

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: October 20, 2020

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

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	Kim Benson, Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher, Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Mike Messina, Bill Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Chris Schiller, Elaine Scott, Elaine May Stem, Gina Valentine, John Veney, Leslie Wagner
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> – Continue to wear masks, which is the law, and practice social distancing. Carroll County is doing well in comparison to other jurisdictions and Maryland is doing well in comparison to other states. Continue to help your neighbor and if you see something, say something and then do something. 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 September 2020 meeting were not approved as a quorum was not established. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served for September 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 17 New representations ii. 41 Claims submitted iii. 5 Home visits iv. 11 In-office contacts v. 1158 Telephone and email contacts vi. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$936,496.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$29,781,000.00 since inception of the program (October 2013).

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- vii. The monthly growth rate increased significantly from September to October as a veteran's claim was back dated and he received almost \$80,000.
- viii. The VA is beginning to process claims more quickly.
- ix. Interviews have been conducted for the Veterans Coordinator and Veterans Case Management positions. Offers will soon be made.
- b. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Leslie Wagner) – September 2020:
 - i. 11 veterans were served and 11 home pick-ups
 - 1. Baltimore – 7 veterans served with 9 trips
 - 2. Ft. Detrick – 1 veteran served with 1 trip
 - 3. Loch Raven – 1 veteran served with 1 trip
 - 4. Martinsburg – 3 veterans served with 3 trips
 - 5. Total cost - \$1,840.00
 - c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – John continues to work from home but the BEREC offices are open by appointment only. He is currently assisting 12 veterans. Last quarter he worked with eight veterans and five were able to find employment. The Veteran unemployment rate for September was 6.8%.
- 4. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Currently four veterans are being served by the grant with one vacancy in the program. The grant application for 2021 was renewed by Maryland Department of Aging. They do have the ability to add more but will wait until staff openings are filled.
- 5. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – The grant has been able to assist a homeless veteran couple in a hotel and other various emergency needs including car repair for a veteran needing transportation to work. They have begun working with a veteran family that is multi-generational. HUD-VASH has removed the requirement that applicants must be chronically homeless and are now allowing veterans who are homeless but not meeting the chronic definition. The program also worked with Alliance to have the rent of a veteran paid.

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<p>New Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roberta “Bobbie” Lawrence was introduced at the new Aging & Disabilities Services Supervisor. She will be overseeing the Veterans Services Program as well as being the staff liaison for the Veterans Advisory Council. 2. Gina reminded everyone that help is available during Medicare Part D Open Enrollment. The SHIP program at the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities have phone appointments available to anyone who has questions or need assistance. Call 410-386-3800. 3. <u>Status of appointed Council members</u> – Three council members (Larry Burbank, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem) 2nd terms expired on 9/30/2020 and the Board of County Commissioners have approved for them to serve a third term. 4. Larry Burbank’s final term on the Commission on Aging & Disabilities representing veterans will end on 12/31/2020. If anyone is interested in applying as a veteran representative please contact Leslie Wagner.
<p>Announcements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Senior Centers will be hosting Grab and Go meals the week of November 9th. Reservations are required and a patriotic cloth mask will be distributed with the meals. Leslie will forward flyers to the email group. 2. Elaine May Stem announced that Flood Zone Brewery in Union Bridge will be having an event in celebration of the Marine Corps birthday. Reservations are required. Contact Elaine for more information. 3. Veterans Day commemorations have been cancelled.

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Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date is Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.