

Carroll County Veterans Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date: January 17, 2023

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Location: American Legion Post 31 (2 Sycamore Street, Westminster, MD)

Chairperson: Bill Nash

Vice-Chair: Steve Whisler

Topic	Discussion
Mission Statement	To evaluate, develop and promote new and existing programs and services for Veterans and their families within Carroll County.
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.
Attendance (Appointed VAC Members are in bold)	Larry Burbank, Jack Curran, Jim Duncan , Bobbie Lawrence, Bill Nash , Celene Steckel, Elaine May-Stem , Victoria Parks, Commissioner Gordon, Commissioner Kiler, Steve Whisler , Stacey Nash, Marc Fisher, John Veney, Jim Duncan, Mick Schmidt, Bill Murphy, Celene Steckel, Tony Roman
Welcome and Introductions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Chair’s Comments</u> – Bill Nash opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. 2. <u>Attendee Introductions and Announcements</u> 3. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bill Nash. 4. <u>Commissioner’s Report</u> – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Commissioner Gordon & Commissioner Kiler</u>: Commissioner Gordon attended a VFW Scholarship event that covered elementary- Highschool aged students. Students presented essay themes displaying gratitude to the Veterans. Impressed with the understanding and appreciation shown by the students towards the Veteran community. Commissioner Kiler partnering with Steve Whisler in supporting a disabled Veteran who needs assistance, appreciative of the resources available in order to provide aide. 5. <u>Public Comment</u> – Post 31 provided a winter blanket donation, Post 200 held CPR Training seminar.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Approval of Minutes</u> – A motion was made by Bill Nash and seconded by Bill Murphy. A vote was taken and the minutes for the December 2022 meeting was approved. 2. <u>Monthly Program Reports</u>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Veteran’s Program Coordinators’ Report for December2022: (Richard Pollard) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 22 Claims submitted ii. 13 New Clients iii. 51 Office visits iv. 7 Home visits

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- v. 5 previous claims approved/ 2 retroactive fully approved Vietnam Veterans
- vi. 1 pension (spouse of Vietnam Veteran)

Year total of 355 claims with 250 Veterans met. Currently wait time of 6-18 months for VA processing. Special provision made for Veterans who are suicidal, Veterans able to use VA facility for free regardless of Status. Celene Steckel- '988' replacing '911' emergency contact regarding mental health crisis in place of medical.

b. Veteran's Shuttle Report – (Stacie Nash) December 2022:

- i. 20 Veterans were served with 45 total trips
 - 1. Green St
 - 2. Fort Detrick
 - 3. Martinsburg
 - 4. Walter Reed
 - 5. University of Maryland
 - 6. Total cost of \$5,100.00 in expense

c. Employment Initiatives for Veterans Update (John Veney) – N/A

3. Update on Veteran Direct Home and Community Based Services Program Grant (Francine Hahn) – N/A

4. Update on Veteran Services Program Grant (Bobbie Lawrence) – Introduction of Tony Roman and Scott Myers, new VSO's. Case management continues to be provided to veterans, 4 new Veterans in Program, 2 veterans receiving assistance with utilities, 2 experiencing homelessness receiving assistance with storage fees, 1 receiving assistance with car payment, 1 moved to rehab in Baltimore, 1 receiving assistance with back rent. Requesting additional resources to replace or perform maintenance on 20-year-old vehicle for Veteran.

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New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Removal of Article 5, Point 13 wording:</u> “Council members may not serve as a board member of the Veterans Independence Project (VIP)”. Put before commissioners on January 12th, 2023 for vote- motion approved.
Announcements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elaine May-Stem: Vehicles for change- providing job training an employment in mechanics and vehicle maintenance, allowing Veterans s to adjust to Civilian lifestyle. 2. Celene Steckel: Point in Time Homeless Count scheduled for January 24th, 2023 with rain date of January 31st, 2023. Volunteers welcomed, will be going to encampments, library, food pantry, Walmart. Surveys will be done electronically developed by GIS/ IT department. 3. Veteran Celebration approaching, deadline for Vendor sign up deadline January 30th 2023 4. Bobbie Lawrence: Age 65+ fraud campaign- good information in in campaign- Pack legislation causing an increase in veterans and families being targeted. 5. Veteran Pickleball raised over \$4500.00 for Carroll County in the last 4 years. 6. Bill Murphy: Veterans Treatment Court possibly forming regionally, looking to include the counties. 7. Bill Nash: Anthony Woods appointed the new Veterans Affair Secretary. 8. Elaine May-Stem: Charlotte Hall Update- Groundbreaking still happening, currently in the works of being formally scheduled.
Next Meeting Date	Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, at 2pm at the American Legion Post #31, 2 Sycamore Street, Westminster.