

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: February 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, Marc Fisher, Bill Murphy, Bill Nash, Commissioner Richard Weaver (Ex-Officio)

County Staff Present: Francine Hahn, Jim Hillman, Christine Kay, Mike Messina, Stacey Nash, Commissioner Ed Rothstein, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Shannan Zepp

Other Present: Melissa Barber, Sabrina Black, Christa Burton, Jeff Collins, Ed Cramer, Bob Eney, Richard Jones, Alison Malachowski, Keith Midberry, Gil Muse, Gary Scarbeau, Elaine Scott, Frank Valenti, Charles Wheatley, Tom Williams

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 Bill Murphy.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver announced that the application for the CCVIP has been disapproved by the Department of Health and Human Services. The General Services Administration will take back ownership of the building and will make a decision as to the future. Frank Valenti said that the CCVIP is not building dependent and the mission will continue. It was noted that the disapproval letter did not say CCVIP cannot reapply for another category for building use. Governor Hogan has named 2019 as the Year of the Veteran and CCVIP will be talking with the delegation about their support.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum (5 voting members) was not established with only 4 voting and 1 ex-officio members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Draft minutes from the January meeting will be reviewed at March's meeting, when a quorum is present.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Jim Hillman) – January 2019:
 1. 18 new representations
 2. 45 claims submitted
 3. 6 home visits
 4. 70 in-office contacts
 5. 751 telephone contacts
 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$573,066.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$13,485,886.00 since inception of the program (October 2013)

7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$73,143.00
 8. Claims for Blue Water Navy from Vietnam are now being accepted.
 9. Make sure to encourage veterans to make their claims now. Even when they are denied initially, if in the future the reasons are accepted by the VA, they will retroactively approve the claim.
 10. As of 2/15/19 the Rapid Appeals Management Program has ended. A new, 3 level, appeals process has begun effective 2/19/19. Because of this the processing times have significantly increased.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Stacey Nash) – January 2019:
 1. 25 veterans were served, with 1 in wheelchair and 15 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 16 veterans – 48 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 2 veterans – 2 trips
 - c. Fort Detrick – 2 veterans – 2 trips
 - d. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 8 veterans – 12 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$7,075.00
 3. Commissioner Weaver reported that an additional \$45,000 has been allocated to the program to keep from going over budget.
 - iii. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – No report.
- 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 Veterans, as 2 have recently passed away. 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. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shannan Zepp) – Currently, 1 veteran is receiving assistance with emergency housing, and will be moving March 1st with their new voucher. Thank you to Bill Nash for his assistance in the payment of emergency hospital bills for a veteran and his wife.
 - f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No update.
 - g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project – CCVIP (Ed Cramer) – See Commissioner's Report.
 - h. Update on Friends of Disabled American Veterans in Carroll County (Bill Murphy) – In January and February they were able to support 28 Veterans with pick-ups and donations. A power wheelchair was donated to a Vietnam veteran with the event filmed by the Community Media Center and to be rebroadcast on Channel 19 within the next two weeks. This morning Bill gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of Bonds Meadow. Currently they have two power wheelchairs available to be donated. They have also begun working on obtaining free vehicles to provide to needy veterans. Currently they need veterans who can volunteer to drive. On February 6, 2019, they began working with Mission of Mercy in Taneytown for monthly dental and medical services for veterans in Carroll County. Mission of Mercy has no income restrictions. They are offering free tooth extractions and fillings.
3. New Business
 - a. Larry Burbank along with staff from Carroll County Veterans Services Program will be providing a presentation at Carroll Lutheran Village at 10am on March 12th. Phil Munley will also be attending.

- b. Establishment of an Executive Committee – The Executive Committee will consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and two council members. Marc Fisher volunteered. Gina will send an email to the council for another volunteer.
 - c. Discussion about frequency of meetings – tabled for the Executive Committee to address.
 - d. Presentation to the Board of County Commissioners – will take place on March 7th around 1:20pm.
 - e. Charles Wheatley asked if the unemployment level for Veterans is high or low in Carroll County. He was directed to speak with John Veney the Veterans Representative of DLLR.
 - f. Announcements
 - i. Sabrina, Community Ambassador for Mission BBQ gave an overview of the company.
 - ii. Bill Nash announced the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion will take place on March 15th with a raffle for a Colt 45 1911 pistol. Tickets are available.
 - iii. February 27th the Supreme Court will hear the case regarding the World War I Peace Cross on 295.
 - iv. Carroll County Realtors will have a CCVIP fundraiser at Thunderhead Bowl on April 4th from 4-6pm.
 - v. The Chamber of Commerce is having a PM Connections Networking event for CCVIP on February 28th.
 - vi. The 14th Annual Seniors on the Go Expo will be April 3rd from 9am to 2pm in the Shipley Arena of the Carroll County Ag Center. Marc Fisher would like to see all Veteran organizations present, with possibly sharing space, to include Marine Corps League, American Legion, Catholic War Veterans, and VFW.
 - vii. Keith Midberry announced 3 events: Retro Party to benefit Building Veterans, Advanced Directive presentation and the showing of “Thank You for Your Service.” He will send out electronic copies.
4. Next Meeting: March 19, 2019 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.