

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: March 15, 2022

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post 31 (2 Sycamore Street, Westminster, MD)

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)	Larry Burbank , Kathleen Carpenter, Jack Curran , Doc Dockery, Jim Duncan , Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Jessica LaFave, Bobbie Lawrence, Josh Marks, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Commissioner Rothstein, Jason Sidock, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Weaver, Charles Wheatley, Steve Whisler
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> – Everyone present introduced themselves. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Weaver</u>: Carroll County will host an Inaugural Veterans Celebration on May 15th. The Board of Commissions has agreed to providing some funding. b. <u>Commissioner Rothstein</u>: Appreciates the amount of participation in VAC meetings. Our community recognizes the importance of Veterans. There has been some discussion in the community about developing a Veterans Court. He would like to learn more about how others feel about the need for one in Carroll County. Budget season is beginning. There are goals and objectives to be met and it is their responsibility how to resource time, people, and money, as there is only so much. There is a second budget session next week and must be completed by 5/31 according to law. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No comment.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Nash and seconded by Steve Whisler. A vote was taken and the minutes for the January 2022 meeting was approved. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for February 2022: (Mike Messina)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 42 Claims submittedii. 8 New representations (for January)iii. 53 Office and Home visitsiv. 18 Phone appointmentsv. 1550 Telephone and Email contactsvi. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,458,827 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of February 2022 was 14%.vii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$44,960,281 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2021 to 3/2022 is 7%.viii. VA has proposed regulations to change a few conditions. Tinnitus is no longer being covered as a stand-alone condition, but now as a symptom. Sleep Apnea is now 20%, down from 50%. PTSD is rated at 0-10-30-70-100% with a minimum rating of 10%. A more holistic approach is being considered for rating at 100% allowing those that can still work but diagnosed with PTSD to receive a rating.ix. Received over \$200,000 in back claims the last few weeks to include \$109,000 for a PTSD rated 100% and \$89,000 for a claim that took 18 months to process.x. Blue Water Veterans are having difficulty with having their claims processed. It is now taking over 300 days. A recent claim that took 380 days to process received \$15,000 in back dated benefits. <p>b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – February 2022: (Stacey Nash)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 16 Veterans were served with 14 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 8 Veterans served with 15 trips2. Loch Raven—2 Veterans served with 2 trips3. Fort Detrick – 1 Veteran with 2 trips4. Johns Hopkins – 1 Veteran with 7 trips5. Walter Reed – 1 Veteran with 1 trip6. Lutherville – 1 Veterans with 2 trips7. Martinsburg – 5 Veterans served with 7 trips |
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	<p style="text-align: center;">8. Total cost - \$3,598.35</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ii. They are utilizing on average two vehicles a day.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently serving two families. No referrals since November.</p> <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Courtney Edwards) – Four homeless Veterans have been housed. Three with HUD-VASH vouchers and one with a Mainstream voucher. Catholic War Veterans have been collecting donations. There is an abundance so if you know of any Veterans that need household products, please contact Bobbie. The program was able to purchase two mattresses. Another Veteran has been accepted into transitional housing. They are continuing to work with partners and getting the word out.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>1. <u>COAD is Seeking a Veteran Representative</u> (Gina Valentine) – Two applications have been sent to interested individuals. Waiting to receive.</p> <p>2. <u>Frequency of Meetings</u> (Marc Fisher) – Meetings will now be held monthly on the third Tuesday at 2pm in person only at the American Legion #31 in Westminster.</p> <p>3. <u>Bureau of Aging & Disabilities 50th Anniversary Celebration – Volunteers for VAC Table</u> (Leslie Wagner) – The Veterans Advisory Council will have a table at BOAD’s 50th Anniversary Celebration event on April 27 from 10am to 2pm. If you are available to man the table, please see Leslie Wagner. Larry Burbank, Marc Fisher, Bob Eney and Jack Curran expressed interest.</p> <p>4. <u>Inaugural Carroll County Veterans Celebration</u> – Sunday, May 15 from 12-4pm rain or shine at the Carroll County Farm Museum. This event is for families and will be open to the public. Veterans will receive goody bags with a special pin, vouchers for the beer garden and dessert truck, as well as giveaways. On site will be several food trucks, bands, Veteran Services Organizations, craft vendors, helicopter and jeep display, military display in the museum, and more. Contacts are Joanne Weant and Dana Wachter at the Farm Museum and Gina for the VSO’s. Website is www.carrollcountymd.gov/veteranscelebration.</p> <p>5. <u>Program Presentation</u> – Jessica LaFave, Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator (CEPC) Suicide Prevention for VA Maryland Health Care System presented on programs and resources. She can be reached at Jessica.lafave@va.gov or 443-301-9041.</p>

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Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is no video recording at Open Meetings without the consent and knowledge of all present.2. Carroll County Veterans Treatment Court (Bill Murphy) – Currently there are none in Carroll County. In Maryland there are VTC in Anne Arundel, Prince George’s, Baltimore City and Lower Eastern Shore in Maryland. There are 400 in the United States. The goal is to return Veterans with misdemeanors to a productive life. No felonies are handled in a VTC. Benefits include no cost, administered by United Way of Central Maryland, recidivism drops from 14 to 23-48% according to a 2018 study. Process would include intake by local law enforcement, diverted to VTC where the Judge reviews and Veterans are offered a choice, 12-18 months of drug treatment if needed, as well as peer counseling and training with the record being expunged at completion. Once the State’s Attorney’s Election for Carroll County is decided the CCVIP will petition the SAO. Grants will sustain the program. There is an online petition.3. Charles Wheatley announced there will be a flag ceremony in September at his park.4. Steve Whisler reported that the VA is closing 174 clinics nationwide.5. There will be a Veteran Benefits & Claims Clinic on June 7th at the South Carroll Senior & Community Center in Eldersburg. More information to follow.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.