

VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: August 21, 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: Steve Bass (CTS Representative), Larry Burbank, Jack Curran, Bill Murphy, Ed Rothstein, Mick Schmidt, John Veney (DLLR Representative), Commissioner Weaver

County Staff Present: Francine Hahn, Sara Handwerger, Jim Hillman, Stacey Nash, Celene Steckel, Gina Valentine, Leslie Wagner, Shannan Zepp

Other Present: Kimberly Benson, Christa Burton, Audrey Cimino, Ramenta Cottrell, Ed Cramer, Dick Jones, Greg Kahlert, Alison Malachowski, Keith Midberry, Bill Nash, Gary Saylor, Gary Scarbeau, Elaine Scott, Jason Sidock, Jennifer Turiano, Crystal Winebrenner, Tom Woerner

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.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mick Schmidt.
- c. Commissioner's Report (Commissioner Weaver) – There is a Comcast program for low income Veterans. He will have a Comcast representative present at next month's meeting. He is also working on ordering shirts for the council members.

2. Old Business

- a. A quorum was established with 8 members present.
- b. Approval of Minutes (Larry Burbank) – Marvin Frush made a motion to approve the July 2018 minutes, second by Bill Murphy. All were in favor and the July 2018 meeting minutes were approved.
- c. Monthly Program Reports (Veteran Services Staff) – Brief written summary and monthly numbers served.
 - i. Veteran's Program Coordinators' Reports (Sara Handwerger and Francine Hahn) – July 2018:
 1. 25 new representations
 2. 105 claims submitted

- a. The uptick in claims submitted is seasonal. There is usually an increase end of summer and beginning of fall. Staff and others are continuing to promote the program.
 3. 6 home visits
 4. 86 in-office contacts
 5. 508 telephone contacts
 6. Return on investment, based on known awards: approximately \$509,092.00 for compensation and pension (monthly); approximately \$11,083,090.36 since inception of the program (October 2013)
 7. Veteran Directed Care Program approximately \$63,979.00
 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 (Crystal Winebrenner) – July 2018:
 1. 33 veterans were served, with 2 in wheelchair and 17 home pick-ups
 - a. Baltimore – 21 veterans – 67 trips
 - b. Loch Raven – 3 veteran – 3 trips
 - c. Fort Detrick – 5 veterans – 10 trips
 - d. Glen Burnie – 1 veteran – 1 trip
 - e. Gaithersburg – 1 veteran – 1 trip
 - f. Martinsburg (one way – 1 hour and 40 minutes) – 6 veterans – 10 trips
 2. Total Cost = \$8,725.00
 3. Steve Bass, the new Executive Director of Ride With Us was introduced. Steve will begin reporting on the Veterans Shuttle program next month.
 4. Stacey Nash reported that the Transportation Development Plan (TDP) committee will begin meeting after Labor Day. They gather input to determine the best way to move transportation forward in Carroll County.
- iii. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update – John Veney reported that he has been assisting 14 Veterans to date in August. Of those 14, three have found employment. Summer is usually a slow time of year for hiring. There will be a job fair next month and he will forward the information as soon as he receives. Crystal asked if any of the Veterans he is helping are qualified to drive. CTS is always looking to hire Veterans.
- d. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Gina Valentine) – Program has a maximum of 5 Veterans. One Veteran passed away yesterday leaving a vacancy. Maryland Department of Aging will forward a referral soon. This program provides reimbursement for personal care.
- e. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Shanna Zepp) – Currently four Veterans are being housed in a hotel. Recently one Veteran moved into permanent housing, three were approved for HUD-VASH vouchers, and three received housing choice vouchers. The program was able to

assist Veterans by providing clothing for a job interview, yard maintenance, food, gas, and rental assistance to divert from homelessness. The Veteran Services Program is looking for a bike so a Veteran, who is looking for employment, will be able to find a job. BERC has been assisting the program with coordination and referrals.

- i. Since the process began in June, the HUD-VASH program has 4 Veterans approved with one placed in housing, who was chronically homeless. Those in the HUD-VASH program receive intensive case management in addition to housing vouchers.
- f. Update on Veteran Friendly Business initiative (Todd Mitchell) – No report.
- g. Update on Carroll County Veterans Independence Project - CCVIP (Ed Cramer)
 - i. Revised HHS Application Part 1 – Redone, coordinated with County staff and signed by Commissioner Frazier. Confirmed receipt by HHS. Part 2 is almost complete.
 - ii. Car Show – Saturday, August 25th 10am-2pm at Len Stoler Chevrolet, Westminster. 300+ cars are expected. WTTR van and motorcycle, Mission BBQ grill truck present. There will be door prizes, silent auction with all proceeds benefiting CCVIP. Run by the Carroll County American Muscle Car Club. Volunteers are still needed.
 - iii. Presentations and property tours have been given to Kahlert Foundation, American Legion Post 191 Mt. Airy, Coon Hunters Association, and Red Cross. Coon Hunters will be having a dance on August 25th with all proceeds going to CCVIP.
 - iv. Bond Bill documentation – Reviewed and began working on required paperwork, toward receiving funds.
 - v. Marketing – handed out new business cards and brochure with new logo. Considering forming a fundraising board.
 - vi. Red White and Blue Gala fundraiser will be held on November 10, 2018.

3. New Business

- a. Audrey Cimino presented on the Community Foundation of Carroll County. Getting ready to celebrate their 25th year. 2017 Audit showed that they are just under \$7 million and have given away \$1.6 million that year. The Foundation assists non-profits so they don't compete and duplicate efforts. Currently they have over 300 different funds, with 100 being scholarships.
- b. Frederick Hospice will be holding a Golf fundraiser on September 14th. "Thank You for Your Service" documentary will be shown on October 17th with a panel discussion after.
- c. Carroll County Friends of Disabled American Veterans currently has 7 Veteran drivers with good driving records. A second van has been donated and there is a 1999 Windstar that is being

repaired to be donated to a Veteran in need. This program is supported by a grant from Kahlert Foundation and will provide non-emergency transportation for medical treatment in Carroll County. They are working with Mission of Mercy in Taneytown to have Veterans transported for dental and medical care.

- d. There were seven World War II Veterans honored at the Memorial Flag Pole Dedication at Charles Wheatley's house last month. Bill Murphy is working on a video of the event.
 - e. The National Night Out at Ft. Meade was cancelled due to severe weather.
 - f. Audrey reported that a local dentist will be open two Saturdays a month for under-served populations.
 - g. Keith Midberry introduced Christa Burton of U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin's office. She is a Veterans Case Worker.
 - h. There will be a summer concert of the United States Army Field Band at Ft. Meade on August 25th. This concert is open to the public and you can enter through the main gate off 175.
 - i. Celene Steckel announced that there will be meetings at all five senior and community centers next week to discuss the new CTS Trailblazer routes. She reminded everyone that the Bureau of Aging & Disabilities provides services not just for Veterans. Please call the main number at 410-386-3800 to talk with our Information and Assistance staff.
 - j. Crystal Winebrenner informed everyone that CTS will be holding bi-annual meetings to discuss pros and cons of the shuttle services in Carroll County. If you see a need please contact Stacey Nash or Crystal so it can be discussed at the meeting.
 - k. Carroll Hospice will be holding a Gold Star Luminary Initiative event on Saturday, September 30. Information on the event will be forwarded to the VAC listserv.
4. Next Meeting: September 18, 2018 at 2pm at VFW Post #467, 519 Poole Rd, Westminster.