

VETERAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: June 21, 2016

Time 2 p.m.

Location: DSS Conference Room

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 that the enrichment and enhancement of life for our men and women and their families.

Council Present: Frank Valenti; Larry Burbank; Ed Rothstein; Mick Schmidt; Elaine May-Stem; Steve Yinger

County Staff Present: Commissioner Weaver; Jim Hillman; Erin Inman; Christine Kay; Gina Valentine

Other Present: Amy Baker; Anita Farinetti; Mike Gallagher; Roslyn Jones; Todd Mitchell; Bill Murphy; Senator Justin Ready; Liz Riggs

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Larry Burbank called the meeting to order. Larry reported that he recently attended the Carroll County History Project's 2nd Annual Veterans Reception on June 10th at the Community Media Center. He also attended the LZ Maryland Welcome Home event honoring Vietnam veterans on June 19 & 20th at the Timonium fairgrounds.
- B. Chair's Comments (Frank Valenti) – Frank Valenti reported that the Kahlert Foundation announced an additional \$25,000.00 grant to benefit Carroll County veterans. With this additional grant, the Kahlert Foundation has committed a total of \$80,000.00 to support veteran's services in Carroll County. Frank also stated that the Council will need to vote on a new Chair and Vice Chair for the upcoming fiscal year. Gina Valentine will send out a nomination ballot via email to the council members before the next scheduled meeting.
- C. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver shared that the Board of County Commissioners are seeking applicants to join the new Long Term Advisory Council. Applications for membership are available on the county's website. Commissioner Weaver also mentioned that a county building is being evaluated for suitability to serve as a shelter and rehabilitation facility for veterans.

II. Old Business

- A. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – The May 2016 meeting minutes were approved as written.
- B. Monthly Program Reports (Brief Written Summary and Monthly Numbers Served)
 - 1) Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Jim Hillman) – Jim Hillman reported on client distribution, performance statistics and return on investment for May 2016. The complete report is available upon request. Jim also shared information about two new donations which were received from a private donor and the Westminster Ravens Roost. The private donation will be used to assist homeless veterans and the Westminster Ravens Roost donated \$1,000.00 to meet emergency needs of veterans in Carroll County. Gina Valentine shared that the posting for two new veteran's services positions closed and interviews are being scheduled.
 - 2) Veteran's Shuttle Report (Anita Farinetti and Gina Valentine) – Anita Farinetti reported shuttle statistics for May 2016. A total of 21 veterans utilized the shuttle and a total of 44 trips were provided. Gina Valentine shared that there are currently 196 Veterans registered for the shuttle. Gina also thanked Anita and Crystal Winebrenner at CTS for the collaborative partnership and their commitment to serving veterans.
 - 3) Veteran's Jobs Report (Roslyn Jones and Todd Mitchell) – Roslyn Jones reported that she recently assisted two veterans with their job searches and each of the veterans secured employment. The positions attained were in the fields of information technology and transportation. Roslyn also reported that the number of veterans served by the Business Education Resource Center (BERC) has increased since a new staff member, Mr. Jones, was hired and focuses on serving veterans.
 - 4) Subcommittee Reports (Access, Mentoring, Outreach)
 - a. Outreach- Steve Yinger reported that he has been working with Jeff Degitz, Director of Recreation and Parks on plans to update the Westminster Veterans Memorial Park. The plans for the park will be presented to the planning commission, date TBD. Steve also reported that he continues to work with the staff at the Carroll County Public Libraries (CCPL) to establish a Veterans Book Club. Grants from the Maryland Humanities Council were explored; however, there are no current funding opportunities through the organization. Steve reports that they are now focused

on independently establishing the book club in partnership with CCPL.

5) Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Jim Hillman) – Jim Hillman reported that the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services Program is currently operating at capacity. Jim is working with 5 veterans who are enrolled in the program.

C. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – Todd Mitchell reported that business advocates for veterans has raised approximately \$3,000 for a 9,000+ flag display which will be installed at Gerstell Academy for the 2017 Memorial Day weekend. Each flag will represent veterans missing in action since WWI. Anyone who would like additional information or to assist with this initiative is invited to attend their next meeting on August 29, 2016 at 1:00 pm at Gerstell Academy.

III. New Business

- A. Senator Justin Ready reviewed the accomplishments and goals attained during the 2016 legislative session. A copy of Senator Ready's complete letter summarizing the 2016 legislative session is available upon request. Senator Ready expressed his desire to serve his constituents, including the Veteran's Advisory Council, as a resource.
- B. Amy Baker provided an update on the Circle of Caring's Veterans Ad Hoc committee. She stated that they would like to work toward merging with the Veterans Advisory Council to create a single point of entry for veterans who are in need of services and resources. Amy stated that Tammy Black is working to develop a resource guide which will be distributed in the community to veterans and local agencies who serve veterans.
- C. Mike Gallagher, Treasurer of a D.A.V chapter and Chairman at Point Breeze Credit Union reported that construction will begin shortly on their new branch which will be located on Englar Road in Westminster. He also reported that Point Breeze Credit Union has been working to develop a Military Value Services Package which will offer special benefits including: special mortgage, rehabilitation and signature loans and other unique benefits.

IV. Next Meeting: July 19, 2016 at 2pm at the Department of Social Services.