

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: June 19, 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, Jack Curran, Marc Fisher, Bill Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem, Commissioner Richard Weaver (ex officio), Crystal Winebrenner (CTS Representative)

County Staff Present: Rosemarie Glowack, Francine Hahn, Sara Handwerger, Jim Hillman, Commissioner Doug Howard, Stacey Nash, Celene Steckel, Leslie Wagner, Shannan Zepp

Other Present: Travis Crow, Richard Jones, Keith Midberry, Gil Muse, Bill Nash, John Nash, Jonathan Rowe, Gary Scarbeau, Joe Watts, Charles Wheatley, Thomas Williams, Tom Woerner

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 Elaine May Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver):
 - i. Dave Reese has retired and Stacey Nash, Transportation Grants staff, will fill in until someone is hired.
 - ii. Civil War Encampment will take place on July 21-22 at the Union Mills Homestead.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 8 members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Bill Murphy made a motion to approve the May 2018 minutes, second by Elaine May Stem. All were in favor and the May 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Welcome Jim Hillman back to the Veteran Services Program. He is replacing Keri Keefer who is now working for the VA.

ii. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – May 2018:

1. 12 new representations
2. 48 claims submitted
3. 8 home visits
4. 74 in-office contacts
5. 347 telephone contacts
6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$487,340.74 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$10,280,134.93 since inception of the program (October 2013)
 - a. These awards include disability compensation, pension, burial benefits, and survivor's pension.
 - b. \$10 million is to be commended. Great work by the Veteran Services Program staff.
7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$60,359.00
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.
9. A question was raised about knowing when veterans move to Carroll County. The answer is that we do not know unless they contact us.
10. The program is receiving referrals from American Legions and VFWs around the county.

iii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Crystal Winebrenner) – May 2018:

1. 28 veterans were served, with 2 in wheelchair and 17 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 17 veterans – 57 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 1 veteran – 1 trip
 - c. Fort Detrick – 3 veterans – 4 trips
 - d. Washington, DC – 1 veteran – 2 trips
 - e. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 8 veterans – 22 trips
2. Total Cost = \$9,200.00
3. Crystal reported that we have more frequent riders.

iv. Veteran's Job Report – No report.

- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant – No report.
- e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shanna Zepp) – Four homeless Veterans are currently being served under this grant with emergency housing and additional assistance. One is moving July 1st with assistance from the Elks; one is hopefully moving out tomorrow; one is in the application process with HUD VASH; and one has two locations they are considering. Six have been referred to the HUD VASH program, with two fully approved. The process can take a few weeks to a few months. Emergency assistance can include prescription medications, food,

electricity, and rent. One will be receiving a vehicle from Charles Wheatley through Mudgett's. Shannan has reach out to the pre-trial staff that has contact with veterans who may need the kind of assistance this program offers. Shannan will meet with Gina to discuss a referral process. One Veteran with substance abuse issues was referred to Tim Weber to receive assistance. Other service organizations have assisted with general and specific donations. These organizations include, but are not limited to, DAV, local Ravens Perch, American Legion Auxiliary, VFW, Elks.

- f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP – No report.

3. New Business

- a. If we can use the distribution list that was collected during the Veterans Provider Forum then we can make Veterans aware of benefits and events.
- b. CTS has 900 riders/day and is looking into allowing community based organizations to advertise with flyers inside the buses. Advertising outside the bus will be allowed with a price list forthcoming.
- c. Are there gaps in services for Veterans with substance abuse issues? When Tim Weber is contacted it is usually handled quickly, other programs can take 2-3 days before an individual is placed in rehab. It was reported by Veteran Services staff that when they have a Veteran with substance abuse issues they can get them into a hotel, connect them with the VA, and get them into a program almost immediately.
- d. Beware of people claiming to be Veterans to receive benefits, but upon investigation are not.
- e. When you renew your license you can take Form DV214 to the MVA and they will note your Veteran status on your driver's license.
- f. In the next 10 years American Legion, VFWs, and DAV membership will be cut in half. Discussion was had regarding how to recruit younger veterans to these organizations at discharge. Personal invitation by these organizations makes a difference.
- g. Ft. Meade Initiative – Commissioner Howard and Commissioner Weaver:
 - i. Met with Ft. Meade Transitions Office – What are we doing to promote Carroll County and connect to Veterans? Help us find a way to reach each of the two groups at Ft. Meade.
 - ii. Two groups at Ft. Meade:
 - 1. Transitioning out of military with Ft. Meade being their last location

2. Transitioning to Ft. Meade and active duty, however, their military job is one in which Ft. Meade will be their last move.
- iii. Chris Winebrenner, of the County Commissioners' Office, is reaching out to a marketing firm to assist. Next couple weeks a marketing team will be working with the Commissioners and Ft. Meade.
 1. Participate in Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) events at Ft. Meade
 2. Work with BERC to assist in spousal employment
 3. Meet with Carroll County's largest employers for spousal employment
 4. VAC sub-committee to coordinate with Ft. Meade activities. Larry, Elaine, Mick, and Tom Williams will participate. Celene to forward their contact information to Vivian Daly.
 - h. There is a need for Veteran Services Program staff and VAC members to have shirts for when they attend public events. VAC is also in need of business cards and permanent name badges.
 - i. Veteran Services Program staff, VAC members, and local American Legions/VFWs/DAV can host booths at various carnivals this summer to get the word out.
 - j. Bill Murphy can produce a video highlighting the work of VAC and the services offered by our Veterans staff.
 - k. Friends of Disabled American Veterans in Carroll County has received their 501(3)(c) as well as the title for their organization. Bill reported they have 7 Veterans as drivers. Insurance is a big issue and they are currently looking into several companies. USAA was recommended. FR Conversion has donated a wheelchair equipped Windstar for a Veteran, in good standing and having a financial need. All nominations to Bill. Details of van will be forwarded to everyone.
 - l. Keith Midberry reported that Frederick County Council just voted to create a Veterans Advisory Council. There will be appointed terms, with defined VSOs, meeting quarterly and open to the public. The County has also approved the funds needed for a part-time liaison to the council.
 - m. Charles Wheatley reported that the Flagpole Memorial for Veterans of World War II has been rescheduled for July 21st at 2pm at 707 Wheatley Drive in Westminster.
4. Next Meeting: July 17, 2018 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.