

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: July 21, 2020

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on Go To Meeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Elaine May Stem

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
Vision Statement	That Carroll County offers our Veterans quality services and programs to ensure the enrichment and enhancements of life for our men and women and their families.
Attendance	Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank, Christa Burton, Ed Cramer, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher, Francine Hahn, Jim Hillman, Mike Messina, Bill Nash, Stacey Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Chris Schiller, Frank Valenti, Gina Valentine, John Veney, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Steve Whisler, Chris Winebrenner, Darin Winick
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 3. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Rothstein reminded everyone to continue promoting social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands to minimize the threat of the pandemic. The push-up challenge brings awareness to veteran suicides, which are over 20 each day among veterans. Many services are available at the new Resiliency & Education Center on Fort Meade. 4. <u>Public Comment</u> – None.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was not established with only five voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the June 2020 meeting could not be motioned on as a quorum was not established. The draft minutes will be held until August's meeting. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served for June 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Mike Messina) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 10 New representations ii. 46 Claims submitted iii. 1 Home visit iv. 10 In-office contacts v. 1200 Telephone contacts

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$784,017.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$26,764,121.00 since inception of the program (October 2013). vii. Jim Hillman is officially retiring effective tomorrow. He'll be greatly missed. b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> (Stacey Nash) – June 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 7 veterans were served and 9 home pick-ups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baltimore – 5 trips 2. Ft. Detrick – 4 trips 3. Martinsburg – 1 trip 4. Different location – 1 trip 5. Total cost - \$1,400+ ii. The VA is beginning to open up so trips are starting to be scheduled. c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – John reported that he is continuing to work with veterans with resume development, applications and interviews. 4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently all five slots are filled. There is a conference call scheduled for July 23rd with the State. 5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently three are in a hotel with one HUD-VASH referral. They are continuing to assist a non-VA eligible veteran and a non-profit has funded them with gift cards and dental work. A referral was made to the Freedom Center for their hot meal program. 6. <u>Executive Committee</u> (Marc Fisher) – The Executive Committee did not meet in July. A meeting will be scheduled to work on the Veteran section of the Aging & Disabilities Resource Guide. 7. <u>Census 2020 Update</u> – Continue to encourage everyone to take the census. Carroll County has had a very high response rate. On July 30th Census workers will begin visiting locations that have not responded. 8. <u>Monthly Column in the Carroll County Times</u> – Submissions on any veteran-related topic are welcome. Lately it has been a struggle having articles written for the column. Darin Winick from the Small Business Administration is interested in submitting for August and Francine has written a column for September.
<p>New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Small Business Administration Opportunities for Veterans</u> (Darin Winick, Economic Development Specialist, Veteran Business Resource Officer, Baltimore District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration) – The SBA

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	<p>Baltimore district office includes Carroll County as well as provides general outreach for Veteran related programs for all of Maryland. They have been assisting veterans to establish and grow businesses and most programs are free. Programs include Boots to Business Reboot, an entrepreneurial program that includes military spouses; revenue programs; Veteran specific financing; and programs for service-disabled veterans. Please feel free to refer to Darin Winick. Leslie will forward his contact information to the email distribution list. Commissioner Weaver asked for his promotional materials and contact information be forwarded to the Economic Development Office.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frank Valenti announced that CCVIP is continuing negotiations with a local landlord and they are moving forward with their project. The location being considered is a suite at 95 Carroll Street. They will coordinate any services with the Carroll County Government's Veterans Services Program. 2. Commissioner Rothstein noted that the Department of General Services is looking closely at the Springfield area for development of a 2nd Charlotte Hall. 3. Bob Eney announced that the fall Pickleball Tournament has been cancelled. They have still donated \$1,000 towards Veterans of Carroll County. 4. The American Legion has cancelled their annual weeklong convention in Ocean City. Instead they will have a one-day event at the War Memorial on September 19th. 5. Continue to support your local veteran organizations as fundraisers have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus. 6. All county meetings will remain virtual until at least the end of August.
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. This will be a virtual meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>