

VETERAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: August 16, 2016

Time 2 p.m.

Location: DSS Conference Room

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 enhancement of life for our men and women and their families.

Council Present: Frank Valenti; Larry Burbank; Mick Schmidt; Elaine May-Stem

County Staff Present: Commissioner Weaver; Jim Hillman; Erin Inman; Keri Keefer; Gina Valentine

Other Present: Anita Farinetti; Liz Riggs; Delegate April Rose

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Frank Valenti called the meeting to order.
- B. Chair's Comments (Frank Valenti) – Introductions were made and Larry Burbank introduced a special guest, Maryland State Delegate April Rose.
- C. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver stated that Manns Woodward Studio submitted a final report to the Board of County Commissioners regarding their assessment of several county buildings which were evaluated for suitability for various uses. The report was circulated for review by the Council. Commissioner Weaver reported that the Carroll County Ag Center will be hosting an event, "Saluting Our Heroes" on September 9-11, 2016. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Carroll County Ag Center, Carroll County Special Olympics, Wounded Warrior Project, and the Carroll Cancer Center. For more information, please see the attached flyer or contact Tom Becker at the Carroll County Ag Center, 410-848-6704.

II. Old Business

- A. Approval of Minutes (Frank Valenti) – The July 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and all were in favor to approve the minutes as submitted.

- B. Monthly Program Reports (Brief Written Summary and Monthly Numbers Served)
 - 1) Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Jim Hillman) –Jim reported on client distribution, performance statistics and return on investment for July 2016. Jim commented that any decrease for July is likely due to the recent loss of a staff member and the numbers are expected to increase once the program is fully staffed. The complete report is available upon request.
 - 2) Veteran's Shuttle Report (Anita Farinetti and Gina Valentine) – Anita reported shuttle statistics from CTS. The complete report is available upon request. Gina reported that 12 new Veterans have registered for the shuttle since July 1st which brings the total number of Veterans registered to use the shuttle to 209. Gina stated that special approval was recently granted to provide a Veteran transportation to medical treatments at an additional VA location in Baltimore.
 - 3) Veteran's Jobs Report (Roslyn Jones and Todd Mitchell) –No report.
 - 4) Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach)
 - a. Outreach- Elaine May-Stem reported that she is working with Steve Yinger on an outreach event which will be held in Taneytown. More information will be shared as it becomes available. Plans are also being made to invite the Community Media Center to attend an upcoming meeting as a way to help publicize the work of the Council.
 - 5) Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Jim Hillman) – Jim reported that the program remains stable and at capacity. Jim reported that one participant is making plans to move out of state and they are assisting the participant with the upcoming transition.
 - 6) Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Gina reported that they have been assisting a homeless veteran by providing funds to cover a hotel stay while he is looking for an apartment. Jim Hillman added that this Veteran is on the waiting list for the men's shelter but he did not qualify for other assistance through HSP, Inc. due to a lack of required documentation. A permanent solution for housing is still needed.
- C. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.

III. New Business

- A. Introduction of New Veteran's Services Program Staff- Gina introduced Keri Keefer as the new Program Specialist with the Veterans Services Program. Keri will be working to assist Veterans through the new Veterans Services Program grant from the Kahlert Foundation. Gina also reported that they are wrapping up interviews for two other vacant

positions with the Veterans Services Program. Selections should be made this week. The individuals selected for these two positions will be trained and certified as Veterans Service Officers through the VA.

- B. Larry Burbank reported that the John Brown cruise may be postponed. More information to come. Larry also reported that a memorial for Mad Dog Mike Sater will be held on September 24th and all proceeds will go to the DAV. Contact Tony Otto at 443-398-6762 for more information.
- C. Liz Riggs with Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church reported that they are in the process of obtaining a permit to build a ramp for a Veteran in need.
- D. Maryland State Delegate April Rose expressed her thanks for the service of our local Veterans and offered resources and assistance to the Council.

IV. **Next Meeting:** September 20, 2016 at 2pm at the Department of Social Services.