

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: August 15, 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, Joe Everett (CTS), Elaine May-Stem, William "Bill" Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt

County Staff Present: Faith Hayes, Commissioner Doug Howard, Sara Runkles-Handwerger, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

Other Present: Ann Adair, Marvin Frush, Mike Gallagher, Zachary John, Scott Kutkat, Keith Midberry, Bill Nash, Tom Shaffer

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry welcomed everyone and those present went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Howard) – In the next couple of months, can the Veterans Advisory Council look at best practices in other jurisdictions. Are we missing anything? It has been a while since we added or improved our Veterans' programs and he would like to make sure that needs are being met. Ed Rothstein suggested hosting a conference in Carroll County and inviting Secretary Owings and other jurisdictions to discuss best practices around the state or region.

2. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Elaine May-Stem made a motion to approve the July 2017 minutes, second by Bill Nash. All were in favor and the July 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.

- i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Gina Valentine) – In the month of July 2017, 18 new representations, 60 claims submitted, 23 home visits, 123 in-office contacts and 225 telephone contacts. The return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$379,655.81 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$6,680,259.91 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$42,259. All numbers are based on known awards, which is information given to program staff by veterans since the program is not notified by the VA. Sara Runkles-Handwerger has been tracking veterans seeking assistance with the program by zip code. In July: Eldersburg 7, Finksburg 3, Hampstead 1, Mt. Airy 1, New Windsor 2, Taneytown 4, Union Bridge 1, Westminster 16 and Woodbine 1.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Joe Everett) – In July, 36 veterans were served with 2 in a wheelchair, for a total cost of \$5,980.50. Trips included: Baltimore – 23 veterans served with 41 trips; Loch Raven – 2 veterans served with 2 trips; Fort Detrick – 7 served with 10 trips; Glen Burnie – 1 served with 1 trip; Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 9 served with 9 trips. The numbers are steady as to new veterans applying to be on the shuttle list, with 275 currently registered. Joe will look into whether the veterans utilizing the shuttle each month are the same or are changing.
 1. Fleet Update (Joe Everett) – Currently there are 4 Veterans shuttle vans with lowest mileage of 49,000 and highest mileage of 62,000. They are holding up well. A question was raised as to the contract language about one shuttle van must be on CTS property at all times while the other 3 are on the road (or shop) in case of vehicle emergencies. Commissioner Howard would like that policy to be reviewed and Celene Steckel agreed to examine the policy/contract. Joe recommended that since the county now has extra buses that in a vehicle emergency a bus could be used. Two conversion vans will be delivered end of this week and the other two shortly.
- iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- iv. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach) – No report.

- 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 referrals to Gina. This program serves a maximum of 5 veterans, who are assessed and given a monthly budget (maximum of \$2,804) to purchase needed services such as personal care. Currently 4 veterans are being served, with one having come off the program end of June. New referrals have been frozen at the VA level. Case management for this program is provided by local Aging Agencies but not all counties participate according to Gina.
- d. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Currently we have 5 Veterans in the hotel. One will be moving into an apartment within a week, another Veteran will be moving into an apartment within 2 weeks. We are working on placing one Veteran in treatment. The two remaining Veterans – financial support is going to stop for one Veteran and we are continuing to provide case management services for the last Veteran to identify placement options.
- e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- f. Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP –
 - i. CCVIP Update (report forwarded from Ed Cramer) –
 - 1. Meeting with Maryland Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs on August 1st.
 - a. Planning group plus Audrey Cimino, Community Foundation of Carroll County Executive Director
 - b. Both Secretary Owings and Deputy Secretary Finn are all in support for CCVIP:
 - i. Letter of Support – received already
 - ii. Contacting Governor Hogan and asking him to visit the building
 - iii. Contacting the Secretary of Housing and Community Development
 - iv. Contacting our County Delegates to enforce support
 - 1. Audrey had occasion to talk with Delegate Shoemaker about submission of a Bond Bill;

his advice was the sooner the better. We've begun reviewing the guidelines.

v. Contacting appropriate offices regarding State Grant Program

vi. Encourage us to visit MCVET Program

2. Application Package

a. In final stages and will be given to County Attorney next week for review/approval and forwarding on to Federal Department of HHS

3. Rough Floor Plan

a. Revised again to include additional single rooms, a waiting area and other space realignment

b. Frank and I have outlined rooms with painter tape on floor to provide a better spatial reference to visitors

c. Making an enlarged graphic to post in building

d. Awaiting a proposal for a more formal CAD of floor plan

4. Roof Proposals

a. Had 3rd estimate done and received a proposal

b. Awaiting proposals from other two prior estimates

ii. Presentation of \$10,000 check from Point Breeze Credit Union at the Armory.

iii. MCVETS in Baltimore has lost a lot of their grant money however, Baltimore Station, similar to MCVETS, has been successful recently in their grant awards and may be a better example to follow.

iv. A local VFW has called the Veteran Services Program and would like to make CCVIP the beneficiary of their annual donation. They have been forwarded to the CCVIP team.

3. New Business

a. There is a large network of programs available to assist Veterans. Ed Rothstein is involved in both Wounded Warriors and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and will talk with Faith Hayes about who to contact. Ann Adair recommended Team Red, White and Blue as a good Veteran organization to utilize.

b. There will be an Open Meeting Act training for appointed VAC members at 1pm (prior to the 2pm meeting) on Tuesday, September 19th at DSS.

- c. Governor Hogan has requested that flags be flown at half-staff tomorrow (Wednesday, August 16th) in honor of U.S. **Marine Corps Staff Sergeant William J. Kundrat**, of Frederick, Maryland, who died on July 10 2017, when a military aircraft crashed in Northern Mississippi.
 - d. There will be a Veterans Pickleball Classic beginning October 6th at 8am until October 8th at 8pm at North Carroll High School. There is space for 200 people to view the tournament of 7 courts. Proceeds will benefit the CCVIP.
 - e. Celene will forward CCVIP contact information to the VAC so that inquiries can be directed to the correct individual.
 - f. Ann Adair a BOD Member and Hospital Liaison Officer from the Paralyzed Veterans of America Colonial Chapter introduced herself. She has been asked by the Chesapeake Veterans Alliance to reach out to many counties in Maryland to build a network and learn what other jurisdictions are doing so they can increase collaboration. She will be attending other veteran organizations in Maryland and reporting back to the Alliance as part of their outreach. She can be reached at 356 E. Main Street, Suite 103, Newark, DE 19711, 410-356-4647, 888-963-6595, anncadair@aol.com.
 - g. Keith Midberry reminded everyone of the Veterans end of life learning group at the American Legion Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick September 23rd from 9am to 12noon. A draft agenda of the learning group will be sent out later this week.
 - h. Commissioner Howard would like a representative from VAC to attending the Celebrating America meetings.
 - i. Commissioner Howard is hoping to have a public round table discussion in early November before Veterans Day to discuss housing, transportation and what is available overall for Veterans in our county.
4. Next Meeting: September 19, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Department of Social Services.