

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: April 17, 2018

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Road, Westminster

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, William "Bill" Murphy, Mick Schmidt, Commissioner Weaver, Elaine May Stem, Marc Fisher

County Staff Present: Francine Hahn, Sara Handwerger, Keri Keefer, Kristen Harvey, Stacey Nash, Dave Reese, Sr., Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine

Other Present: Keith Midberry, Gil Muse, Bill Nash, John Nash, Gary Saylor, John Veney, Jesse Smith, Joan Douglas, Steve Duex, David Bailey, Dara Webber, Marvin Frush, Michael Gallagher, Richard Jones, Rosemarie Glowask, Thomas Williams, Gary Scarbeau

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry opened the meeting with a welcome then everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver thanked the Army Recruiters present at the meeting for being at the meeting and for their interest in the Veterans Advisory Council.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 6 members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Bill Nash made a motion to approve the February 2018 minutes, second by Bill Murphy. All were in favor and the February 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – March 2018:
 1. 11 new representations
 2. 57 claims submitted

3. 3 home visits
 4. 55 in-office contacts
 5. 308 telephone contacts
 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$464,637.61 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$9,576,790.90 since inception of the program (October 2013)
 7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$56,739.00
 8. 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.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Crystal Winebrenner) – March 2018:
1. 27 veterans were served, with 4 in wheelchair and 17 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 20 veterans – 42 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 1 veteran – 3 trips
 - c. Fort Detrick – 2 veterans – 4 trips
 - d. Germantown – 1 veteran – 1 trips
 - e. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) –3 veterans –13 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$6,750.00
- iii. Veteran's Job Report (Todd Mitchell) – John Veney of BERC and DLLR reported that from January 2018 through March 2018, ten Veterans obtained employment. He also shared that BERC is having a job fair on May 3, 2018 from 9am – 1pm.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Keri Keefer) – This program provides services to veterans to remain in their homes. This is funded by the Federal VA, under contract with Maryland Department of Aging. 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 are enrolled with a referral forthcoming.
- e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – The position for a Coordinator of Case Management Services, under this grant, has been filled. Shannan Zepp has accepted the position and will start later this week.
- f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer) – No Report
- h. Review of additional changes to VAC By-laws (Gina Valentine) – There were a few recommendations for grammatical changes. Bill Murphy made a motion to approve; 2nd by Tom Williams. The Council members approved the changes to the VAC By-laws.

3. New Business

- a. Seniors on the Go Expo was held on April 4, 2018. The following Council members were recognized for assisting with the VAC table at the Expo: Larry Burbank, Elaine May Stem, Marc Fisher and Bill Murphy. One of the Council members received feedback that the Veterans “Mad Dog” shuttle should be at the Expo.
- b. The State VFW is giving a \$10,000 donation to the Veteran Independence Project (VIP)
- c. Charles Wheatley shared that a flag dedication for World War II Veterans will be held at his property located on Wheatley Drive (off of Lucabaugh Mill Road) on May 5, 2018 at 2pm.
- d. Larry Burbank shared that Veterans needing a Veteran ID Card can call: 800-975-1618; disabled Veterans can call 888-673-7838.
- e. David Bailey shared his project, where he makes walking sticks for veterans. This project is free veterans only need to show their DAV or Military ID, to qualify. All walking sticks come with a free lifetime warranty.
- f. Marc Fisher was welcomed, as a new member. Marc shared that the Catholic War Veterans of America are hosting a car show at St. John’s on Saturday, June 2nd, from 8am-1pm. Flyers were made available.
- g. The program, Cars for Vets, was discussed. The purpose is to provide vehicles to veterans who do not have a ride to work. One car being dedicated for this purpose is currently pending. The goal is to have 1 per month donated, for this purpose.
- h. It was mentioned that the Salvation Army is in need of 2 handicapped signs, for their parking lot. Dave Reese, made note & said it will be taken care of.
- i. Francine Hahn handed out a flyer with the list of Outreach Social Workers available at the VA, to help homeless veterans.
- j. Keith Midberry handed out a flyer for the play “Dusk”. Performance will be April 30th, from 6pm-8pm, at Mount St. Mary’s. Mention was also made of an event titled “Thank You for Your Service”, coming up in the fall.
- k. Bill Murphy & Mick Schmidt discussed Friends of Disabled Vets, which will offer veterans transportation to non-emergency medical & dental appointments. This program is grant-funded and will require no out-of-pocket expense, for riders. One wheelchair equipped van has been donated by FR Conversions. The program is looking for volunteer drivers (Good Driving Record, non-CDL), forms are available for those interested. This program is set to start in June & will be able to meet the needs of 25 veterans, initially. Riders will be picked up/dropped off, directly from/to their homes.

l. Gina Valentine announced that 10 HUD VASH Vouchers are now available in Carroll County, for the first time. These vouchers provide housing for veterans and are effective as of June 1st & are good for 1 year.

m. There is a Veteran's Dinner coming up on April 28th.

4. Next Meeting: May 15th, 2018 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.