

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

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)	Larry Burbank, Jim Duncan , Courtney Edwards, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Mike Messina, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> – Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – No visitors or announcements. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – No report. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No report.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion to approve the draft minutes from the June and July 2021 meetings was made by Mick Schmidt and seconded by Jim Duncan. No discussion and all were in favor to approve. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for July 2021: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 19 New representations ii. 45 Claims submitted iii. 43 Office appointments iv. No Home visits v. 19 Phone appointments vi. 1255 Telephone and email contacts vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,031,332 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of July 2021 was 1%. An \$8,000

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	<p>increase for the month of July represents five to seven Veterans and their families that have received benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$37,866,505 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 8/2021 is 18%.ix. They are noticing that claims submitted requesting an increase in benefits are resulting in the opposite. These re-evaluations are being finely audited and have returned with a decrease instead. <p>b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> (Stacey Nash) – July 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. 25 veterans were served with 17 home pick-ups<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Baltimore – 18 veterans served with 30 trips2. Loch Raven—1 veteran served with 1 trip3. Fort Detrick – 2 veterans with 2 trips4. Martinsburg – 5 veterans served with 8 trips5. GBMC – 1 veteran served with 1 trip6. Total cost - \$4,033.057. The shuttle is doing really well and the data is normal for this time of the year. <p>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report.</p> <p>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently two veterans are enrolled in the program. Case notes requested by the State have been submitted.</p> <p>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Gina Valentine) – One homeless veteran that had been staying at the hotel has now moved into an apartment. Two veterans are currently staying in the hotel of which one has increased their monthly income and are no longer eligible for HUD-VASH. They will be able to move out on their own once an apartment is found. They have been working with many veterans needing emergency assistance and the whole team has been busy. Gina shared an example of the work they do. They had a local veteran in an assisted living facility that was running out of funds to cover his expenses. Francine was able to obtain the necessary paperwork and submit to the Maryland VA where the claim was expedited. The veteran was able to stay in his facility.</p>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. <u>Veterans View Column in the Carroll County Times</u> – The Times is no longer publishing the Veterans View column. Only Letters to the Editor, with more syndicated articles, have been printed in this section. The County has reached out to the Times with no response. Jack Curran wrote an article that they will hold onto in case the column is printed again. 7. <u>Veterans Benefits & Claims Clinic</u> (Gina Valentine) – There are multiple partners involved in the planning and execution of this event. Unfortunately, one partner, and possibly another, are unable to meet and participate due to the spread of COVID. The clinic is being rescheduled for April 2022.
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Seniors on the Go Expo Booth</u> (Gina Valentine) – Right now they are moving forward with the expo while some changes are being made. There will be no vendor prize bingo but instead will allow vendors to have raffles at their booths. A grab and go lunch will replace a sit-down meal. The VAC will host a table and will need volunteers during the event. Larry and Marc will attend, and Mick will be there in the morning. Larry will pick up Chick-fila coupons and purchase \$50 in bananas. VFW, American Legion and Catholic War Veterans are interested. 2. <u>4-H Fair</u> (Marc Fisher) – Thank you to those that assisted in manning the table. There were quite a few people that stopped by to get more information, however, there were not as many during the Senior Day which typically has a large draw.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bill Murphy has desktop and lap top computers available for veterans who are in need. 2. A reminder of the upcoming Vet Swap to benefit WEMDVETS (Nicholas Baginski). WEMDVETS is a group raising money to build a facility where Veterans can come together, build cars, and auction them to raise money for non-profits that prevent Veteran Suicide. The event will take place on October 30th from 10am-4pm.
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>