

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Macomb Community Action Training Room
21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48038
Monday, January 06, 2020

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:10 am.

Attendees:

Adrienne Gasperoni, CARE SEMI

Deanne Honeycutt, MHC

Chris Reilly, Michigan Works!

Darryle Johnson, Vet Services

Josh Mathis, Vet Ctr

Gerald Fisher-Curley, VAMC

Mark Kilgore, CARE

Mark Diaz, VCCF

Nicole Gauthier, Vet Navig

Paul Salcepuedes, Vet Empl Serv

Sharon Urban, (minute taker) Vet Srv

Brian Webb, SOM DHHS

Gabriella Barthlow, Vet Services

Chris Franklin, AIVOMI

Christy Koons, Reg Coord

Gary Purcell, VVA

Lucia Rogers, Bright Star Care

Joyce Moultrie, Vet Services

Katie Carroll, Vet Services

Laura Rios, (Co-Chair) Vet Srv

Liz Sergeant, MCA

Susan Casadei, Harbor Health Hm Cr

Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSCB

II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** The members went around the table and introduced themselves.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The December 2, 2019 minutes were approved as a matter of record.

IV. **VCAT UPDATE:**

Gabriella stated the December 13th VCAT was held at the Red Cross center in Detroit. The VAMC was there giving information regarding healthcare and benefits. The Katie Page from the Vet Center also attended and spoke regarding the services at the Vet Center and also the results of the meditation classes. There are changes coming with the MVAA for the VCAT. But Region 10 VCAT Motor City will keep moving forward with the MVAA. The mission of the VCAT is to support organizations and keep them connected.

V. **FUTURE OF MVAC/NEXT STEPS:**

The Collaboration voted to begin bi-monthly meetings instead of meeting once a month. Laura presented the Priorities and Action Steps findings from the last MVAC brain storming session. The Priorities and Action Steps were consolidated and created by the Steering Committee after the December MVAC meeting.

The four (4) priority categories were: Marketing, Communication, Outreach and Education, and Collaboration. After much discussion the Collaborative members agreed that the action steps in some of the categories could be combined. They voted to create two (2) ad hoc committees and a new chair for the Membership Committee, which was already established but has been without a chairperson. The new committee titles and members are listed below.

Marketing:

Mark Diaz
Chris Franklin
Madeline Habib
Susan Casadei

Education/Outreach/Communication:

Paul Salcepuedes
Chris Reilly
Mark Kilgore
Adrienne Gasperoni

Membership:

Mark Diaz – until a permanent Chair can be established

These new committees will meet February 3 at the 21885 Dunham location to begin strategic planning. After this meeting they will meet when and at which location they choose.

These ad hoc committees will give the Collaborative an update at the March meeting. Since there was a low attendance at this meeting, Laura will send out an email regarding the ad hoc committees the entire Collaborative with an invitation for anyone to meet at the February 3rd strategic planning meeting for more information and/or to join a committee.

VI. **ROUND TABLE:**

Susan Casadei wanted to remind the collaborative to refer veterans that are in need of in home care to their facility.

Gabriella Barthlow stated she had a great 2019 financial coaching veterans and dependents. She is looking forward to helping more in 2020.

Mark Diaz stated within the last 3 months the VCCF relocated 2 homeless veterans. There is a possibility of acquiring some free modular homes. However, these homes are in need of repair. The VCCF is cash poor so repairing the homes is an issue.

Brian Webb stated the Buddy to Buddy program was dismantled. Any veteran needing Mental Health or Substance Abuse assistance to contact the MVAA Resource Center.

Lucia Rogers stated Bright Star Care serviced Macomb and Wayne Counties. They also provide in home and skilled care.

Gerald Fisher-Curley stated Macomb County was working 3rd in veteran homeless Functional Zero. The VAMC has a Case Management grant to help veterans in transitioning from homeless to permanent housing. They also have 70 HudVash vouchers available. To receive a voucher a veteran must be eligible for VA Healthcare and have an Honorable Discharge.

Madeline Habib brought an informational MICommonwealth flyer. She stated the 2020 Traveling Tours will be held on May 13 and 14th.

Laura Rios stated the Vita Tax program is ramping up. She brought the new flyer for the collaborative members to take and share. The program is open to ALL veterans; there is no financial

threshold. They now have 6 tax preparation locations and a drop off site. She also briefly talked about the new eligibility for Commissary privileges. All service connected veterans, Purple Heart recipients and POWs can now use the commissary, exchanges, morale, welfare and recreation retail facilities in person and online. She brought a flyer that explained this in detail and the required credentials that would be needed for an ID card.

Nicole Gauthier stated to please continue to send veterans that need Mental Health assistance to her. She accepts any veteran regardless of the character of discharge or their active duty time.

Chris Franklin reminded the collaborative of their Smoking Cessation program. Please refer any veterans who want to quit smoking to him.

Gary Purcell gave a brief summary of the services provided at the VVA Chapter 154. He wanted to thank everyone who helped with the 2019 Operation Christmas. The VVA Chapter 154 helped over 250 families and over 400 children through the holiday season.

Josh Mathis gave a brief summary of their services at the Vet Center.

Paul Salcepuedes stated they have been attending several outreaches giving out packets of information on their services.

Chris Reilly stated the next Veterans Boot Camp began today. This year they are going to alternate the Boot Camp location between Clinton Township and Roseville. They hope this will make it more convenient for veterans to attend.

Mark Kilgore stated their Recovery United Center had a soft open on 12/1. Any veteran suffering from substance abuse disorder can walk in any time. This is open to all veterans from any residency locations. They also offer job skills and resume training. These services are at no cost to the veteran. They recently received a federal grant to cover the costs. They are hosting a Sober Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday which is also free of charge to veterans and families. The Recovery Center is located at 32577 Garfield Road in Fraser.

Adrienne Gasperoni stated there are Substance Abuse Coalitions in many Macomb County cities and Townships that could use an active veteran's voice. If you are interested, please contact her.

Deanne Honeycut stated the next Point in Time event is the last week in January. This is when homeless people are counted around the county.

Liz Sargent states they have SSVF funds, please send referrals her way.

Darryle Johnson mentioned to make sure a veteran is aware of the Selfridge Visitor Center hours and operations before a veteran goes there for his/her ID card. They must visit the center 1st.

NEXT MEETING

March 2, 2020 at the MCA Training and Conference Room starting at 9:00 A.M.
There will be no Special Speaker.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.