

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: September 15, 2020

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Elaine May Stem

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
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.
Attendance	Kim Benson, Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank, Christa Burton, Jack Curran, Bob Eney, Marc Fisher, Francine Hahn, Mike Messina, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Chris Schiller, Mick Schmidt, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Steve Whisler, Tom Williams, Chris Winebrenner
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 3. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – In recognition of Suicide Awareness Month, Commissioner Rothstein encouraged everyone to check on their friends and neighbors. He also recognized the 19th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. In addition, both Commissioner Rothstein and Weaver reminded everyone that even though we are in Phase 3 of the State's reopening plan, continue to wear a mask, wash your hands and practice social distancing. VA Secretary Owings will be having a town hall tomorrow at 12:30pm for Veterans in the Census and the importance of having an accurate count of veterans in Maryland. 4. <u>Public Comment</u> – None.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present. 2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> (Marc Fisher) – Draft minutes from the August 2020 meeting was presented and a motion was made by Mick Schmidt and seconded by Larry Burbank. Minutes were approved as presented. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served for August 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 11 New representations ii. 47 Claims submitted iii. 3 Home visits iv. 6 In-office contacts

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- v. 837 Telephone and email contacts
- vi. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$834,805.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$28,552,000.00 since inception of the program (October 2013).
- vii. Mike was able to revise the report to include growth rates for compensation and pension.
- b. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Gina Valentine) – August 2020:
 - i. 15 veterans were served and 14 home pick-ups
 - 1. Baltimore – 9 veterans served with 15 trips
 - 2. Ft. Detrick – 1 veteran served with 1 trip
 - 3. Loch Raven – 2 veterans served with 2 trips
 - 4. Martinsburg – 3 veterans served with 4 trips
 - 5. GBMC – 1 veteran served with 1 trip
 - 6. Total cost - \$2,461
 - c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – No report.
- 4. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Currently four veterans are being served by the grant with one vacancy in the program. They do have the ability to add more but will wait until staff openings are filled.
- 5. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Currently two are in a hotel with one approved for HUD-VASH and waiting for their voucher and one being assisted by the Lions Club because they are over income for HUD-VASH. Assistance has been provided to a veteran who is a single parent with three children who was furloughed due to COVID-19. Good news is they were called back to work this past Monday.
- 6. Executive Committee (Marc Fisher) – The Executive Committee submitted resources to Leslie Wagner for the Veterans portion of the upcoming Aging & Disabilities Resource Guide.
- 7. Census 2020 Update – Carroll County's response rate is still the highest in Maryland. Continue to encourage everyone to take the census and currently workers are visiting addresses that have not yet responded. The state reached out to Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the county and reminded them the census is a federal requirement. September 23rd a census enumerator will be joining community partner agencies to count residents at encampments for an accurate non-sheltered survey of the homeless population.

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	8. <u>Monthly Column in the Carroll County Times</u> – Submissions on any veteran-related topic are welcome. Marc will write the October article. This column serves a great purpose in keeping Carroll County veterans informed.
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair and Vice-Chair Election</u> – Marc Fisher was voted in as Chair and Mick Schmidt as Vice-Chair. 2. <u>Status of appointed Council members</u> – Three council members 2nd terms are set to expire on 9/30/2020. Gina is asking the Board of County Commissioners to consider offering a 3rd term due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an inability to actively recruit new members. One individual has reached out to inquire about becoming a new member.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tom Williams asked for assistance from the Commissioners regarding health department interpretation of food service guidelines for the VFW's dining and bar area. 2. Kim Benson announced that Carroll Hospice will be hosting a Luminaries event on September 27th for the We Honor Veterans program.
Next Meeting Date	The next meeting date is Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.