

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: December 20, 2022

Start Time: 2:00 pm

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

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Steve Whisler

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, Jack Curran, Jim Duncan , Bobbie Lawrence, Bill Nash , Celene Steckel, Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, Victoria Parks, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler, Steve Whisler , Stacey Nash, Bob Eney, Francine Hahn, Roslyn Jones, Rick Pollard, Elaine Scott
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – Bill Nash opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Nash. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Gordon & Commissioner Kiler</u>: introductions were made to the VAC, provided their background experience, as well as what each Commissioner looking forward to their involvement with the committee. 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 Elaine May-Stem. A vote was taken and the minutes for the November2022 meeting was approved. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for November2022: (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 10 Claims submitted ii. 15 New Clients iii. 47 Office visits iv. 5 Home visits v. 15 previous claims approved/ 1 fully approved Vietnam Veteran vi. 1 pension (spouse of Vietnam Veteran)

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	<p>vii. Up 25% from 2021 payments this time last year. (Francine Hahn)- an increase rise in the number of veterans seen with cancer and increase in number claims. Looking into alternative connections for treatment/resources to accommodate growing number. Urged to ‘look to the Veterans as an individual’ instead of a quota or supply goal.</p> <p>b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> – (Stacie Nash) November 2022:</p> <p>i. 25 Veterans were served with 49 total trips</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green St 2. Fort Detrick 3. Martinsburg 4. Total cost - \$5,000.00 <p>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No new update- furnished over 45 laptops, served over 40 veterans. Some remaining, looking to expand grant for additional job seekers.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) –4 Veterans being served in the program.</p> <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) – Coming into a full staff of employees., new staff members anticipated for next meeting. Case management continues to be provided to veterans, 1 Veteran receiving emergency housing, 3 referred to Toys for Tots, 1 Veteran selected to receive a HUD VASH, paid back rent for 3 Veterans and security deposit and first month rent for another.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>1. <u>Removal of Article 5, Point 13 wording:</u> “Council members may not serve as a board member of the Veterans Independence Project (VIP)”.</p> <p>Removal put to vote by Bill Nash, supported by Gina Valentine and Elaine May-Stem. Motion moved, will be put before Commissioners.</p>
<p>Announcements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 86% increase with Healthcare Program- no increase in pharmacy/specialty/primary 2. Ft. Detrick expanding Mission Act with civilian providers

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Marvin Horn of Sykesville- Veterans Program initiated Freedom district, Lions Club- looking to partnership with Veterans Coordinator.4. Commissioner Gordon: small cemetery in District 5, handful of veteran headstones located. Property owners looking to clean up area responsibly. Potential partnership with Marvin Horn's program for cleanup.5. Elain May-Stem: Toys for Tots events held Wednesday 12/21/2022, families connected with program through Bobbie Lawrence.6. Celene Steckel: Point in Time Homeless Count scheduled for January 24th, 2023 with rain date of January 31st, 2023. Volunteers welcomed, will be going to encampments, library, food pantry, Walmart. Surveys will be done electronically developed by GIS/ IT department. 'Blues Christmas' Celebration being held at St. Paul's church to remember homeless veterans who have lost their lives in the past year.7. Veteran Celebration approaching, deadline for Vendor sign up deadline January 30th 2023
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, January 17th, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.