

## VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: September 19, 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:** Melissa Barber, Larry Burbank, Joe Everett (CTS), Elaine May-Stem, William "Bill" Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, Commissioner Weaver

**County Staff Present:** Sara Runkles-Handwerger, Keri Keefer, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

**Other Present:** Ken Bonner, Ed Cramer, Scott Kutkat, Alison Malachowski, Malcolm Mason, Keith Midberry, Frank Rauschenberg, Gary Saylor, Pete Turner, Frank Valenti, John Veney

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
  - c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver thanked County Attorney Tim Dixon for the Open Meetings Act and Ethics Commission training of the Veterans Advisory Council members. All of the County's Boards and Commissions are receiving these trainings. Thanks to Frank Valenti for completing the VIP's paperwork and turning in to the County Attorneys. The Hampstead American Legion will be raising funds for the VIP also.
2. Old Business
  - a. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Bill Murphy made a motion to approve the August 2017 minutes, second by Mick Schmidt. All were in favor and the August 2017 meeting minutes were approved as written.
  - b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
    - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Gina Valentine) – In the month of August 2017, 12 new representations, 46 claims submitted, 7 home

visits, 65 in-office contacts and 267 telephone contacts. The return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$390,633.82 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$7,052,999.09 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$44,069. All numbers are based on known awards, which is information given to program staff by veterans since the program is not notified by the VA. Sara Runkles-Handwerger has been tracking veterans seeking assistance from the program by zip code. In August: Eldersburg 3, Finksburg 1, Hampstead 4, Keymar 1, Manchester 3, Mt. Airy 1, New Windsor 1, Union Bridge 1, and Westminster 11. The Program currently has two job openings, one has been posted on the County website (25 hours/week) and the other will be posted soon.

- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Joe Everett) – In August, 39 veterans were served with 2 in a wheelchair, for a total cost of \$7,025. Trips included: Baltimore – 31 veterans served with 52 trips; Fort Detrick – 5 served with 7 trips; Glen Burnie – 1 served with 1 trip; Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 7 served with 12 trips.
  1. Fleet Update (Joe Everett) – Joe brought a Veterans shuttle van if anyone is interested in looking at it after the meeting. All the vans are in good condition. Commissioner Weaver noted that the vans purchased in the last 3 years are just now being delivered.
  2. After attending the Maryland Association of Counties conference last month and seeing the Veterans Program presentation from Harford County, Commissioner Weaver told everyone that this Council has done more than the entire state combined. Thanks to everyone for their hard work.
  3. Gary Saylor of Carroll Hospice wanted to know if the Veterans Shuttle would be available to transport Hospice Veterans to the Air Show on October 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Joe and Gary exchanged information and will touch base.
- iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – John Veney of BERC and DLLR reported that he has 30 veterans on an employment list and assisted 5 in gaining employment. If you know of any businesses that are interested in employing veterans please get in touch with John. Ed Rothstein, council member who is also with the State's Workforce Employment Center that

assists local level centers wanted to know if anything could be improved. John recommended that communication with outside resources could be better.

- iv. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach) – Gina recommended that at next month’s meeting it be discussed what subcommittees the Council would like to focus. She will also reach out to Steve Yinger of the Outreach subcommittee for his opinion.
- c. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Keri Keefer) – 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 referrals to Gina. This program serves a maximum of 5 veterans, who are assessed and given a monthly budget (maximum of \$2,804) to purchase needed services such as personal care. Currently 4 veterans are being served, and they are expecting a new referral shortly.
- d. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Currently there are no changes from last month.
- e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- f. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer/Frank Valenti) – Articles of incorporation have been filed and approved. Federal filing of 501(3)(c) will happen by the end of the month. They have met, briefed and presented to many elected officials and organizations throughout the state.

### 3. New Business

- a. Ed Cramer informed the group of the National organization Veterans Institute for Procurement, also known as VIP. They offer a free training program for Veteran businesses for development. Website is [www.nationalvip.org](http://www.nationalvip.org) and he will provide Leslie with information to send out via email.
- b. Ken Bonner and Malcolm Mason of the Carroll County American Muscle Car Club will be having two events next month where a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Veterans Independence Project. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ride and Rumble Auto Show on October 1<sup>st</sup> 9am-12pm at VFW Post 467 in Westminster and Jalopies & Java Year End Cars & Coffee Car Show on October 15<sup>th</sup> 8am-10am at the AutoZone in Westminster. Flyers will be provided to Leslie to send out via

email. Once the VIP is complete, they are looking to have a car show at that location and will donate all proceeds to VIP.

- c. A long term commemoration celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War began May 2012 and will run to November 2025. If anyone is interested in more information about Vietnam pins, pinning and proclamation, please visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com) or contact Ed Cramer.
- d. If you are a Vietnam veteran or know of someone who is, the Veterans History Project as part of the Community Media Center will be conducting interviews on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The interview will be aired Veterans Day weekend on Channel 19 and streamed online. Contact Larry Burbank if interested.
- e. Elaine May-Stem will be compiling details of our local schools' Veterans Day programs and events. If you know of any, please contact Elaine.
  - i. Winters Mill High will be having a Veterans Day breakfast on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am with a program at 9am.
- f. There will be a Celebration of Life for IT2 Timothy Thomas Eckels, Jr. (2012 graduate of Manchester Valley High) on October 9<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Airy from 5-9pm. Leslie will email the location once it is known. The funeral will be October 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia with the interment at the Arlington National Cemetery. Tim Eckels, Jr. was one of two Marylanders killed aboard the USS John McCain last month after a collision with an oil tanker.
- g. Larry Burbank would like veteran organizations to participate in the Seniors on the Go Expo, April 4, 2018.
- h. There will be a Veterans Appreciation Day event at Ft. Meade on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. VA Secretary Owings will be hosting a question and answer time.
- i. Wounded Warrior Alumni Program provides opportunities in dealing with veterans behavioral health.
- j. Gina has the contact information for the VIP and will scan and email.
- k. Mick would like to know how many of Carroll County veterans are disabled vets.
- l. There will be a Veterans Pickleball Classic beginning October 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am until October 8<sup>th</sup> at 8pm at North Carroll High School. There is space for 200 people to view the tournament of 7 courts. Proceeds will benefit the CCVIP. Volunteers are needed, contact Bill Murphy.

- m. Keith Midberry reminded everyone of the Veterans end of life learning group at the American Legion Francis Scott Key Post 11 in Frederick September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to 12noon. Leslie will email the agenda.
  - n. Celene addressed last month's question regarding the Veterans Shuttle contract. There does need to be a vehicle available at CTS to assist in case a shuttle breaks down or is having maintenance done, however it does not need to be an actual Veterans shuttle. Any extra CTS bus that is available may be used.
4. Next Meeting: October 17, 2017 at 2 p.m. Once a location for the meeting has been verified an email will be forwarded to everyone with the details.