

**Military Families and Children Focus Group Meeting**  
**NCFR 2017, Orlando, FL**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 – 1 PM**

- New platform for communications with focus group
  - This new platform sounds like basecamp?
    - Yes, but you have the choice between getting notifications pushed through email, or you can log into the platform.
  - How would this be accessed? Do you have to be a member? Can you select which focus group you want to be part of?
    - I believe you must be a member of NCFR. You'll be able to access the portal from the website. There's a place on the website where you can select focus groups that you wish to join.
  - Are there rules about what we can and cannot post? It will be helpful to get guidance on what can be posted due to copyright.
  - One member prefers instructions on how to access the portal, especially for members who were absent
  - Perhaps we can have libraries for resources, research programs, and other educational/networking resources
- Poster award
  - Do we know how many poster submissions we had this year compared to paper presentations? It seems that we might be biasing who receives an award because of the differences in submission types
    - It seems it would probably double the work load of reviewers, so if we had enough interest we could open it up to other types of presentations
  - Is there a way that we could get the scores from the initial proposals? That way we could only look at the top 50% of the applications to be considered for the reward
  - Can we make it so people can self-nominate themselves? Perhaps we could use the new platform to do some of the initial leg work.
- Other leadership roles
  - Communication specialist
  - Chair or co-chair
  - Smaller opportunities are available
- Thoughts and ideas for next year's conference
  - Because it'll be in San Diego, we should utilize the military community and get speakers to come into the meeting
  - A lot of members like the idea of bringing in speakers. The main-take away is that members want to hear less about research findings and more about application and connection. Thoughts on OUTSIDE speakers:
    - Diversity in types of speakers that have effective take-aways. Not just someone talking about their research, but utilizing community partners to learn anecdotal evidence
    - Learn the 'dos and don'ts' on how to approach people in the field. Could we find someone who has been on the receiving end of research or programs? Perhaps

we could also find advocates from community to see how to 'get in' with community groups.

- Listening to participants will be helpful on informing future research
- Hear from programs and extension work to hear from the 'real world' participants
- Perhaps we can have a panel of speakers to bring awareness to the 'real world'
- At some point we'll need to figure out what the goal of this focus group is?
  - Some members want this to be a networking resource where we can exchange ideas about starting our own research program, connecting with military installations
  - Large focus on community-based research
    - The social justice network focus group has a focus of community impact, so that would be cool to link up with them.
  - Want to integrate military research into broader NCFR populations. Our research focuses on families under stress, coping, and health has larger implications for couples and families
- Some members would like to have discussions on successes and challenges in recruiting participants and establishing a research program. Talking with other military researchers about 'pro tips' would be helpful.
  - Perhaps we can market this to the broader NCFR population by talking about recruiting vulnerable populations. If we could have one part of the session be about military families and then the second be about larger processes/contexts, we could get more interest in the research.
  - There could be a symposium where the focus is on unique or vulnerable contexts that examine the same processes but refer to them as different. This way people can see how the same theories/frameworks/ideas are applied in different settings.
- If we choose to have broader themes of the focus group to bring more awareness to 1) military researchers and 2) similar topics of research, we need to focus on marketing.
  - Indicate in the program the topic of the session
  - Include description on the app or PDF
  - Include description on the handout that everyone receives at registration
  - Talk to the program committee to coordinate these changes?
  - Include description of the award winner in the program