

Warrior Built Convening: A Recap

Tuesday, July 13 & Friday, July 16, 2021

12:00 – 4:00 P.M. ET

The **CDC Foundation** has partnered with the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (CDC)** and **DC Design** to increase linkages between veteran serving organizations, state public health departments, and private sector stakeholders.

On July 13th and 16th of 2021, CDC and the CDC Foundation hosted a two-day virtual convening facilitated by DC Design, a social impact strategy and design firm. The aim was to increase **cross-organizational collaboration** to reduce veteran suicide. Leaders in the veteran suicide prevention space participated in lectures, discussions, and activities to generate **upstream, collaborative solutions** for veteran support.

The convening was designed to catalyze high-impact action across stakeholder groups to overcome collaborative barriers and develop a **multisector approach** to this important cause.

This document provides a brief overview of sustainable collaboration efforts made during the convening. More comprehensive information can be found in the Persona Profiles and List of Needs & Opportunities created by DC Design.

Convening Goals

Goal 1: Build relationships among public health, veteran-serving organizations, and private sector stakeholders

Goal 2: Activate public-private partnerships that create more opportunity around an upstream, public health approach to veteran suicide prevention

Agenda

Day 1

1. Welcome

Captain Chris Jones, Acting Director of CDC NCIPC, welcomed participants on behalf of CDC and the CDC Foundation and introduced DC Design.

1. Intro to Design Thinking

DC Design introduced Design Thinking, a problem-solving methodology based in cultivating empathy with the community you aim to serve.

1. Empathy Building Interviews

Participants were paired to conduct empathy interviews after a discussion of how empathetic principles in decision-making generate more effective solutions.

1. Defining Challenges

After an introduction to the "Define" stage of Design Thinking, participants and their teams engaged in a collaborative activity to articulate what goals and challenges their organizations share. Teams then honed in on a topic area for the remainder of the convening.

1. Fireside Chat: Surgeon General & CDC Foundation President

United States Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, and CDC Foundation President and CEO Dr. Judy Monroe discussed social connection, public-private partnerships, and multi-sector, upstream approaches to Veteran suicide prevention. Moderated by Libby Johnson of DC Design.

Day 2

6. Veteran Testimony

Veterans Chris Mercado of Objective Zero Foundation and Jarrad Turner of CEP 9P gave powerful testimony to their experience with Veteran suicide.

6. Ideation

DC Design introduced the "Ideation" stage of Design Thinking, emphasizing the importance of building on others' ideas and withholding judgment. Teams ideated collaborative solutions for Veteran welfare, then discussed potential impact, feasibility, and collaborative orientation of ideas and selected one with promise for future collaboration.

6. Fireside Chat: Surgeon General, CDC Foundation President, & DC Design

Dr. Murthy and Dr. Monroe answered pre-submitted questions from participants. Topics included burnout, social connectedness, public-private partnerships, and post-COVID funding for public health work.

6. Looking Forward

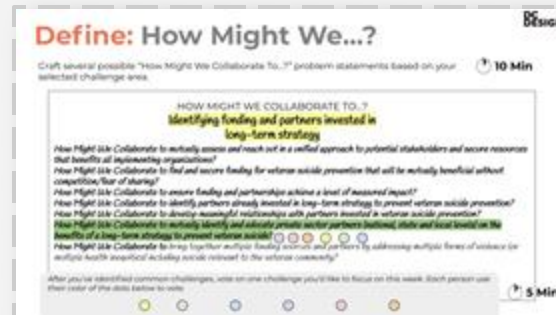
Teams identified obstacles to collaboration and resources that might encourage successful partnership. They mapped important stakeholders and created roadmaps for the future.

6. Share + Next Steps

The convening closed with a group discussion on what participants are hopeful about with respect to private-public collaboration to support upstream prevention of veteran suicide. Diana Yassanye, Team Lead for Public-Private Partnership at CDC, gave closing remarks.



1-3. Intro to Design Thinking: Participants learned about Design Thinking and Empathy through lectures, hands-on interviews, and partner work.



4. Defining Challenges – “How Might We”: Participants selected an area of focus for their shared convening work, generating a “How Might We” problem statement.

4. Defining Challenges – Team Alignment: During the ‘Define’ exercise, participants identified shared organizational challenges.



5. Fireside Chat: 21st Surgeon General of the United States Dr. Vivek Murthy and CDC Foundation President and CEO Dr. Judy Monroe discussed upstream prevention of veteran suicide. DC Design Director of Operations Libby Johnson moderated.



“If there was ever a time for thinking differently about how we approach the future, it would be now.” - Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General



Chris Mercado
Co-Founder
Objective Zero



Jarrad Turner
CEO
9P Solutions

6. Veteran Testimony: Two veterans shared testimony related to their experience with suicide.

"I thoroughly enjoyed being reminded of how important humanizing data can be. Our veteran speakers were extremely motivational."
- Participant



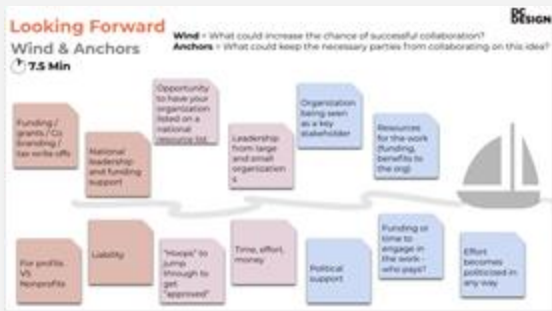
7. Ideation: Teams discussed, analyzed, and narrowed down potential collaborative solutions to support veterans.



7. Ideation: Teams brainstormed potential solutions to their shared "How Might We" problem statement, building on each other's ideas.

8. Dr. Murthy and Dr. Monroe discussed the following topics:

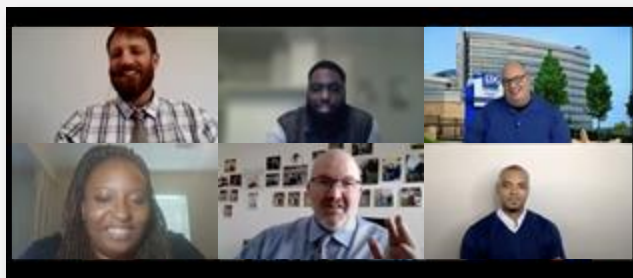
- Power of positive, social connection as 'prevention' for suicide and other public health problems
- Importance of an upstream, public health approach to veteran suicide prevention
- Power of public-private partnerships & unique role that nonprofits and private sector play in filling gaps
- Vision of a multi-sector effort to prevent veteran suicide



9. Looking Forward: Teams identified enablers and inhibitors of successful collaboration on their shared goal.

“ [This Convening] has helped me realize we are all in this together and that great minds are working towards solutions. - Convening Participant ”

10. Next Steps: The convening closed with team and whole-group discussions on next steps and opportunities for future collaboration to address veteran suicide.



“ The event was nicely balanced with energizing activities, highly interactive teamwork, the leadership and direction of the coaches, and some breaks to ensure everyone was focused in to the event.... The structure made this event the most engaging I have attended in years. - Convening Participant ”



Thank you!

For more information, please go to:

<https://rb.gy/yztdrd>

**DC
DESIGN**



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