

## South Dakota Joining Forces

<http://sdjf.sd.gov/> - [erin.bultje@state.sd.us](mailto:erin.bultje@state.sd.us) - (605) 295-8180



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### Mission:

To serve veterans, military and family members in South Dakota and help them navigate the maze of programs and services to get them through the right door at the right time.

SDJF has had an increased footprint in South Dakota since the leadership transition in July 2017. In the last couple of months, the initiative has grown with the help of a website, social media, outreach, community networking and collaboration.

### SDJF 2017 achievements:

- **Website** – with the development of this site, a central resource database has been established to make a “one stop shop” for resources and programs. A stakeholder is able to find MFV focused events, community support at the county/tribal level, statewide and at the national level. The site has established a detailed outline of what each county/tribe has to offer for their constituents. Throughout the continued development of the site, new resources will be added as more support for the initiative is gained.
  - 350 resources gathered for website (168 Active/182 on deck to be added to site).
  - Community Resources – each community (starting at county level), will establish a JF Leader. Each county thus far has had the C/T VSO established as well as a community leadership website location. If there is not a county website, the noted county seat is recognized as the leadership and that contact information is annotated on the website as well. Each county and tribe will have the following resources highlighted from their communities: SDFJ leader, county leadership, mental health, C/TVSO, service organizations, health and wellness, employment, education, financial, nonprofit and faith based.
  - Statewide - resources offered throughout the state that are highlighted on the website and are added to constantly are: department of social services, Indian health services, SDDVA, food pantries, military related, employment services and state of South Dakota. All of these resources in a central location ensure that MFV have easier access to resources.
  - National – veterans crisis line is the only resource noted under this heading thus far but more resources will be added as the initiative moves forward. Please note the crisis line with a clickable link is on every page of the site in the same location.

- **Outreach** – from August to December, SDJF participated in 15 outreach events and conducted 16 SDJF focused meetings to introduce the initiative and network with organizations and providers. Continued support is evident from across the state in the form of emails and phone calls from invested stakeholders.
- **Leadership** – 2 tribal veteran service officers took on the role of the SDJF leader for their tribes and reservations (Pine Ridge and Standing Rock). 4 stakeholders have established themselves as SDJF leader in their community (Clay, Union, Todd and Lake).
- **Media** – <http://listen.sdpb.org/post/south-dakota-joining-forces-update-erin-bultje>
- **Social Media** – Facebook, instagram and twitter @SDJoiningForces

Goals for 2018:

- Continue to grow relationships
- Build database of contacts by establishing initial contact and schedule informational meetings
- Appoint / identify SDJF Leaders
- Outreach events
- Collaboration meetings
- Update website and social medias
- Facilitate quarterly statewide leadership conference calls
- Open conversation with stakeholders for needs within communities
- Tribal benefits presentations
- Certificates of Appreciation to communities / stakeholders

Comments: