

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: December 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, Mick Schmidt, Commissioner Richard Weaver

County Staff Present: Rosemarie Glowack, Francine Hahn, Sara Runkles-Handwerger, Keri Keefer, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner

Other Present: Michael Gallagher, Alison Malachowski, Keith Midberry, Todd Mitchell, John Nash, William Nash, Gary Saylor, Pete Turner, John Veney, Charles Wheatley

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) – He participated in the Wreaths Across America at Deer Park Methodist Cemetery and it was a great showing. Point Breeze Credit Union donated \$15,000 towards the Veterans Independence Project. This is their 3rd donation. They would like the funds to be used for a tiny home at the VIP location. Commissioner Weaver said that zoning issues will need to be addressed before they can move forward with the tiny home phase. Mike Gallagher of Point Breeze said that the funds can be used for any phase of the VIP. Commissioner Weaver spoke with a retiring Veteran who is moving to Carroll County in 2018 and was having trouble understanding all the civilian material he was given for the transition. Commissioner Weaver believes that this is something that will need to be addressed in the future. The first package of "Welcome to Carroll County" materials have been delivered to Ft. Meade.

2. Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – One revision was noted. Gary Saylor's trip to lay wreaths at Arlington Cemetery was December 16th and not the 18th. Mick

made a motion to approve the November 2017 minutes with the revision, second by Bill Murphy. All were in favor and the November 2017 meeting minutes were approved with the revision.

- b. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Reports (Sara Runkles-Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – In the month of November 2017, 6 new representations, 40 claims submitted, 7 home visits, 52 in-office contacts and 213 telephone contacts. The return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$423,653.97 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$8,264,565.38 since inception of the program; and for the Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$49,499. 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.
 - 1. Tri County Roofing and Sheet Metal adopted a Veteran family with 4 children (ages 2 to 9 years old) for Christmas.
 - 2. North Carroll Senior Center raised \$147 and Westminster Ravens Roost donated \$1,000 to the Veteran Services Program of Carroll County.
 - ii. Veteran’s Shuttle Report (Joe Everett) – This will be Joe’s last meeting as he is leaving CTS. Crystal will be available for future meetings. In November, 39 veterans were served with 4 in a wheelchair, for a total cost of \$6,800. Trips included: Baltimore – 21 veterans served with 42 trips; Loch Raven – 2 served with 2 trips; Fort Detrick – 2 served with 4 trips; Glen Burnie – 2 served with 2 trips; Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 11 served with 22 trips; and Tevis Center – 1 served with 1 trip.
 - 1. Commissioner Weaver said word is traveling around the state at other bases about Carroll County’s Veteran Shuttle.
 - iii. Veteran’s Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – John Veney of BERC and DLLR gave Todd a referral where the veteran’s security clearance had been removed. Todd was able to get him a job as well as refer him to a lawyer to assist with the security clearance issue. John also reported that in

December seven veterans received employment and three more are pending for January.

iv. Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach)

1. By-Laws – Gina and volunteers Larry Burbank, Bill Murphy, and Mick Schmidt revised VAC’s by-laws. The revisions are currently being reviewed by the Director of Citizen Services and Bureau Chief of Aging & Disabilities and will then be forwarded to the County Attorney. At that point they will be forwarded to the VAC and then voted on by current members before going to the Board of County Commissioners.
- 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 we are at full capacity with 5 veterans being served.
 - d. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Gina met with the Kahlert Foundation and the program received a \$125,000 grant for fiscal year 2018. This will allow for the employment of a part-time program specialist, as well as covering the costs of training, emergency housing and needs of veterans that qualify. The Board of Commissioners will be accepting the grant on January 4th. Currently there are no veterans in hotel or emergency housing.
 - e. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – Todd reported that they had their annual luncheon last month, with about 150 in attendance. Veteran Volunteer of the Year went to Mick Schmidt and Veteran Friendly Employer of the Year went to Tri County Roofing and Sheet Metal. Also, they have donated \$500 to Winters Mill High School for their History Project that will be distributed as two \$250 scholarship grants.
 - f. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer/Frank Valenti) – Emailed to Larry and Gina:
 - i. The following information is submitted on behalf of the CCVIP for the December VAC meeting. CCVIP will not attend this meeting.

1. CCVIP presented our Bond Bill request (\$250,000) before County and State elected officials on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 to a positive reception.
2. CCVIP completed our “Kahlert Grant Application” and submitted our request on Monday, December 18, 2017.
3. CCVIP attended the County’s “Ending Homelessness Committee Meeting” on Friday, December 8, 2017.
4. CCVIP continues to receive “Proposals” from local and area vendors interested in supporting this project. All proposals are currently be evaluated and studied for action.
5. CCVIP will participate in the upcoming January 26, 2018, “Provider Forum for Veteran Services.”

3. New Business

- a. Provider Forum for Veteran Services will take place on Friday, January 26, 2018 from 9am to 12pm in Room K100 at Carroll Community College. Gina reported that they anticipate presenters to be: VA Medical System, Business Advocates for Veterans, Veteran Services Program of Carroll County, Human Services Program of Carroll County, CTS and the Veteran Shuttle, Bureau of Recovery Wellness & Prevention of the Health Department, Crisis Intervention Training, and AARP. Registration forms have just been emailed so the list may grow. This forum is being organized to mirror the County’s cross agency training. Disabled American Vets announced they would like a vendor table.
- b. Pete Turner, Vietnam Vet and Author, will be at North Carroll Senior Center on December 21st at 11am for a book signing.
- c. There will be another Pickleball Tournament, held in March 2018 and proceeds will benefit the CCVIP.
- d. Charles Wheatley knows of a gentleman with a car that would like donated to a veteran. Gina will coordinate with Charles.
- e. Gary Saylor and Alison Malachowski of Carroll Hospice both spoke to the importance of spending time with our local veterans, many who are heroes. A lot want to share about their military experiences with other veterans who understand.

- f. Keith Midberry of Frederick County Hospice recently visited Loch Raven skilled nursing facility and was impressed with how great everything looked.
- 4. Next Meeting: January 16, 2018 at 2 p.m. at Department of Social Services, 1232 Tech Court, Westminster.