

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: November 21, 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, Commissioner Richard Weaver

County Staff Present: Rosemarie Glowack, Francine Hahn, Sara Runkles-Handwerger, Keri Keefer, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

Other Present: Ed Cramer, Gary Saylor, Pete Turner, John Veney, Charles Wheatley

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Veterans Independence Project brochures are complete. Let Ed Cramer know if you need any. Commissioner Weaver received a letter from Secretary Brinkley in regards to State of Maryland budget. He is hoping that \$1.5 million will be placed in the state budget as a Capital Improvement Project for the Veterans Independence Project. He was honored to attend American Legion Post #31 Veterans Day event where he was able to award Mick Schmidt "Veteran of the Year." Also, the Carroll County Times had a nice write-up about Larry Burbank.

2. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Ed Rothstein made a motion to approve the October 2017 minutes, second by Bill Murphy. All were in favor and the October 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served. Also, welcome to new Veteran Services Program staff member Francine Hahn.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Runkles-Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – In the month of October 2017, 4 new representations, 54 claims submitted, 6 home visits, 54 in-office contacts and 241 telephone contacts. The return on investment,

based on known awards: approximately \$391,015.82 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$7,575,428.54 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$47,689. 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. Veterans seeking assistance from the program by zip code for October: Eldersburg 5, Finksburg 2, Hampstead 1, Manchester 2, New Windsor 1, Taneytown 1, Union Bridge 1, and Westminster 13. The veteran breakdown by zip code may include duplicated veterans. These numbers reflect current filings, not whether the veteran had filed previously with the program and therefore duplicated in the zip code tracking.

1. The current number of Carroll County veterans is 14,002 per the 2010 U.S. Census.
 2. Current outreach by program staff include speaking at various Veterans Day events at Carroll Hospice breakfast, Commission on Aging & Disabilities meeting, Carroll Vista, Crisis Intervention Training, and Brightview. Information is also available at the five county senior centers. Getting the word out is where the program could use help from the VAC. Ideas include speaking at local service organizations such as Elks and Lions as well as using social media. The County could also prepare a letter and packet of information to provide Carroll County veterans during the Transition Assistance Program. More options include advertising on CTS buses and having a small box with contact information in the Carroll County Times.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Joe Everett) – In October, 35 veterans were served with 3 in a wheelchair, for a total cost of \$7,375. Trips included: Baltimore – 21 veterans served with 54 trips; Loch Raven – 1 served with 1 trip; Fort Detrick – 6 served with 8 trips; Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 6 served with 13 trips; and Washington, DC – 1 served with 1 trip.
 - iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – John Veney of BERC and DLLR reported that currently he has 24 veterans under case management with 2 finding employment in the last month. He is hoping that employment opportunities improve after the holiday.
 - iv. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach) – Gina is still working to connect with Steve Yinger to discuss the sub-committees. A sub-committee has been formed to review the current VAC by-laws. Larry Burbank, Bill Murphy and Mick Schmidt have volunteered.
- 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. The referral for a 5th veteran was received, however, they declined. They are currently waiting for another referral.

- d. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Currently there are no changes from last month.
- e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- f. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer/Frank Valenti) –
 - i. Building
 - 1. 11/9/17 – Final presentation to and approval by the Commissioners
 - 2. In progress – Forwarding to Federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); will elicit Maryland Federal Delegation representatives support to get HHS approval, hopefully shortly after January 1st.
 - ii. 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Filing
 - 1. 9/5/17 – Articles of Incorporation filed with Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation
 - 2. 11/10/17 – Revised By-Laws mailed to attorney for submission to the IRS for approval; will elicit Maryland Federal Delegation representatives support to get IRS approval, hopefully shortly after January 1st.
 - iii. Carroll County Delegation Building Tour and Support
 - 1. 11/1 Senator Ready and Delegate Krebs; 11/16 Delegate Rose; Prior viewing by Delegate Shoemaker – all fully supporting.
 - 2. Senator Ready’s office will initiate Bond Bill request for \$250,000 for upcoming Maryland Assembly session.
 - 3. We made separate request to Department of Housing and Community Development (per Krebs)
 - iv. Marketing
 - 1. 9/8 and 10/13 – briefed/attended Taneytown Business Breakfast; received donation from bowling event
 - 2. Early October – joined Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
 - 3. 11/10 – Carroll County Times visit and interview at building; front page article on 11/14 (11/3 CCT Our View column “Lending Support to Our Vets” mentioned our project)
 - 4. Logo, brochures, business cards, letterhead stationary, table cloth, supporter placard, building tours, contacts, etc. – spreading the word as widely as possible.
 - v. Administration

1. Continue operating under the Community Foundation of Carroll County pending 501(c)(3) approval
2. All donations and expenses being accounted for by staff

3. New Business

- a. Pete Turner, Vietnam Vet and Author, presented a check for \$300 to Ed Cramer of the Veterans Independence Project. These funds represent royalties from his book "Da Nang Damned!". The book is available on Amazon and all proceeds will go to the VIP. He is also available for speaking engagements and book signings.
 - b. There will be another Pickleball Tournament , held in March 2018 and proceeds will benefit the VIP.
 - c. Gary Saylor of Carroll Hospice announced that they have a bus going to Arlington National Cemetery on December 16th to place wreaths.
4. Next Meeting: December 19, 2017 at 2 p.m. at Department of Social Services, 1232 Tech Court, Westminster.