

January 2015 DJF Meeting Minutes

The January 2015 meeting of Delaware Joining Forces (DJF) was held on January 20th at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in New Castle. There were 40 partners in attendance.

Dawn Peet, the Delaware National Guard State Family Program Director, provided an update on the progress of the organization on a national and local level. There is a growth in DJF partners each month with new military friendly organizations joining to support our military, veterans, and their families.

The Delaware National Guard Child, Youth, and School Services Program manager, Pat Crilley, spoke about child care programs that are available to military families and the need to expand this program.

Larence Kirby was introduced as the new Executive Director of the Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs. Larence explained his role and how the Commission interfaces with DJF. He spoke about the Delaware Joining Forces service directory located on the Commission's website (<http://veteransaffairs.delaware.gov/>). Partners were encouraged to submit information about their organization to be included on this directory.

Other guest speakers included Howard Isenberg, who told us about the Delaware Coalitions Leadership and Prevention Summit to be held on February 21st. Darren Corder represented Boots Across American, which assists military members with obtaining homes. Robert Grey and Melissa Fantozzi from Troops to Teachers provided an in-depth presentation about how service members leaving the military can obtain the education and placement as a school teacher.

Other comments included a reminder of the Delaware Veterans Stand Down scheduled for October 2015. The attendees were thanked for their ceaseless work to support our military, veterans, and their families.

The next DJF meeting is scheduled for February 17th at this location starting at 1pm.

Submitted by Dan Young