

# VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: April 18, 2017

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Carroll County Department of Social Services

**Veteran's Advisory Council Mission Statement:** To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.

**Veteran's Advisory Council 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.

**Council Present:** Larry Burbank, Ed Rothstein, Elaine May-Stem, Frank Valenti, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Steven Yinger

**County Staff Present:** Tim Burke, Mike Chandler, Rosemarie Glowack, Sara Ruckles-Handwerger, Christine Kay, Scott Singleton, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

**Other Present:** John Bowersox, Marvin Frush, Roslyn Jones, Bryan Lyburn, Les Mariner, Keith Midberry, Sam Miller, Todd Mitchell, Cary Moorman, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Gary Saylor, Tom Shaffer, Charles Wheatley

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Frank Valenti) – Frank welcomed everyone and those attending went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver opened the Seniors on the Go Expo with Veteran Jim Hillman 2 weeks ago. He also interviewed Jim for his WTTR Commissioner program that aired the following Sunday. Commissioner Weaver also informed the Council that both he and Marvin Frush will be visiting all Carroll County American Legions beginning Monday and will be sharing information and raising funds for the Armory Project.

## 2. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes (Frank Valenti) – Larry Burbank made a motion to approve the March 2017 minutes, second by Bill Murphy. All were in favor and the March 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly

numbers served. Gina reported that the Veteran Services Program made over 200 contacts at the Seniors on the Go Expo.

- i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Mike Chandler) – In the month of March 2017, 17 new representations, 48 claims submitted, 17 home visits, 72 in-office contacts and 322 telephone contacts. The return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$336,200 per month for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$5,397,320 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$35,019. A highlight of this past month is the family of a deceased Vietnam Veteran. His wife and disabled adult child have been able to secure funds of \$3,500/month. Taneytown Women's Auxiliary has made a donation to the program and Westminster's VFW is in the process of donating money as well.
  - ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Gina Valentine) – There are 245 vets registered to use the shuttle, up 7 from last month. Gina will contact CTS and get a report on their March 2017 Veteran shuttle numbers. Flyers promoting the shuttle were handed out.
  - iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – Things are going well.
  - iv. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach)
    1. Outreach – Steve Yinger reported that the Veterans Book Club has concluded for this session, but will begin again in September. He will write a wrap-up summary for the Commissioners for Positively Carroll. There was an increase in attendees each meeting. Celebrate America provided the meals and the Library staff not only set-up the room but made sure books were available for everyone. Magnets have been distributed, including at the Seniors on the Go Expo.
- c. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – This program provides services to veterans to remain in their homes. Perry Point directs veterans to the Maryland Department of Aging and they then forward to Gina. This program serves a maximum of 5 veterans, who are assessed and given a monthly budget to purchase needed services such as personal care. Currently 5 veterans are being served, which fills all the slots allotted to us by the State.

- d. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Mike Chandler and Gina Valentine) – In the month of March three homeless Veterans were assisted with hotel stays. Currently one is still in the hotel and one is no longer using the services of the grant. The third Veteran will be attending next month’s meeting and sharing their story. After their recent hotel stay via the grant they have successfully found housing (all this after being homeless for 5 years). Currently they are monitoring one individual, who is not homeless at the moment and gaining another this afternoon.
- e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – Todd gave an update on the Memorial Day Observance. They have hired a photographer to make a keepsake. Gerstell Academy has been fantastic to work with. VA Secretary Owings and Deputy Secretary Flynn will be attending. \$30,000 was raised and they only needed \$15,000. Since they are a 501(c)(3) it will be up to their board to decide what to do with the extra money, most likely a Veterans charity. They will have ads in the Carroll County Times with sponsor logos the Sunday and 2 Wednesdays prior to the event. They will need assistance in setting up the flags. If you are interested in volunteering you can meet at Gerstell Academy at 10am on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> or see Todd Mitchell.
- f. US Army Recruiting/Reserve Building Project (Frank Valenti) – Tim Burke, County Attorney, reported that a 501(c)(3) must be formed and gave the example of Access Carroll. Tammy Black of Access Carroll raised the money, hired staff and manages the operation of the center, all as a 501(c)(3). It must be independent of the Veterans Advisory Council. Frank reported that 5 members attending today will be meeting after the Council meeting to work on creating the 501(c)(3) that needs to oversee the Shelter. Christine Kay looked over the application and agreed that the “founding” members should complete it as it asks very specific questions regarding the project. Once completed the county will submit. Bill Murphy wanted to know if the shelter can be subcontracted to other groups and Tim Burke said that only if it is related to Veteran activity.

### **3. New Business**

- a. Roslyn Jones reported that since John Veney has been on board they have been able to bring 13 Veterans to BEREC for case managing. This is a huge increase then what they have been able to do previously.
- b. Mike Chandler introduced Les Mariner from Westminster’s Elks Club and Pastor Cary Moorman of Mt. Union Lutheran Church, both interested in assisting

Veterans in Carroll County. Les said that he is Chairman of the Elks Veterans Committee effective April 1, 2017. Previously they had given any money raised to Martinsburg, but after meeting Faith Hayes at the Seniors on the Go Expo they are now very interested in helping out at the local level. Pastor Moorman is new to Carroll County and shared that his congregation desires to help other Veterans. They usually visit Veterans in the hospital but they would like to build relationships and do more. Both have been talking with Mike Chandler about ideas they have in reaching out to the Veterans of Carroll County.

- c. Keith Midberry, Veteran Liaison for Hospice of Frederick County was able to present many statistics to those attending. An email with these attachments will be sent to those on the Veterans Advisory Council's email distribution list. His position is funded by the Kahlert Foundation. Many area hospices are meeting next week and he is very interested in promoting Veteran services since there is nothing for Veterans in this area in terms of skilled nursing care. In regards to Hospice beds for Veterans, Martinsburg has 20 and Perry Point has 4. He is unsure if Charlotte Hall has any. He is hoping to attend meetings and keep the Council up-to-date regarding Veteran hospice services, as they have patients that cross the county line from Carroll to Frederick.
4. **Next Meeting:** May 16, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Department of Social Services.