

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: February 16, 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)	Kim Benson, Linda Bergofsky, Jack Curran , Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Greg Kahlert, Bobbie Lawrence, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Rich Pollard, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt , Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Richard 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 Rothstein reported that Carroll County has been allocated 1,000 vaccines each week for the next four weeks. Currently people in phases 1A and 1B are still being vaccinated. Carroll County is not in the position to begin phase 1C yet. They speak with the state every week informing them of what is needed in Carroll County. The state has decided to expand to regional centers and pharmacies. The Carroll County Health Department is rotating clinics for 75+ group between Eldersburg, Taneytown and Mt. Airy. Good news is that a 120 bed Veterans facility to be located in Sykesville is in the Capital Budget. Commissioner Rothstein also was the author of this month’s Veterans View in the Carroll County Times. He wrote on the challenge of mental health and mental illness amongst service men, service women and veterans and your role in helping to silence the stigma. He encouraged everyone to reach out if someone needs help and assist them. The column will be forwarded to the group. Commissioner Weaver reported that all the American Legions and VFWs that have a commercial kitchen and applied for CARES Act funding should have received their check. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – Linda Bergofsky reported that there was a virtual Legislative Briefing on January 25, 2021 for Veteran Suicide Prevention. EveryMind hosted a panel presentation and discussion by representatives and elected officials from Maryland, Virginia, and DC on the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 to prevent Veterans Suicide and increase access to community mental health supports for military-connected families. The link will be shared with the group.

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Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with six voting members present.2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the January 2021 meeting was approved. Mick Schmidt made a motion and Bill Nash seconded.3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina)<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Reports for January 2021:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. 5 New representationsii. 24 Claims submittediii. 1 Office appointmentiv. 2 Home visitsv. 22 Phone appointmentsvi. 1377 Telephone and email contactsvii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$952,161 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of January 2021 was 1%.viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$32,902,900 since inception of the program in October 2013. Yearly Growth Rate from 12/2019 to 12/2020 is 46%.b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> (Stacey Nash) – January 2021:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. 12 veterans were served with 10 home pick-ups<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 8 veterans served with 12 trips2. GBMC – 1 veteran served with 2 trips3. Martinsburg – 4 veterans served with 7 trips4. Loch Raven – 1 veteran with 1 trip5. Total cost - \$2,622.00c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report.4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently they are serving three veterans.5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Two veterans are in the hotel – one is a multi-generational family who are close to moving out and the other is considering Rapid Rehousing. A veteran
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	<p>previously assisted with the donation of a car has asked for help in some car repairs. Veteran owned service centers were recommended. There is a backlog for admittance to VA domiciliary facilities that treat PTSD and offer drug treatment. It is now harder for veterans to receive assistance from these facilities due to COVID.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<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>Commission on Aging & Disabilities – Open Veteran Position</u> – The Commission on Aging & Disabilities has a veteran representation position open. If anyone is interested see Gina or Leslie. 3. <u>Veterans View in the Carroll County Times</u> – Each month it is a struggle to find writers and submissions. Marc Fisher recommended a pool of writers each month that rotate. He has already identified four writers and if others are interested they can be included. Timely submission is crucial. Max of 600 words and is always due the Thursday prior to the first Tuesday of the following month. Editorial support from Gina or the Communications Team in Carroll County government is available. There are also several council members interested in submitting article. Marc will create a schedule and forward to Gina. He will also write the March article.
<p>Announcements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioner Rothstein would like to know what else the VAC and Carroll County Government can do to assist veterans in Carroll County. He would like to know what we are doing well and what other opportunities are there that we are not utilizing. It doesn't need to be just Carroll County resources. Are we providing enough services, not just with money or programs but time? Send any ideas that you may have to Marc, Gina, Leslie, Commissioners Rothstein, or Weaver. Commissioner Weaver said that we need to make sure that the message is clear. He will work with Commissioner Rothstein and pull some information together. Suggestions mentioned: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sub-committee for outreach and communication within the community b. Paragraph at the end of Veterans View with contact information for the council and Veteran Services Program.
<p>Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>