

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual (GoToMeeting)

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)	Courtney Edwards, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Dr. David Grow, Francine Hahn, Kristen Harvey, Bobbie Lawrence, Elaine May Stem , Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Elaine Scott, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, John Veney
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – Visitors introduced themselves. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – No report. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No comment.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was not established with three voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – Draft minutes from the October 2021 meeting was not approved as a quorum was not established. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Reports for October 2021: (Mike Messina) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 7 New representations ii. 23 Claims submitted iii. 38 Office appointments iv. 3 Home visits v. 22 Phone appointments vi. 1644 Telephone and email contacts vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,119,514 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of October 2021 was 4%.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$40,694,001 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 11/2021 is 27%.b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – October 2021: (Stacey Nash)<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 17 Veterans were served with 12 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 10 Veterans served with 21 trips2. Loch Raven—2 Veterans served with 2 trips3. Fort Detrick – 3 Veterans with 3 trips4. Martinsburg – 4 Veterans served with 5 trips5. GBMC – 1 Veteran with 1 trip6. Total cost - \$3,501.75c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – Not much has changed. The most recent job fair had 43 job seekers, 66 job openings, and 12 employers. Will send out information for next month's job fair. Currently working with 13 veterans, 10 are new this quarter. Announced that BEREC is changing their name soon.4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently assisting one new veteran from the Sykesville area. He had previously worked with Mike Messina on a claim. Rick will step into the support planning role with Francine's assistance. MDoA recently audited the program, which went well, and the program feels supported. Chelsea joined the MDoA in August and is making some great changes.5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Courtney Edwards) – They are currently receiving referrals from HSP and the shelter. Two homeless veterans are on the HUD-VASH interest list. One veteran is housed in the hotel and one homeless veteran was enrolled with VA Healthcare. Also assisted a veteran with first month's rent for a storage unit and U-Haul transfer. The coat drive resulted in 14 coats donated. If you know of a veteran who needs a coat for themselves or for family members, please refer them to Bobbie. They are assisting with Energy Assistance and SNAP applications. Fielding many calls and donations for the upcoming holidays. |
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New Business	1. <u>COAD is Seeking a Veteran Representative</u> (Gina Valentine) – Commission on Aging & Disabilities meetings occur the 4 th Wednesday of every other odd month at 10am. Representative must have access to virtual meetings. If you know of someone who would be interested, please refer them to Gina Valentine or Leslie Wagner.
Announcements	1. Veteran Claims & Resource Fair – Gina Valentine reported there are no new updates. Tentatively scheduled for April 6, 2022 from 9am to 2pm at the South Carroll Senior & Community Center. 2. Steve Whisler reported that open enrollment for Reserve Retirees and Active Duty is November 8 th to December 13 th . Tri-Care Prime and Select Plans are available with option to purchase Federal Dental Plans. 3. Celene Steckel shared that Vehicles for Change was a touching event. It was a great way to give back.
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date is Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.