

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: January 17, 2017

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: Carroll County Department of Social Services

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, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May-Stem, Frank Valenti, Commissioner Richard Weaver

County Staff Present: Sara Runkles-Handwerker, Rosemarie Glowack, Faith Hayes, Commissioner Doug Howard, Christine Kay, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

Other Present: Roy Libdan, Bill Murphy, Wilson Thomas, Jennifer Watson, Charles Wheatley

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Frank Valenti) – Frank welcome everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.
- b. Commissioner's Report (Commissioners Howard and Weaver) – Update on Armory facility – The Armory's only approved use is law enforcement and a Center for Veterans Support is not considered law enforcement. In talking with Senators Van Hollen and Cardin the agreement was we have 2 choices: change designation or get Veterans Services as approved use. To re-do the application would take another 18-24 months. Since it is designated for law enforcement, maybe a letter from Sheriff DeWees and Warden Hardin that they are not interested in using the building would be helpful. Check with Scott Moser, maybe there are other places in the community that could be used. Also, invite Secretary Owings to tour the building.

II. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes (Frank Valenti) – The December 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
- c. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Gina Valentine) – In the month of December 2016, 8 newly representations, 26 claims submitted, 3 home visits, 35 in-office contacts and 107 telephone contacts. Gina reported that numbers went down in December, most likely due to the holidays and also the transition of hiring staff. The return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$293,430 per month for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$4,687,496 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$31,047.

- i. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Crystal Winebrenner and Gina Valentine) – No one present from CTS. Gina will contact them and forward their report to the Council. Gina did report that currently 229 are registered for the shuttle, 3 new registrations were completed in December. A huge thank you to CTS for their help with 3 veterans in December and January who required immediate assistance in Martinsburg. CTS worked hard in making that happen.
- ii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- iii. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach)
 - 1. Outreach – Steve Yinger was not able to attend the meeting but via email he shared the following suggestions: To have t-shirts and car magnets to bring awareness to Carroll County Veterans.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – This program provides services to veterans to remain in their homes. Perry Point directs veterans to the Maryland Department of Aging and they then forward to Gina. This program serves a maximum of 5 veterans, who are assessed and given a monthly budget to purchase needed services such as personal care. Currently 4 veterans are being served.
 - i. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) –The training budget has not yet been utilized; however, one Veteran plans to attend a training program in Hagerstown and the Veterans Grant may financially support this training. In December three veterans had paid hotel stays. One was then sent to Martinsburg to enter a treatment program, 1 currently has a housing voucher in the process of finding housing and the other discontinued their hotel stay. Last week, we had one homeless, released from the detention center and then another today. In December, thirteen received services ranging from hotel stays to car repairs.
- e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – Todd was not present but Gina updated the Council on recent donations made:
 - i. Tevis Oil employees are in the processing of collecting funds and will donate to VAC.

- ii. Taneytown Ladies Auxiliary contacted Gina and said they would like to make a donation again this year.
 - iii. Ron's Automotive performed auto repair at no charge.
 - iv. Tri County Roofing and Sheet Metal performed roof repair for a veteran free of charge.
- f. US Army Recruiting/Reserve Building Project (Frank Valenti) – Christine Kay reported that a check for \$10,000 was received from Point Breeze Credit Union for this project. However, the check was made payable to Carroll County Government. She would like to send it back and have the check re-written for the non-profit, however, Point Breeze would like this donation to be dated for the end of 2016. The Community Foundation, created a non-profit for the Carroll County Veterans Fund which is intended to fund the Armory project. Commissioner Weaver wanted to know if a percentage of the donation would be lost if we cash and hold in a County fund. It was recommended by Commissioner Weaver to check with Rob Burke about this.

III. New Business

- a. Update on new Veteran Services Staff (Gina Valentine) – Currently the Program is fully staffed with a new part program specialist beginning soon. The Veteran Service Officer Accreditation process through Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs will soon begin. Background checks must be completed on staff and this process can take several months to complete. Faith Hayes, the newest Veterans Services staff was introduced in addition to Leslie Wagner, the new Project Coordinator for the Department of Citizen Services, who will be taking the monthly minutes.
- b. Update on Armory (Frank Valenti) – Should the video/tour of the Armory be put online, either with Carroll Media Center and/or YouTube? Everyone agreed it was important to get the word out. Showing the video will garner attention and raise funds. The video can be redone for the project itself and not specific to the building.

- c. 2017 Seniors on the Go Expo (Celene Steckel) – This year’s Expo will commemorate Veterans, showcasing Carroll County’s Veterans services while donning a patriotic theme. We could stream the Armory project video at the opening of the Expo. Signage for the Expo should be professionally done and a booth registered. Gina reported that several other Veteran organizations have booths at the Expo.
 - d. Pastor Marty from St. Paul had mentioned at last month’s meeting that he would like to do a homeless video in regards to Carroll County Veterans. Gina reported that there is a local homeless Veteran that has agreed to be a part of this project and so they are moving forward.
- IV. **Next Meeting:** February 21, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Department of Social Services.