1100-1130 DVBIC
1200-1300 Hosted Lunch
1300-1330 ECU Wounded Warrior Biofeedback Program
1330-1400 WIROC
1400-1430 HelpingaHero.org
1430-1500 AMVETS
1500-1530 Hope For The Warriors
1530-1600 Veteran Shield Inc.
1600-1630 Center for Veterans Issues
1630-1700 Veterans' Academy at Georgetown University
1700-1730 Tee it up for the Troops
1730-1930 Social Gathering

Sunday, December 4, 2011

0730-0830 Breakfast/Social Gathering
0830-0900 Tampa Area Marine Parents Association Inc.
0900-0930 Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation
0930-1000 Marine Moms-Bethesda
1000-1030 Grateful Nation Foundation
1030-1100 NMCRS
1100-1130 Comfort for America's Uniformed Services
1130-1200 100 Entrepreneurs Project
1200-1300 Hosted Lunch
1300-1330 Wounded Warrior Regiment
1330-1400 Justin Constantine - Wounded Warrior Feedback
1400-1500 Groups Discussion
1500-1630 Closing/After Action

1730-1930 Social Gathering

Time to be determined

Time Available - Saturday 0900 - Saturday 1200

Bob Woodruff Foundation

Time Available - Saturday, 0900-1730

Shannon – TJ House, Azalea Charities

Time Available- All

IAVA

Also attending:

Warrior Gateway

USO

Veterans Corporation

Honor Their Service