



Steering Committee Charter ***May 2023***

Mission and Scope

The *Upstate Veterans Alliance Network*, to be referred to as “*UVAN*”, is a regional network of all of those serving the military, veteran, and military connected family ecosystem in the Upstate of South Carolina, which is defined by the 11 county region of the Upstate, consisting of Greenville, Spartanburg, Union, Cherokee, Laurens, Greenwood, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson, Abbeville, and McCormick Counties. It is led by a steering committee of community leaders that is co-chaired and managed by community representatives and stakeholders from across the state and local region, including veterans, service members, and their families. UVAN is a construct of the US Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) Community Veteran Engagement Board (CVEB) model, and is currently one of four in the state of South Carolina and one of over 120 across the country.

The UVAN steering committee will bring together local resources and capabilities to improve outcomes for veterans, currently serving service members, transitioning service members, and those who support them. This steering committee will enable veterans to more easily identify and access resources available to them, voice their opinions, and provide valuable input. This committee also exists to provide an opportunity for representatives and stakeholders to discuss veteran related issues, develop collaborative partnerships, and identify opportunities to improve veteran experiences. The steering committee will also serve as a key linkage to the South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs (SCDVA), the Columbia VA Medical System, the Columbia VA Regional Office, the Vet Center Readjustment Counseling Service system, as well as to USDVA entities at the Veteran Integrated Service Network (VISN) and VA Central Office (VACO) in Washington, DC, primary via the means of the USDVA’s Veteran Experience Office (VEO).

Limitation/Authority

UVAN co-chairs and steering committee members work in collaboration with the greater veteran stakeholder community in the Upstate of South Carolina to improve veteran outcomes through board meetings, public forums, and solution development by leveraging networks and unique understanding of veteran issues. Co-chairs and steering committee members have no additional authorities by virtue of board membership. VA (USDVA as well as SCDVA) representatives on the UVAN steering committee function under the limitations outlined in their respective positions. This committee has no implicit or explicit authority to change the function and/or policies of any governmental or non-governmental entity. UVAN is a forum for open communication and community engagement between steering committee members and the Upstate veteran stakeholder community, but also serves as a key linkage and “veteran voice” to the state (SCDVA) and federal (USDVA) systems.



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Desired Outcomes

The UVAN steering committee is intended to promote and support opportunities to benefit veterans and the community focusing on issues surrounding all areas regarding veterans quality of life - healthcare, benefits, employment, housing, education, and financial stability. The steering committee will ensure an open line of communication between veterans, currently serving military members and their unit commanders, SCDVA, USDVA, and community stakeholders, in order to maintain a high level of understanding of local community strategies and initiatives.

Membership

The UVAN steering committee is comprised of internal and external stakeholders representing a broad spectrum of expertise and perspectives concerning all areas regarding veterans quality of life - healthcare, benefits, employment, housing, education, and financial stability. Steering committee members will be drawn from the following entities:

Federal partners:

1. USDVA – Veterans Health Administration
2. USDVA – Veterans Benefits Administration
3. USDVA – Vet Center Readjustment Counseling Service
4. US Congress – Senate staffer
5. US Congress – House staffer
6. At large federal partner

State partners:

7. SCDVA – Regional Integration Officer
8. SCARNG – Servicemember and Family Care team
9. SCDEW – Veteran Employment Program
10. SCDOC – Regional Commerce rep
11. At large state partner

Local partners:

12. SSVF Program Director
13. Major Health System Director
14. Upstate Continuum of Care – UHC or VASH Director
15. Fiduciary agency – serving as treasurer - currently Upstate Warrior Solution
16. At large local partner – serving as Secretary



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JVC County Liaisons:

17. Liaison to each county Joint Veteran Council in the region:

- a. Greenville
- b. Spartanburg
- c. Union
- d. Cherokee
- e. Laurens
- f. Greenwood
- g. Pickens
- h. Oconee
- i. Anderson
- j. Abbeville
- k. McCormick

Co-chairs will NOT be selected from the USDVA per rules established by the CVEB/MyVA Community Playbook at inception in 2016. Co-chairs will serve a two year term, and be nominated and take their positions in January of each year. Co-chair terms will be established so that one co-chair is consistently in the seat, as opposed to both rotating out at the same time.

Meetings

The UVAN steering committee will meet quarterly each year and will hold at least four public meetings annually. Public meetings are inclusive of all stakeholders, service providers, veterans, and other interested parties, regardless of membership on the steering committee.

Logistics

Public meetings will be typically held at locations across the Upstate, in varying fashion in order to represent the region most effectively. Quarterly meetings will be scheduled during times to ensure the greatest opportunity for attendance and participation by veterans, service members, community members, and other stakeholders.

The UVAN steering committee may publicize public forums through various venues, including posting information through electronic media and in physical locations through the use of promotional materials and other collateral.



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Adopted on this 11th day of May, 2023.

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Kevin McBride, Co-Chair

PRISMA Health

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Paul Howell, Co-Chair

Office of Sen Lindsay Graham



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Current alignment of members to membership proposed slots:

27 slots:

Federal partners:

USDVA – Veterans Health Administration
USDVA – Veterans Benefits Administration
USDVA – Vet Center Readjustment Counseling Service
US Congress – Senate staffer
US Congress – House staffer
At large federal partner

17 members:

Rich Boggan
Charles Kimberger
Jim Capobianco
Paul Howell
Gapped
Sarah W/Robert K

State partners:

SCDVA – Regional Integration Officer
SCARNG – Servicemember and Family Care team
SCDEW – Veteran Employment Program
SCDOC – Regional Commerce rep
At large state partner

Paulette Dunn
Scottie Williams
Ryan Tolley
Jay Blankenship
Carolyn/Scott/Nora

Local partners:

SSVF Program Director
Major Health System Director
Upstate Continuum of Care – UHC or VASH Director
Fiduciary agency – serving as treasurer - currently UWS
At large local partner – serving as Secretary

Diva Brown
Kevin McBride
Sherry Martell
Charlie Hall
Tasha McClendon

JVC County Liaisons:

Liaison to each county Joint Veteran Council in the region:

Greenville
Spartanburg
Union
Cherokee
Laurens
Greenwood
Pickens
Oconee
Anderson
Abbeville
McCormick

Alan Dabney