

# Warrior Partnerships of Eastern Oklahoma

A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION RESPONDING TO THE MANY NEEDS  
OF OKLAHOMA VETERANS

## About WPEO

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The goal of this CSC initiative for veterans is to mobilize a community effort to enhance Eastern Oklahoma as a “veteran ready region” and create a plan for the Tulsa area to best address the priority needs of returning veterans and their families or caregivers. This 10 county area is home to almost 90,000 veterans.

Led by a WPEO Advisory Board, our main focus areas are:

- Employment
- Education
- Mental Health
- Housing
- Basic Needs and Outreach
- Social Opportunities for Reintegration

This project works closely with veterans and their family members, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), mental health and other service providers, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and other local and state agencies, government officials, university representatives, private sector organizations, to concentrate on how to address the needs of the returning veterans without taking away from an already strained health and mental health system. By collaborating with over 70 different organizations, we work together on areas that we determine need a better approach, we develop solutions, we implement change, and we listen to our veterans and their families – as we move forward.

## Our Work

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- Hosting monthly forums for veterans, families and service providers to collaborate
- Creating services and training programs to address needs and gaps
- Advancing working relationships at local, state & national levels
- Establishing topical community work groups to assess services to veterans
- Setting priorities for improved care services

## Current Priorities

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- Enhance community collaboration
- Promote workforce development
- Complete a community needs assessment and analysis



- Provide essential curriculum planning and training
- Assist in annual Tulsa Stand Down for the Homeless

## Internal CSC Collaborations

- 2-1-1 Oklahoma
- BRRX4VETS (SSVF)
- Veterans' Treatment Court

## Recent Enhancements

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- Providing twice-monthly newsletters and events calendar for service members
- Strengthening relationships with the VA and ODVA.
- Working with educational institutions to enhance success of veteran students
- Ending Veterans' Homelessness (Built for Zero)
- Working with businesses to improve recognition of the benefits of hiring veterans.
- Creating an education/training program about Military Moral Injury for caregivers and veterans.

## WPEO Mission and Vision

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In order to accomplish our vision and mission below, we must have a unified community and a communication/software system that is transparent and interconnected. All efforts must dovetail into a state-wide program for improving the transition of veterans and their families back into civilian life.

### Vision

Our vision is that all public, private, and non-profit organizations serving veterans in Eastern Oklahoma are supportive and accountable to one another and welcome beneficial communication, coordination, and transparency – all for the benefit of our service members, veterans, and their families!!

### Mission

Our mission is to empower a coordinated network of service providers in Eastern Oklahoma, and equip them with the technological and informational resources needed to efficiently and effectively guide service-members, veterans, and their families to the most appropriate services and resources.



# Action Steps

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*Connect – Locate and link warriors and their families to the Eastern Oklahoma network of resources*

*Educate – Inform warriors of services and opportunities available to them in our region*

*Advocate – Ensure warriors receive the support they have earned via peer and social work care coordination*

*Collaborate – Work with partners on all levels in the community to facilitate total warrior care*

## **Our Community Partners in Eastern OK**

**City of Tulsa Veterans Resource Center**

**Honor Bunker dba Coffee Bunker**

**Volunteers of America**

**Oklahoma Dept. of Veterans Affairs**

**Mental Health Association Oklahoma**

**BRRX4VETS**

**2-1-1 Helpline**

**Goodwill Industries of Tulsa**

**Community Food Bank of Eastern OK**

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

## **WPEO Advisory Board**

Brig. Gen. Bob Ireton (ret)

Dr. Lanny Endicott

Dr. Erv Janssen

## **WPEO Staff**

Kevin Burr

Jim Lyall

Peter Luitwieler

