

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: August 18, 2020

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Elaine May Stem

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	Kim Benson, Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank, Christa Burton, Jack Curran, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher, Francine Hahn, Mike Messina, Keith Midberry, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Stacey Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, John Veney, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Steve Whisler
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 3. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Commissioner Rothstein announced that he has received word from Secretary Owings that a 2nd "Charlotte Hall" Veterans Home will be built in the Sykesville area. He also reminded everyone to continue promoting social distancing, wearing masks and washing hands to minimize the threat of the pandemic. 4. <u>Public Comment</u> – None.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with eight voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the June and July 2020 meetings were presented and a motion was made by Bill Murphy and seconded by Steve Whisler. Both meetings' minutes were approved. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served for June 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Mike Messina) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 13 New representations ii. 41 Claims submitted iii. 1 Home visit iv. 7 In-office contacts v. 1814 Telephone and email contacts vi. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$791,927.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$27,549,954.00 since inception of the program (October 2013).

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- vii. The VA has been sending letters apologizing for delays. The National Archives are taking 90 days to process the paperwork to receive documentation needed to submit claims. The DD214 is harder to get than prior to the pandemic.
- viii. Gina reminded everyone that Jim Hillman has retired, and the Veterans Services Program has two 25-hour/week positions open.
- b. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Stacey Nash) – July 2020:
 - i. 16 veterans were served and 14 home pick-ups
 - 1. Baltimore – 8 veterans served with 12 trips
 - 2. Ft. Detrick – 5 veterans served with 7 trips
 - 3. Loch Raven – 1 veteran served with 1 trip
 - 4. Martinsburg – 3 veterans served with 3 trips
 - 5. Total cost - \$3,082
 - ii. The VA is beginning to open so trips are starting to be scheduled.
- c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – John reported that he worked with 13 veterans with four finding employment this month. He thanked Gina and Francine for their assistance with a homeless veteran. Gina thanked Francine for her case management of a veteran.
- 4. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Currently there is one vacancy in the program.
- 5. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Currently three are in a hotel with one approved for HUD-VASH. Assistance has been provided in the search for an apartment, applying for HUD-VASH and the needs of a veteran and their family. Currently supplies of household items are needed.
- 6. Executive Committee (Marc Fisher) – The Executive Committee will be meeting soon to gather resources and information for the Veterans portion of the upcoming Aging & Disabilities Resource Guide.
- 7. Census 2020 Update – Staff has received good guidance on the counting of homeless individuals which will take place in September. Carroll County's response rate is still the highest in Maryland. Continue to encourage everyone to take the census and currently workers are visiting addresses that have not yet responded. Outreach events have been scheduled for two historically low count areas in Carroll County, New Windsor and Union

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	<p>Bridge. They will be having free ice cream events this week. Steve requested that Gina reach out to some older adult communities that are not allowing census workers to visit residents.</p> <p>8. <u>Monthly Column in the Carroll County Times</u> – Submissions on any veteran-related topic are welcome. August and September articles have been submitted.</p>
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local individuals have donated gift cards to veterans in need who have been impacted by COVID. Commissioner Rothstein suggested reaching out to local food pantries and lions clubs as well. 2. There are several council members who's second terms are set to expire. If they are interested in serving additional terms Gina will be asking the commissioners to approve, per the by-laws. The coronavirus has made it difficult to recruit members. Nominations for Chair and Co-Chair will be sought and voted on at the September meeting.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steve Whisler announced that retirees that have selected TriCare Select will be charged a monthly fee beginning January 2021. If a payment method is not selected by January 1st then coverage will be terminated. He was asked to write an article for the Veterans column. 2. Commissioner Weaver commended the Economic Development department on bringing manufacturing jobs to Carroll County. In addition to new companies, Random House will be taking over the old Solo Cup and Black & Decker complexes. 3. Gina noted that she attended the quarterly Veterans meeting where Secretary Owings mentioned that Carroll County would be the location of the 2nd Charlotte Hall Veterans home. 4. Linda Bergofsky of the Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council announced that they will be meeting tomorrow to discuss transportation and the meeting will be broadcasted live on Facebook. 5. Commissioner Rothstein informed the council that Goodwill of Monocacy Valley, which is a partnership between Carroll and Frederick Counties, has merged with Goodwill of Northern Arizona. The Veteran Center is still a priority and they hope to open during the 1st quarter of 2021.
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>