

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: May 15, 2018

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, Jack Curran, Marc Fisher, Bill Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, Elaine May Stem

County Staff Present: Francine Hahn, Sara Handwerger, Stacey Nash, David Reese, Sr., Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Commissioner Richard Weaver, Shannan Zepp

Other Present: Kim Benson, Ed Cramer, Steve Duex, Keith Midberry, Bill Nash, Gary Saylor, Gary Scarbeau, Elaine Scott, Frank Valenti, Charles Wheatley

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Chair's Comments (Larry Burbank) – Larry opened the meeting with a welcome then everyone went around the room and introduced themselves. Shannan Zepp was introduced as the new case manager for the Veteran Services Program of Carroll County.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Elaine May Stem.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – Commissioner Weaver reminded everyone of the public hearing on the budget this evening at 7pm at Carroll Community College.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 7 members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Bill Murphy made a motion to approve the April 2018 minutes, second by Elaine May Stem. All were in favor and the April 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Gina Valentine) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – April 2018:
 1. 11 new representations
 2. 69 claims submitted
 3. 14 home visits

4. 63 in-office contacts
 5. 386 telephone contacts
 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$481,906.43 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$9,961,208.75 since inception of the program (October 2013)
 7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$58,549.00
 8. All numbers are based on known awards, which is information given to program staff by veterans since the program is not notified by the VA.
- ii. Veteran's Shuttle Report (Gina Valentine) – April 2018:
1. 38 veterans were served, with 2 in wheelchair and 20 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 26 veterans – 51 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 1 veteran – 1 trip
 - c. Fort Detrick – 5 veterans – 8 trips
 - d. Frederick Hospital – 1 veteran – 1 trip
 - e. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 8 veterans – 21 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$8,600.00
 3. Gina reported that the number of appointments scheduled has increased. Registrations to the program are being added every day.
- iii. Veteran's Job Report – BERC held several Job Fairs the last few weeks. They were very well attended. BERC is Carroll County's Workforce Development Center and helps citizens find employment and assists with job training. John Veney of BERC and DLLR assists veterans in finding employment as well as any training they may need.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – This program provides services to veterans to remain in their homes. This is funded by the Federal VA, under contract with Maryland Department of Aging. This program serves a maximum of 5 veterans, who are assessed and given a monthly budget (maximum of \$2,804) to purchase needed services such as personal care. Currently 4 are enrolled. The latest referral declined so they are waiting for another.
- e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Four homeless Veterans have been served under this grant with emergency housing and additional assistance. The number of homeless Veterans has risen slightly, mostly due to situational issues. Ten HUD VASH vouchers have been granted to Carroll County. The referral process has begun and the vouchers will be effective June 1st. Shannan Zepp, case manager for the grant, was introduced to the council.
- f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer) –

- i. 501(c)(3) non-profit application approved by IRS (effective September 2017) – ICW CFofCC will become an agency effective July 1, 2018.
- ii. HHS application still pending – repeated efforts to obtain status to no avail so far. They have been advised that there are higher priorities before CCVIP and that HHS may need additional clarifying information. Van Hollen’s office has been assisting in the process, with Ben Cardin’s office to assist as well.
- iii. State Bond Bill has been approved - \$100,000 (\$50,000 each from House and Senate). They are awaiting official documents.
- iv. Phase 2 Environmental Assessment – they have a third proposal coming this week. There is still the possibility that a Phase 2 Environmental Assessment may not be required.
- v. Grant Funding –
 - 1. Applications to Kahlert Foundation and M&T Bank Foundation
 - 2. Community Development Block Grant Training
- vi. Fundraising –
 - 1. Many events are being planned
 - 2. Booth at Westminster & Jazz Festival
- vii. Donations –
 - 1. Received \$10,000 from Maryland VFW
 - 2. \$1,000 from Silver Run Lions Club
 - 3. Point Breeze Credit Union \$15,000
 - 4. Received a donation from a couple as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) Qualified Charitable Contribution from IRA
 - 5. Josh Kohn of Kohn Creative has donated the design of a campaign package
 - 6. Many in the community are offering money and in-kind services
- viii. Community Coordination –
 - 1. Literacy Council of Carroll County
 - 2. Carroll Community College Continuing Education and Training
 - 3. Carroll Lutheran Village presentation

h. VAC By-laws (Gina Valentine) – Revisions have been approved by the Commissioners.

3. New Business

- a. Veterans Transportation Project – Presented by Bill Murphy and Mick Schmidt
 - i. 501(c)(3) for non-emergency medical transportation.
 - ii. Mobility van with up to 3 wheel chair spots has been donated to the project. The title was lost so they are working with the MVA to transfer the title.
 - iii. Inksplash has donated their graphic design services.
 - iv. FR Conversions has donated a second wheel chair equipped van.
 - v. Veterans will be the drivers.

- b. Keith Midberry of Frederick Hospice shared that they have received the rights to the documentary "Thank You for Your Service" and will have a showing at Frederick Community College on October 17th.
- c. Gary Saylor thanked Dave Reese for the handicapped signs to be used at the Salvation Army.
- d. Gary Saylor has a contact at Random House that would like to donate books to the CCVIP.
- e. May 20th at Fort Meade will be the Massing of the Colors at 2pm. Different color guards will be on display.
- f. With Memorial Day approaching, remember there are many events to attend to memorialize those who have served our county.
- g. Charles Wheatley shared that a flag dedication for World War II Veterans has been rescheduled to June 9th and will be held at his property located on Wheatley Drive (off of Lucabaugh Mill Road). Please share with your VFW or American Legion. Carroll County Times will be running a story, WTRR is assisting, and the dedication will be videotaped.
- h. The program, Cars for Vets, was discussed. The purpose is to provide vehicles to veterans who do not have a ride to work. One car being dedicated for this purpose is currently pending. The goal is to have 1 per month donated, for this purpose.
- i. VAC will be present in Memorial Day parades next year. Elaine May Stem is the point of contact. Possibly in need of a car to drive in the parade as well as have a banner made. This will help get the word out about the Council and our Veteran programs.

4. Next Meeting: June 19, 2018 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.