



EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
National Joint Committee

Committee Members

Patrick M. Devine, USPS
Manager, Contract
Administration (NPMHU) &
Employee Workplace
Programs

Debby P. Szeredy, APWU
Executive Vice President

Manuel L. Peralta, Jr., NALC
Director, Safety & Health

Ad Hoc Member

Dr. Deborah J. Atkins, USPS
EAP Administrator

Meeting Minutes

NJC Meeting – Hosted by HQ
November 17, 2020
NJC Members Present:
Patrick Devine USPS
Manuel Peralta NALC
Debby Szeredy APWU
Eric Leslie NDBH
Mary Milner Assistant EAP
Debbie Atkins EAP

Scheduled Meeting Zoom 1:00pm- 5:00pm

Minutes: October 13, 2020 Minutes Approved and Published

Month End Report: Reviewed Report- Review of the report missed a suicide which was connected with domestic violence. As per previous policy, we list such an event as a suicide and include reference to domestic violence..

Suicide Prevention: Went over the plan to create new Suicide Prevention info with 4-5 new handouts. Debbie Szeredy suggested a Tool Kit of several items addressing suicide prevention that could be sent out to all the DACs providing them with ideas and things they could perform in their districts to address suicide. She agreed to meet with Eric to investigate and capture more ideas to clarify her vision. Also, asked to speak with Manny on the subject as well. We agreed to work together to find a unique angle on Suicide Prevention.

Web App: It was discussed that the USPS IT Security will want a way to meet the criteria Apple Store App requires for a useful unique app. Several ideas were given: a mini version of the library; Assistance for Vets; Suicide Prevention; Kids being bullied at school; opioid addiction; care giving elder and childcare.

DAC: Went over the DAC list and Debbie Szeredy shared she has been trying to work on the list and find new APWU people for the DACs around the country. She is having challenges finding which locals are in which district. The Advisory Committee Guidelines were updated and new information on the Spotlight Project were added and approval is now needed for that change.

JCEAP – LA: Explained our plan that the Pacific Area will help LA JCEAPs with their overload of cases. Shared the reason for this was due to their having had one of their employees resign. The LA JCEAP is in the process of hiring a counselor to fill that vacancy. NJC discussed some of the history of the LA JCEAP.

JCEAP – Philadelphia: Went over how Eric has been training Ken Johnson on the Advisory Committee Meeting process. Everyone agreed to reach out and help restart this meeting. We went over the issue around their not getting referrals and how the EAP remedied this. Also went over how we will have them receive Expert refresher training with Erica Miller EAP Trainer

Spotlight: All agreed to have this put into the Advisory Committee Meeting Guidelines and that by January the NJC would have a new DAC/JCEAP picked for the Spotlight.

[SHOULD we include a comment on difficulty naming candidates for the spotlight when minutes/meetings are an issue with so many DACs?]

Next NJC Meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2021



APWU: American Postal Workers Union, AFL-CIO
1300 L Street NW
Washington DC 20005-4107

USPS: Room 9326
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington DC 20260-9326

NALC: National Association of Letter Carriers
100 Indiana Avenue NW
Washington DC 20001-2197