

## VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: March 19, 2019

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, Jack Curran, Marc Fisher, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein (Ex-Officio), Mick Schmidt, John Veney (DLLR), Commissioner Richard Weaver (Ex-Officio)

**County Staff Present:** Rosemarie Glowack, Francine Hahn, Jim Hillman, Mike Messina, Stacey Nash, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Shannan Zepp

**Other Present:** David Bailey, Darrius Bland, Christa Burton, Ed Cramer, Walter Debany, Adam DeLauter, Brion Dell, Bob Eney, Greg Kahlert, Keith Midberry, Gil Muse, James O'Connor, Carol Pickett, Candy Saylor, Gary Saylor, Chris Schiller, Frank Valenti, Joe Watts, Dara Webber, Charles Wheatley, Tom Williams, Richard Young

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry opened the meeting with a welcome. Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mick Schmidt.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Rothstein & Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver discussed the VAC presentation to the Board of County Commissioners, with recommendations for a Veterans Resource Guide and a regular column in the Carroll County Times. VAC member Marc Fisher was a guest of Commissioner's Rothstein for his WTTR Commissioner's Report and Jim Hillman will be a guest this weekend for Commissioner Weaver.

### 2. Old Business

- a. A quorum (5 voting members) was established with 7 voting and 2 ex-officio members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Draft minutes from the January meeting were reviewed as they were not approved in February because a quorum was not established. February meeting minutes were also reviewed. Bill Nash made a motion, Bill Murphy seconded, all were in favor and both January and February minutes were accepted.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
  - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Jim Hillman) – February 2019:
    1. 20 new representations
    2. 45 claims submitted
    3. 8 home visits
    4. 66 in-office contacts
    5. 882 telephone contacts
    6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$573,879.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$13,810,312.00 since inception of the program (October 2013)

7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$77,100.00
  - ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Stacey Nash) – February 2019:
    1. 27 veterans were served, with 2 in wheelchair and 15 home pick-ups
      - a. Baltimore – 21 veterans – 56 trips
      - b. Loch Raven – 1 veteran – 3 trips
      - c. Fort Detrick – 2 veterans – 2 trips
      - d. Johns Hopkins – 1 veteran – 1 trip
      - e. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 4 veterans – 4 trips
    2. Total Cost = \$5,675.00
  - iii. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – Fifteen veterans have been assisted through BERCC's Veteran Employment program this past quarter. Six have found employment and the numbers are remaining steady for those served. May 2<sup>nd</sup> is their next Job Fair and they are planning other hiring events.
  - d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – This program is funded by the VA and provides personal care for Veterans to remain in the community. Each county has the capacity to provide services to a maximum of 5 Veterans. We currently have 2 openings. This program is run through Maryland Department of Aging and their Fiscal Intermediary is changing. So there is a period of transition ongoing with new online training for staff. The current veterans must be dual enrolled, therefore, new applications may be held until the transition is complete.
  - e. Updates on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shannan Zepp) – Currently, 3 veterans have been diverted from homelessness, with two placed in a hotel and receiving HUD-VASH soon, and another applying for HUD-VASH. Food cards and transportation have been provided to those seeking assistance.
  - f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No update.
  - g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project – CCVIP (Ed Cramer) – CCVIP will not be reapplying with the Federal Government to change the deed assignment. They will now be looking at commercial property in Carroll County. Fundraising will be forthcoming.
  - h. Update on Friends of Disabled American Veterans in Carroll County (Bill Murphy) – In February they were able to support 40 Veterans with pick-ups and donations. They've received stair lifts, hospital bed, wheelchairs, power wheelchairs, gravesites, and an oxygen concentrator to provide to local Veterans. They are continuing to partner with Mission of Mercy by transporting veterans to the new Mobile Dental Clinic in Taneytown. Presently, one of their vans is being repaired. Bill will be filming the Seniors on the Go Expo on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a focus on veterans groups.
  - i. Executive Committee (Gina Valentine) – The Executive Committee is made up of Chair Larry Burbank, Vice-Chair Elaine May-Stem and Council Member Marc Fisher. They will be scheduling a meeting soon to discuss the commissioners' suggestions from the presentation this month.
3. New Business
    - a. The Veterans Advisory Council will have a booth at the Seniors on the Go Expo on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 from 9am to 2pm in the Shipley Arena of the Carroll County Ag Center. Volunteers are needed for set-up, tear down, and Expo day booth coverage. See Leslie Wagner.
    - b. Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (Gina Valentine):
      - i. County-wide Veteran Resource Guide – Executive Committee to begin, VAC and attendees to review with technical assistance from the Bureau of Aging Staff.
      - ii. Outreach to Schools – including Flag Day, Celebrating America, etc.

- iii. Veteran Column in the Carroll County Times
- iv. Packet for newly discharged Veterans with assistance in navigating civilian life, specific to Carroll County.
- v. Outreach – Seniors on the Go Expo, 2019 Open House for Veteran Services Program of Carroll County, Memorial Day parades.
- vi. Wearing branch hats at meetings.
- vii. 2020 Veterans Provider Forum – planning and focus of the Forum.
- c. USDA – Opportunities for Transitioning Service Members and Veterans – discussion of provided power point included employment, education and entrepreneurship opportunities for Veterans. Staff made aware to share. Presentation to be forwarded to VAC distribution list.
- d. Announcements:
  - i. Larry Burbank along with staff from Carroll County Veterans Services Program provided a presentation at Carroll Lutheran Village on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Phil Munley from the VA was also in attendance.
  - ii. Jim Hillman announced that all staff are fully trained and they are now providing both morning and afternoon coverage. The Veteran Services Program staff are looking for ways to help educate Carroll County of the services they provide.
  - iii. A representative of Merry Maids announced that they are looking to provide a disabled veteran in Carroll County with 2 hours of cleaning for free.
  - iv. Historic Baltimore National Cemetery Complex will hold two ceremonies to honor all Vietnam Veterans past and present on March 29, 2019. Baltimore National Cemetery in Catonsville at 11am and Annapolis National Cemetery at 2pm.
  - v. There will be a Welcome Home to Vietnam Era Veterans on April 27, 2019 from 1-4pm at the VFW Post #467.
  - vi. Larry has been invited on an FBI Academy tour. See him if you are interested in attending with him.
  - vii. Larry will be meeting with the Carroll Community College Veteran representative on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Veterans Advisory Council.
  - viii. Silver Oak Academy presented “Operation: Over There” to escort Ms. Jean Green to France to follow in the footsteps of her great uncle from World War I. They are raising funds for the trip.
  - ix. Charles Wheatley will be having a 2<sup>nd</sup> dedication for Korean War Veterans. All DVDs from the World War II dedication have been distributed.
  - x. Celene Steckel announced that the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities will be coordinating their Area Plan for the Maryland Department of Aging. They will be conducting a Community Needs Assessment and would appreciate everyone’s help in distribution.
  - xi. Carroll County Realtors will have a CCVIP fundraiser at Thunderhead Bowl on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm.
  - xii. Carroll Hospice will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Taste of Carroll on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Gary Saylor thanked Larry Burbank and Jim Hillman for their assistance with a Veteran in hospice.
  - xiii. Jack Curran asked if anyone had information on HR4566 regarding dental for Veterans. No one had heard.
  - xiv. See Bill Murphy for more information on a Therapeutic Riding program for Veterans.
  - xv. “Thank You for Your Service” will be presented on March 29<sup>th</sup> at Soldierfit Frederick. It is free and open to the public. A panel will be available for discussion after the showing.

- xvi. David Bailey of Free Stuff for Veterans 365 announced that he had many clothes and appliances, as well as wood, for Veterans.
  - xvii. Bill Nash announced they will be updating and dedicating Hampstead's War Memorial on Memorial Day. See Bill for the paperwork if you would like to add a name to the memorial.
  - xviii. Hampstead American Legion Post #200 Auxiliary will be having a Car Show on May 11, 2019.
  - xix. There may be a different location for April's VAC meeting. Make sure to check your email closer to the date.
4. Next Meeting: April 16, 2019 at 2pm – location to be determined.