

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: November 19, 2024

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post 31 (2 Sycamore Street, Westminster, MD)

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Marc Fisher

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
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.
Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Bob Eney , Francis Hahn, Megan Klein, Bill Nash , Tony Roman, Jason Sidock, Nigel Forney, , Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, Jack Curran , Marc Fisher , Steve Whisler , Bobbie Lawrence, Commissioner Gordon, Rick Pollard, Kati Townsley, Chris McClean, Stacey Graham, Celene Steckel, Melissa Moore, Bob Borie
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair's Comments (Bill Nash) – opened the meeting by welcoming those attending. 2. Attendee Introductions and Announcements- No comment 3. Pledge of Allegiance led by Bill Nash 4. Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Gordon: Commissioner Gordon commented on the Veteran's Day Events he attended which included the Veteran's Day Parade, Veteran's Event at Gerstel Academy and the Bridging Life Breakfast.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approval of Minutes – Quorum met, able to approve September and October 2024 minutes. Steve Whisler to approve, Bob Eney to second. 2. Monthly Program Reports: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Report for October 2024: (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 20 Claims submitted. ii. 25 New Representations iii. 29 office/3 home visits iv. 13 phone appointments v. 1545 telephone/ email contacts vi. 10 Veterans being assisted with case management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Pollard presented to a group of Veterans on Veteran's Day at Carroll Vista • Francine Hahn presented to a group of Veterans at Brightview Senior Living Center which also included members of the community. Francine also joined Jose Flores on his podcast "Motivated Mindset" to discuss general information on filing for Veteran benefits. This has been recorded and can be found on the Maryland Military Broadcast. b. Veteran's Shuttle Report – (Stacey Nash) October 2024: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 29 Veterans were served with 49 total trips- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baltimore- 14 Veterans/ 26 trips 2. Loch Raven- 5 Veteran/ 5 trips 3. Fort Detrick- 5 veteran/ 8 trips

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Martinsburg – 6 Veteran/ 6 Trips 5. Germantown-1 Veteran/1 trip 6. Fayette St. 1 Veteran/1 trip 7. Glen Burnie 1 Veteran/1 trip 8. Total: 34 Veterans/49 trips <p>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (Alex Brown)- Not in attendance</p> <p>3. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Bobbie Lawrence) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kahlert Grant awarded for both Veteran Services Program and Older Adult Emergency fund. • The program is assisting 3 Veterans with emergency housing, had assisted another Veteran with an automotive repair. • All 3 Veterans being assisted with emergency housing have obtained housing subsidy vouchers and are being assisted with looking for apartments. • The Veteran’s Trust Fund appears to be accepting applications once again and it is an online process.
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group decided to hold a New Years Luncheon in January, rather than in December.
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member from Carroll Community College announced and thanked American Legion Post 31 for their donation of \$30,000 toward their scholarship fund. • Steve Whisler commented that Open enrollment for Tri-Care runs 11-11-2024 until 12-10-2024. • Discussions surrounded the new Veteran’s Home in Sykesville, and that progress is being made. Elaine Stem said she would reach out to Bob Finn to attend next meeting to provide more updates if possible. • Nigel Forney discussed concerns over Veterans receiving misinformation on eligibility for submitting claims. Gina Valentine recommended Nigel communicate directly with the Veteran Service Organization. He also shared a concern over lack of coordination of efforts among Veteran serving agencies and the community in general. Celene Steckel will extend an invite to participate in the Continuum of Care/Circle of Caring Homelessness Board meetings and efforts will continue to collaborate efforts to benefit the needs of Veterans.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.