

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: February 20, 2018

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster

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, Roslyn Jones, William "Bill" Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, Commissioner Weaver, Crystal Winebrenner

County Staff Present: Francine Hahn, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

Other Present: Kim Benson, Ed Cramer, John "Jack" Curran, Tom Doerner, Steve Duex, Marc Fisher, Marvin Frush, Alison Malachowski, Keith Midberry, Gil Muse, Bill Nash, Jonathan Rowe, Gary Saylor, Elaine Scott, Jesse Smith, Michael Stecher, John Veney, Charles Wheatley

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry opened the meeting with a welcome then everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Murphy.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – CCVIP's application has been submitted and as of prior to the meeting, the legal department has not yet heard anything.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 7 members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Bill Murphy made a motion to approve the January 2018 minutes, second by Gary Saylor. All were in favor and the January 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Gina Valentine) – January 2018:
 1. 7 new representations
 2. 54 claims submitted
 3. 6 home visits
 4. 58 in-office contacts
 5. 287 telephone contacts

6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$448,296.24 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$8,854,771.26 since inception of the program (October 2013)
 7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$53,119
 8. 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 (Crystal Winebrenner) – January 2018:
1. 33 veterans were served, with 3 in wheelchair and 17 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 19 veterans – 29 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 - c. Fort Detrick – 2 veterans – 2 trips
 - d. Glen Burnie – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 - e. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 9 veterans – 19 trips
 - f. Washington, DC VA – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$6,150.00
 3. There are transportation concerns due to the increased number of riders. These will be brought before the Commissioners. Due to the need for more wheelchair lifts they have to take more than one vehicle to the same location. They cannot use the extra lift buses that the County owns because they are too tall and do not fit under the VA overhang or in the parking garage. They cannot be replaced with shorter vehicles due to the funding. The vehicle maintenance is good.
- iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – John Veney of BERC and DLLR reported that they have had more jobs for Veterans and the current caseload is 5 veterans, with 3 finding employment.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – This program provides services to veterans to remain in their homes. This is funded by the Federal VA, under contract with Maryland Department of Aging. 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 are enrolled with a referral forthcoming.
- e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – An employment posting is on the County website for a Coordinator of Case Management Services under this grant. The position is part time with 25 hours a week. If you know of anyone direct them to the County website.
- f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer) –
- i. Website (www.carrollcountylvip.org) is being updated all the time.

- ii. Receipt of the Health & Human Services application has been confirmed and is being reviewed.
 - iii. The 501(3)(c) application status is to be determined. They are following-up with a Senator Van Hollen staff member who is assisting them in determining the status of the application.
 - iv. CCVIP bond bill's first reading is complete and they plan to attend the hearings (SB 0272 HB 0612).
 - v. CCVIP and Commissioner Frazier have met in follow-up to the Carroll County Times article on 12/24/17. A joint press release was issued.
 - vi. CCVIP has met with the Circle of Caring Homelessness Board's Executive Committee to discuss the project.
 - vii. Meeting scheduled 2/23/18 with CC Deputy Director of Public Works.
 - viii. A meeting has been requested with CC Zoning Administrator to discussion tiny house zoning issues.
 - ix. Westminster City Planning and Zoning Staff will receive a tour. They will be providing the water and sewer for the building.
 - x. CCVIP will be following up on the 2 proposals for Phase 2 Environmental Survey. They may explore a third proposal.
 - xi. CCVIP Board Members attended the Delegate's Region 5 event with positive support within priorities.
 - xii. Charles Wheatley recommended that CCVIP discuss the project with Senator Cardin.
- h. Recap of Provider Forum for Veteran Services (Celene Steckel) – It was a great event with a large attendance of veterans and providers. Receiving the Welcome Home Vietnam Era Veteran pins were 78 veterans. A lot of information was given in a short period of time, but it was well-received. Overall, a successful Forum.
- i. Review of changes to VAC Bylaws; Council members to vote on changes (Gina Valentine):
- i. Some language has changed and has been approved by the County attorney.
 - ii. On page 1, Article IV, 1.6 – Ed Rothstein asked if the term “marketing” could be changed to “promoting.”
 - iii. Bill Murphy made a motion and Mick Schmidt seconded. With a positive vote, the change will be made and the revised Bylaws will go before the Commissioners.

3. New Business

- a. Change of location of the Veterans Advisory Council (Larry Burbank) – Everyone agreed that since this is a veteran organization that it would be good to meet at the VFW. Gil Muse, Commander of VFW Post #467, offered the use of the meeting room. Everyone voted to move the monthly meetings to the VFW Post #467.

- b. Alison Malachowski met the co-founder of Mission BBQ and informed everyone how involved they are in serving veterans and first responders in their communities. In addition they provide veterans with employment. They are looking to open a location in Westminster.
 - c. VFW Post #467 will be having their 5th Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event on April 28th.
 - d. Two Army recruiters were present. Ed mentioned that usually those interested in enlisting have parents who are veterans. Most have not received the VA services that they are eligible. He recommended that the recruiters refer these veterans to the Carroll County Veteran Services Program.
 - e. You can now apply online for Veteran ID cards. These cards will assist you if you have not received a VA card.
 - f. Charles Wheatley asked for assistance in planning an event for the dedication of a flag honoring veterans of World War II with a celebration at a local park. If interested contact Charles.
 - g. Safeway Foundation distributes grants to local veteran organizations. If anyone is interested in more information see Ed Rothstein or visit their website www.safewayfoundation.org.
 - h. 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>.
4. Next Meeting: March 20, 2018 at 2 p.m. at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster.