

# Florida Defense Alliance

Final Minutes of the Military Family Support Working Group phone conference of the Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI), Florida Defense Alliance (FDA) was held on February 18, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.

## Members Present

Babin, Herb	FCCJ
Brock, Susan	FCCJ
Cassidy, Lillian	Patrick AFB
Dougherty, Louis	Florida National Guard
Fallon, Brian	Florida National Guard
Gonzalez, Diana	FDA Chair
Jacobs, Stephanie	MSEA Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties/JobsPlus
Kiss, Tamara	MSEA WDB of Okaloosa & Walton Counties
Pembleton, Anita	Tyndall Airmen and Family Readiness
Piazza, Patty	MSEA First Coast Workforce Development Board, Inc./WorkSource
Schwartz, Jodie	Flight Chief, Airmen Family Readiness
Wilson, Shaquanna	MSEA Escarosa Career Center
Youngston, Amanda	SERCO Army OneSource

## Staff present

McPherson, Rocky	Director Military and Defense , Enterprise Florida/ Florida Defense Alliance
Pena, Juliana	Program Manager, Military and Defense, Enterprise Florida Inc.

## Meeting Agenda

- I. Greetings and Introductions
- II. FDA Web site changes and updates reviewed
- III. FDA MFSWG letter of invitation and persons to invite
- IV. Bob Roberts briefing the Florida BRAIVE Fund
- V. Expectations for semi-annual meeting in May at NAS
- VI. Recap of meeting and expectations/assignments for next meeting

**Meeting start time 2:05p.m.**

## Greetings and Introductions

The following new members were welcomed at the meeting:

Alexandria Bartolone	Florida BRAIVE Foundation
Bob Roberts	Florida BRAIVE Foundation
Andrea Reese	JFSAP Military OneSource Consultant
Tania Mercurio	Operation Life Transformed
David Harding	SERCO Army Onesource

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## **FDA Website changes and updates review**

Juliana briefed that the submitted changes were being made to the FDA website and a new feature to the site is the RSS feed. Diana suggested that the BRAIVE Foundation and groundbreaking information for the Fisher House also be added.

## **FDA MFSWG Letter of Invitation and persons to invite**

Patty Piazza forwarded list of submitted names to invite to Rocky and Juliana. Diana suggested inviting the YWCA for their actions in developing programs for the military families in South Florida. David Harding & Andrea Reese added that a program exists between the DOD & YMCA called the Armed Services YMCA and Department of Defense Outreach Initiative and YMCA Respite Child Care that is processed through Military OneSource.

## **Bob Roberts Briefing of the Florida BRAIVE Foundation**

Overview: Three \$5 million grants were awarded simultaneously to the Dade Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Jacksonville and Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice in Southwest Florida. The three foundations are coordinating their efforts by establishing the Florida BRAIVE Fund, a state-wide initiative to share information, leverage resources and strengthen the network of military-serving organizations across the state.

([www.floridabraive.org](http://www.floridabraive.org))

Discussion: The foundations have been researching and assessing where money is needed to help organizations that help military families. The focus is to identify areas of need in which the funds can make a noticeable difference, with an emphasis on funding programs and services that are not duplicating or replacing other available resources, or that should come from other sources, including the government. Lt. Amy Moore has already submitted a list of assistance needed for the National Guard and an RSP. Alex Bartolone requested information about USERRA and what information and training resources are for the employers and discussed the option of a social marketing drive through the area Chambers of Commerce's to welcome home the military members from overseas.

## **Next FDA Meeting**

The next semi-annual FDA meeting is scheduled for May 27/28 at NAS Jax in Jacksonville, FL. Anticipate the MFSWG meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> for approximately 2-4 hours dependent on agenda development.

Patty Piazza thanked the attendees for their participation and encouraged them to feel free to contact her if they should have any questions.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:10.*