

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: January 16, 2018

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, Elaine May-Stem, William "Bill" Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt

County Staff Present: Francine Hahn, Sara Runkles-Handwerger, Christine Kay, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

Other Present: Ed Cramer, Steve Duex, Marc Fisher, Alison Malachowski, Keith Midberry, Jonathan Rowe, Gary Saylor, Elaine Scott, John Veney, Charles Wheatley, Stanley Whiteman

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
 - c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – No report.
2. Old Business
 - a. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – A quorum was present. Ed Rothstein made a motion to approve the December 2017 minutes, second by Elaine May Stem. All were in favor and the December 2017 meeting minutes were approved.
 - b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Runkles-Handwerger) – In the month of December 2017, 14 new representations, 56 claims submitted, 6 home visits, 60 in-office contacts, and 200 telephone contacts. The return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$430,908.93 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$8,495,218.57 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$51,309. 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.

- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Gina Valentine) – In December, 30 veterans were served, with 16 home pick-ups. Trips included: Baltimore – 34 trips; Loch Raven – 1 trip; Fort Detrick – 3 trips; Glen Burnie – 2 trips; Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 15 trips; and Washington, DC VA – 1 trip.
- iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – John Veney of BERC and DLLR reported that January to-date, two veterans received employment.
- iv. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach)
 - 1. By-Laws – Gina reported that the by-laws are being revised to better reflect membership. The County Attorney is currently reviewing the revised by-laws and making suggestions. They will be available at February's meeting to review before presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.
- c. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Keri Keefer) – 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. Due to a recent death, enrollment is at four. A referral will be forthcoming.
- d. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – We have received a \$125,000 grant from the Kahlert Foundation for fiscal year 2018. This will allow for the employment of a part-time program specialist, as well as covering the costs of training, emergency housing and needs of veterans that qualify. The Board of Commissioners accepted the grant at a recent session. Since then one Veteran and family (of 6) has been diverted from homelessness. Currently there are no hotel stays.
- e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- f. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer) –

- i. Website – www.carrollcountyvip.org. Donations can be made on the website and will go directly into the Carroll County Community Foundation account for CCVIP.
- ii. Ed Cramer attended the State of the County Address on January 9th.
- iii. Frank and Ed met with Commissioner Frazier regarding the Carroll County Times article on 12/24/17. A joint press release will be forthcoming. CCVIP will be invited by the Board of County Commissioners in the future if the CCVIP is to be discussed.
- iv. CCVIP attended the Ending Veteran Homelessness meeting on 1/12/18 and gave the committee a tour of the building.
- v. Frank received positive feedback after making a presentation at Sandymount United Methodist Church on 1/14/18.
- vi. 1/15/18 Ed met with another vendor, who will make a proposal for the 2nd Environmental Survey.
- vii. CCVIP met with the County Attorney on 1/15/18 regarding the 501(3)(c) filing.
- viii. CCVIP will participate in the Provider Forum for Veteran Services on 1/26/18 at Carroll Community College.
- ix. They are planning a Red, White, & Blue Ball on November 10th at Martins.
- x. Carroll Community College has offered to help in regards to education and training.
- xi. CCVIP made a presentation to Taneytown American Legion Post 120 Ladies Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion about assisting in anyway.
- xii. Ed reported that the Bond Bill has been submitted and will be voted on this Friday.
- xiii. Frank Valenti developed a future plan for CCVIP, addressing the questions of operating costs, project failure, financial responsibilities, etc. Ed Cramer remarked that they don't intend to fail and that ultimately it is everyone's responsibility to care for Veterans and not one agency or entity.

- xiv. Ed reported that they have not formally gone forward with the change in zoning for tiny homes. It is just an idea as of now.

3. New Business

- a. Gary Saylor and Alison Malachowski reported that in 2017 they were able to assist 209 Veterans through Hospice, with 190 presentations of the “We Honor Veterans” program.
 - b. Provider Forum for Veteran Services will take place on Friday, January 26, 2018 from 9am to 12:30pm in Room K100 at Carroll Community College. In addition to providers presenting on their Veteran specific services, AARP Maryland will be present to pin “Welcome Home” lapel pins and hand out Presidential Proclamations to all Vietnam Era Veterans as part of a special National Commemoration of the Vietnam War’s 50th Anniversary. Registration for providers, agencies, and Veterans is Friday, January 19th. Leslie passed around a sign-up sheet for those interested.
 - c. Bill Murphy reported that Roy Libdan, Mick Schmidt, and he have applied for a grant with the Kahlert Foundation for non-emergency medical transportation for Carroll County Veterans.
 - d. If anyone is interested in serving on the Veterans Advisory Council, Gina and Leslie have applications, or you can apply online at <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/boards/apply.aspx>.
 - e. Jonathan Rowe reported that Carroll Community College is improving support and coordination of Veteran benefits for Veterans that are students.
 - f. Charles Wheatley has another car whose owner would like donated to a veteran. Gina will coordinate with Charles.
 - g. Charles Wheatley would also like to provide a no-cost assessment to five Veterans as part of a training program that he has developed.
 - h. Ed Rothstein reported that the Resiliency & Education facility at Ft. Meade is half-way completed.
4. Next Meeting: February 20, 2018 at 2 p.m. at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster.