

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 19, 2021

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 (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank , James Duncan, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Keith Midberry, Todd Mitchell, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Richard Pollard, Commissioner Rothstein, Mick Schmidt , Celene Steckel, Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, John Veney , Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Weaver, Steve Whisler
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. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – Attendees introduced themselves. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Weaver reminded organizations that if they have a kitchen on their premises and provide meals that they can apply for COVID restaurant grants. They have received 131 applications from restaurants in Carroll County to date. Commissioner Rothstein remarked on the Wreaths Across America event. He reminded everyone that during this winter season and time of COVID that many are without housing or are experiencing high stress. Reach out to those that you can, share resources and take time to communicate. Commissioner Weaver and he had a great meeting with Carroll County Veteran Independence Project and are looking forward to their continued partnership. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – None.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with eight voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the December 2020 meeting was approved. Mick Schmidt made a motion and Bill Nash seconded. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Statistics have been flat the last few months due to the VA being slow. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for December 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 6 New representations

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. 19 Claims submittediii. 9 Office appointmentsiv. 8 Home visitsv. 16 Phone appointmentsvi. 1351 Telephone and email contactsvii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$947,226 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate from 12/1/2020 to 1/1/2021 was less than 1%.viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$32,122,000 since inception of the program in October 2013. Yearly Growth Rate from 12/2019 to 12/2020 is 46%.ix. Congress recently passed 2021 National Defense Authorization Act which expands Agent Orange, Parkinson's Disease and Hyperthyroidism benefits. The VA has not provided any guidance on this to date.b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> (Stacey Nash) – December 2020:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 13 veterans were served with 9 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 9 veterans served with 14 trips2. GBMC – 1 veteran served with 1 trip3. Martinsburg – 4 veterans served with 5 trips4. Garrison – 1 veteran with 1 trip5. Total cost - \$2,415.00ii. Still below pre-COVID numbers.c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No new data to report. <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently they are serving three veterans.</p> <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently two veterans are being served in a hotel. In December they were able to assist six veterans with eviction prevention or other case management. Application was also made on behalf of a veteran for a safer living alternative in senior subsidized housing. Thank</p> |
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	you to many local citizens and organizations who were able to provide food, Christmas presents and eviction prevention. Home visits were conducted to drop off food and other needed items.
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Status of vacant positions – Veterans Services Program</u> – Bobbie Lawrence reported that the Coordinator for the Case Management position of the Veteran Services Program Grant is still open and will be posted soon. 2. <u>DD-214</u> – Marc Fisher thanked Adrian Gamboa on his assistance in obtain his father’s DD-214. There has been much difficulty in those needing a copy of their DD-214 to receive services. The archives are closed. Francine noted that she is using a different fax number to request and will report back.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Linda Berfosky announced that Frederick County is using a GIS enabled application to find food resources. https://fcgmd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d666d90246c1495392d777191934707e
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date is Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.