

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 18, 2021

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual on GoToMeeting Platform

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

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 (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Kim Benson, Larry Burbank , Jack Curran , Bob Eney, Marc Fisher , Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Mike Messina, Bill Murphy , Bill Nash , Stacey Nash, Richard Pollard, Mick Schmidt , Chris Schiller, Celene Steckel, Elaine May Stem , Leslie Wagner
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> (Marc Fisher) – Marc opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The American Legion is trying to do some type of parade for Memorial Day, but not as big as in previous pre-COVID years. 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> – No report. 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 April 2021 meeting was approved. Mick Schmidt made a motion and Bill Nash seconded. 3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u> (Mike Messina) – Mike reported that they have needed to resubmit claims either due to VA error or questions. They have had another productive month and are beginning to schedule more office visits which assists in moving projects forward. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for April 2021: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 14 New representations ii. 31 Claims submitted iii. 9 Office appointments iv. 0 Home visits v. 28 Phone appointments vi. 1399 Telephone and email contacts

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,014,827 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of April 2021 was 1%. viii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$35,467,104 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 4/2021 is 10%. b. <u>Veteran’s Shuttle Report</u> (Stacey Nash) – April 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 22 veterans were served with 13 home pick-ups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baltimore – 14 veterans served with 27 trips 2. Loch Raven – 2 veterans with 3 trips 3. Fort Detrick – 4 veterans with 4 trips 4. Martinsburg – 2 veterans served with 3 trips 5. Walter Reed – 1 veteran with 1 trip 6. GBMC – 1 veteran with 1 trip 7. Total cost - \$3,726.00 c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report. 4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently they are serving three veterans. 5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Two veterans are currently staying at the hotel, but both are on their way to being permanently housed with Mainstream and HUD-VASH vouchers. One of the veterans had difficulty finding an apartment in Carroll County with group floor access due to mobility issues so they had to port their voucher to Baltimore City. If you know of any ground floor units, please contact Francine. Francine was also able to assist a veteran who took a LOA to assist her mother who was diagnosed with cancer. Another veteran was able to get service connected which opens their eligibility. The Housing Stability Coordinators have also assisted. Commission on Aging & Disabilities member who represents adults with disabilities, was able to assist two veterans with low vision and macular degeneration issues.
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for FY2022</u>. Nominations are being accepted. Leslie will send an email reminder with details.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <u>Carroll County Commission on Aging & Disabilities – Veterans Representative.</u> Looking for a veteran’s representative. Three-year terms, which are similar to the VAC. See Leslie if you know of anyone. 3. <u>Veterans View in the Carroll County Times – Marc Fisher.</u> Great article in May. Adrian Gamboa is schedule for June, and Jim Duncan for July. There are six in rotation, but new writers are always welcome. 4. <u>Coordinator of Case Management.</u> Courtney Edwards to begin May 27th. 5. <u>4-H Fair Booth.</u> Marc would like the VAC to have a booth for the 4-H Fair during the first week of August. Volunteers will be needed to staff the booth. Will have a sign-up sheet available during the June meeting.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The county has received \$4.2 million in the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The income requirements are much higher than previous programs. You only need to be behind in your rent and do not need an eviction notice and must be tied to COVID including an indirect tie which allows self-attestation. Must be a Carroll County tenant. HSP is vetting everyone. 2. County government is lifting the mask mandate and following the Governor’s and CDC guidelines and recommendations. It is recommended that if you have not been vaccinated that you still wear a mask. 3. There will be discussion regarding in-person meetings. 4. VFW Post #467 is open and doing well.
Next Meeting Date	<p>The next meeting date is Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</p>