

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: April 20, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

| Topic | Discussion |
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| 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 (Appointed VAC Members are in bold) | Linda Bergofsky, Larry Burbank , Jim Duncan , Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Kimberly Madeja, Kristen Maszarose, Mike Messina, Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Richard Pollard, Chris Schuler, Elaine May Stem , Gina Valentine, John Veney , Leslie Wagner, Steve Whisler |
| 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. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – Visitors introduced themselves. 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher. 4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> – Bill Nash spoke on behalf of Commissioner Weaver. Thank you to Gina Valentine and Celene Steckel for the assistance given to a homeless Veteran Saturday evening. Also, there are funds available for VFW's and American Legions, so apply today. The Hampstead Memorial Day event will be pre-recorded on May 1st and aired Memorial Day. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No report. |
| 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 March 2021 meeting was approved. Bill Nash made a motion and Elaine May Stem seconded. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Mike reported that the VA has begun to finalize more claims and the processing has been timelier. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for March 2021: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 11 New representations ii. 39 Claims submitted iii. 8 Office appointments iv. 3 Home visits v. 34 Phone appointments |

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- vi. 1700 Telephone and email contacts
- vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,004,874 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of March 2021 was 3%.
- viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$34,714,677 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 3/2021 is 8%.
- b. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Stacey Nash) – March 2021:
 - i. 16 veterans were served with 16 home pick-ups
 - 1. Baltimore – 16 veterans served with 31 trips
 - 2. Loch Raven – 2 veterans with 2 trips
 - 3. Fort Detrick – 2 veterans with 2 trips
 - 4. UMMC – 1 veteran with 1 trip
 - 5. Martinsburg – 7 veterans served with 11 trips
 - 6. Washington, DC – 1 veteran with 1 trip
 - 7. Total cost - \$5,681.00
 - ii. With the large increase in trips, this is a good sign that things are beginning to open.
- c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – Thank you to Francine Hahn and the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities for the presentation given this morning at the Veterans Benefits Fair. State is very aware of the great work that is done for Veterans in Carroll County. There are two upcoming Job Fairs, Thursday and Friday of this week, 10am to 12pm. Thursday will host Howard County employers and Friday, Carroll County. Please spread the word to Veterans. He will provide information to Leslie to email to the distribution list.
- 4. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – Currently they are serving three veterans.
- 5. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – The multi-generational family moved out of the hotel in March and the Veteran has been housed. Another is currently staying at the hotel and has applied for HUD VASH. They are also working on completing their AA degree. A Veteran that was not VA eligible and homeless was able to become service connected and their claim processed. They have applied and given a

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| | <p>Mainstream Housing Voucher. Other Veterans have received rental assistance and case management. Gina reminded everyone that if they become aware of a homeless Veteran in Carroll County please make the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities aware. There are other assistance and programs available whether or not the Veterans is eligible for VA benefits. They have also reapplied for the Kahlert Foundation Grant that is due May 1st.</p> |
| <p>New Business</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Veterans View in the Carroll County Times – Marc Fisher.</u> Alex Whitney will be submitting for May, Adrian Gamboa June, and Jim Duncan July. May edition’s due date is April 29th. 2. <u>American Rescue Plan – Gina Valentine.</u> Please take the time to review the information provided via the link. An interesting benefit is the prohibition of co-pays. 3. <u>Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting – Bobbie Lawrence.</u> Mary Riley of Veterans Integrated Service Network has asked for a representative of the Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council attend their Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting. The meetings are held on Wednesdays from 11am to 1pm, quarterly. Steve Whisler has agreed to attend and report back. Linda Bergofsky of Frederick County reported that she attends, and it has been very informative. |
| <p>Announcements</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Steve Whisler reported that the deadline for the use of expired ID’s by the Department of Defense has not been extended and will end on 6/30/2021. 2. There is a Regional Launch of the Central Maryland Veterans Collaborative on May 11, 2021. ServingTogether will be expanding into Central Maryland to build a more cohesive veteran landscape throughout the region. Leslie will forward the email with details to the group. 3. Mission BBQ is open for business. Marc encouraged everyone to continue to support local BBQ restaurants as well. 4. The Bureau of Aging & Disabilities will be hosting a weeklong virtual Open House with a presentation on the Veteran Services Program of Carroll County and the Veterans Shuttle to be given on Monday, April 19th. More information will be forwarded to the group. Gina also announced that by order of the Governor, all senior centers can open by the end of the month. There will be a soft launch at the Westminster Senior & Community Center on Friday, April 30th by reservation. Beginning May 3rd all Carroll County senior and community centers will be open on a staggered schedule. Look for a press release shortly. 5. Hampstead American Legion will be hosting a car show on May 8th. |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Taneytown American Legion is hosting a blood drive in May for the American Red Cross. Contact Elaine for more information.7. Larry Burbank recommended the 2020 book "What Every Vet Should Know." It can be reserved at your local library.8. <u>Westminster Memorial Day Parade</u>. Currently there has been no plans communicated from the city of Westminster regarding the annual Memorial Day Parade. American Legion #31 will be coordinating something if there is no official event scheduled. |
| Next Meeting Date | The next meeting date is Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information. |