

## Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 18, 2022

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Virtual (GoToMeeting)

Chairperson: Marc Fisher

Vice-Chair: Mick Schmidt

| Topic   | Discussion   |
|---|--|
| <b>Mission Statement</b>                              | To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.   |
| <b>Vision Statement</b>                               | 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.  |
| <b>Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)</b> | <b>Larry Burbank, Jack Curran</b> , Courtney Edwards, Bob Eney, <b>Marc Fisher</b> , David Galloway, Francine Hahn, Bobbie Lawrence, Nan Mann, Kristen Maszarose, Ellen Finnerty Myers, Mike Messina, <b>Bill Murphy</b> , Stacey Nash, Rick Pollard, Commissioner Rothstein, <b>Mick Schmidt</b> , Elaine Scott, Scott Swartz, Celene Steckel, <b>Elaine May Stem</b> , Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Weaver, <b>Steve Whisler</b>  |
| <b>Welcome and Introductions</b>                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Chair's Comments</u> – Marc Fisher opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</li> <li>2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> – No guests were in attendance.</li> <li>3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Marc Fisher.</li> <li>4. <u>Commissioner's Report</u> –               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <u>Commissioner Rothstein</u>: Thank you for attending virtually. Be aware of winter weather and let Carroll County Government/Commissioners know if you see a need. Continue to promote the vaccine and we'll get through this together.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <u>Public Comment</u> – No comment.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Old Business</b>                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A quorum (6 + voting members) was established with seven voting members present.</li> <li>2. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Murphy and seconded by Elaine May Stem. A vote was taken and the minutes for the December 2021 meeting was approved.</li> <li>3. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports for December 2021: (Mike Messina)                   <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 39 Claims submitted</li> <li>ii. 11 New representations</li> <li>iii. 47 Office and Home visits</li> <li>iv. 19 Phone appointments</li> <li>v. 1324 Telephone and Email contacts</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> |

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|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vi. Monthly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$1,164,127 for compensation and pension. Monthly Growth Rate for the month of December 2021 was 1%.</li> <li>vii. Yearly return on investment, based on known awards is approximately \$42,823,474 since inception of the program in October 2013. Growth Rate from 12/2020 to 12/2021 is 31%.</li> <li>viii. Some claims are taking two years to process. Francine was working with a veteran who filed in 2020, prior to the pandemic. VA lost the claim. They just now received \$111,000 from the VA in back pay. This will be reflected in next month's report.</li> <li>ix. Of the new representations, some are referred, and some make contact themselves. Commissioner Rothstein would like to start looking at the trends of new representations so we can market the program by those same means.</li> <li>b. <u>Veteran's Shuttle Report</u> – December 2021: (Stacey Nash)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 18 Veterans were served with 14 home pick-ups                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baltimore – 7 Veterans served with 8 trips</li> <li>2. Loch Raven—2 Veterans served with 2 trips</li> <li>3. Fort Detrick – 3 Veterans with 7 trips</li> <li>4. Pikesville – 1 Veteran with 1 trip</li> <li>5. Martinsburg – 6 Veterans served with 8 trips</li> <li>6. Total cost - \$2,970.45</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. They are shuttling a veteran who is going every day to dialysis. Winter is a slower time of year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. <u>Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update</u> (John Veney) – No report.</li> <li>4. <u>Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant</u> (Francine Hahn) – Currently serving two families.</li> <li>5. <u>Update on Veteran Services Program Grant</u> (Courtney Edwards) – The program is working with four veterans with HUD VASH vouchers and one with a mainstream voucher. Currently one veteran is in the hotel and two veterans have found units. Also, continuing to assist with paperwork and items needed for their new homes.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>New Business</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>COAD is Seeking a Veteran Representative</u> (Celene Steckel) – Elaine May Stem is interested. Celene will email her the application and position description.</li> </ul>   |

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|                             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <u>Frequency of Meetings</u> (Marc Fisher) – While meeting virtually, change the meeting frequency to every other month. Elaine May Stem, Steve Whisler and Bill Murphy agree. Reports will be emailed monthly to the list serv. When the county agrees to return to in-person meetings then VAC will go back to meeting monthly. No objections were raised.</li> <li>3. <u>Veterans Round Up</u> (Commissioner Weaver) – There is concern that younger veterans (30-50 years of age) are unaware of the Veteran Services Program and are not becoming members of local Veteran Services Organizations, which parallels the mission of the Veterans Advisory Council and Program. Commissioner Weaver is interested in organizing an event celebrating veterans and providing information on Veteran services in Carroll County. Thoughts include Sunday afternoon, Farm Museum, Petting Zoo, playground, inflatables, food, beer garden with various Veteran organizations having booths set up to provide information on their organization. In addition, there would be a program and possible guests such as Secretary Owings, Ravens, etc. Marc asked for volunteers – Bob Eney, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem, Commissioner Weaver, Kristen Maszarose. Kristen noted that Carroll Community College has a lot of young veterans attending. Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine and Bobbie Lawrence would like to be present at the first planning meeting. Commissioner Weaver will reach out to Jack Lyburn about marketing and Marc to contact Joanne Wendt for Farm Museum availability. This would be fully funded with sponsors. We need to recognize community partners that would bring veterans and active duty to the event. Add to the tourism newsletter and coordinate media sponsorships.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>Announcements</b></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scott Swartz from Habitat for Humanity provided information on their Critical Home Repair program.</li> <li>2. Bill Murphy announced that he is working with Mudgett Auto Body and Charles Wheatley to donate a car to a local veteran who is 100% service disabled. He also received a donation of a \$64,000 power chair.</li> <li>3. Steve Whisler announced that Tricare and VA Medical recipients are not eligible for the eight COVID home tests per person per month insurance reimbursement. Currently the reimbursement is available for commercial insurance carriers. According to the President’s plan, those with underlying health conditions (with a doctor’s order) can get unlimited reimbursement per month (up to \$12 for each test) when filing through their civilian insurance company.</li> <li>4. The website is open to order 4 free home COVID tests. There is a limit of four per household/address. Website is <a href="http://www.covidtests.gov">www.covidtests.gov</a> or <a href="https://special.usps.com/testkits">https://special.usps.com/testkits</a>.</li> </ol>  |

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|                          | <p>5. Celene announced that the state is accepting applications for the Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund to help homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage due to COVID. Visit the website to apply and find more information on eligibility <a href="https://dhcd.maryland.gov/residents/pages/homeownerassistance.aspx">https://dhcd.maryland.gov/residents/pages/homeownerassistance.aspx</a>. Carroll County still has funding available for those who are behind on their rent due to COVID. You can apply at HSP. Senior Centers are open, serving congregate and grab and go meals, and hosting fitness classes.</p> <p>6. Nan Mann from Senator Van Hollen's Office will be conducting congressional spending requests (earmarks) education sessions. Non-profit is Thursday and Community/County is Friday. Contact <a href="mailto:nan-mann@vanhollen.senate.gov">nan-mann@vanhollen.senate.gov</a> for more information or to register.</p> |
| <b>Next Meeting Date</b> | <b>As of right now there will be NO meeting in February. If the county begins meeting in person that will be communicated online (<a href="https://carrollcountymd.gov/aging-and-disabilities">https://carrollcountymd.gov/aging-and-disabilities</a> - check upcoming event calendar) and via the email list serv. The next meeting date is Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. Meeting and participation information will be forwarded. Call 410-386-3818 for more information.</b>   |