

Focus Group Work Plan for 2018

Name of Focus Group Military Families and Children

Chair/Co-chairs Christina Marini and Kayla Reed-Fitzke

Chair/Co-chairs email cmm97@psu.edu; kayla-fitzke@uiowa.edu

1. Do you wish to have a time allocated for your focus group during at the next NCFR Annual Conference?

Yes No

2. If Yes, please list or attach tentative agenda.

Due to NCFR 2018's location in San Diego, we have a unique opportunity to bring in speakers from a heavily populated military area. We are aiming to spend part of the meeting going over usual updates, allowing for networking time, and then would like to put together a panel that includes researchers (perhaps a contact from the Naval Health Research Center), military family members (perhaps spouses from a local Family Readiness Group), and community programs specialists.

3. Please list 2018 focus group goals/projects/aspirations.

We are aiming to add a research proposal award and already had volunteers sign up to review proposals. We plan on adapting the process used by the Issues in Aging Focus Group. We will submit the necessary form to add the award shortly. We are also aiming to increase our communication with current members. We are taking on a 'communication specialist' who is a graduate student interested in gaining professional service experience. She will help roll out the new discussion board platform being introduced by NCFR, send out updates to members, advertise our meeting agendas etc.

4. Please identify any opportunities, suggestions, or concerns regarding the role of this focus group in furthering NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives.

Because military families represent a vulnerable and minority population (only 1% of the U.S. population serves), our commitment to military families through promoting research and practice is in alignment with NCFR's inclusion and diversity initiatives. Further, we have discussed as a group the potential to 'bridge the gap' between research/practice with military families and other vulnerable populations. We like the idea of using some of our focus group time to benefit scholars and practitioners studying other vulnerable populations (perhaps by brainstorming recruitment strategies).

5. Please list any areas where you would like assistance from NCFR staff.

Members want detailed instructions about how to use the new discussion group platform and guidelines about what can be posted without violating copyright rules (e.g., can we post a published article others might find helpful). We would also like to update the blurb of text about the focus group that gets sent out in the materials everyone receives when they get to the conference. We would also like to include in the program what we will actually be doing during the meeting in order to promote meeting attendance. We will also need assistance getting the proposals and their scores to review for the new award.

6. Are there any other concerns or questions that have come from the 2017 focus group annual meeting?

The question was raised about what our purpose is as a focus group especially given that military family research is 'mainstream' at NCFR now. We will continue to discuss our shared vision for the focus group in the years to come.

Attach your 2017 annual meeting minutes to this form and return by December 1, 2017.

Send to Bethany Cox, NCFR Member Relations Manager, Focus Group Liaison at bethanycox@ncfr.org