

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Macomb Community Action Training Room
21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48038
Monday, June 03, 2019

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:05 am.

Attendees:

Susan Casadei, HHHC

Mark Meadows, VAMC

Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSCB

Josh Mathis, Vet Center

Ewart Jarrett, WSU

Sama Harp, MCA

Broderick Johnson, USCG

Stephen Boegehold, DHHS

John Thormina, Vet Services

Mark Diaz, VCCF

Emily Angus, Mission Continues

Nicole Gauthier (Co-Chair) Vet Navigator

Eric Jackson

Liz Sergent, MCA

Mike Dexter, MyCare Health

Gerald Fisher – Curley, VAMC

Joshua Puranen, Freestar Financial

William Cochran, Con Andy Levin

Mark Kilgore, CARE

Mary Beth Ryan, VCCF

John Babcock, Vet Boot Camp

Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, Veteran Services

Ashley Kotowski, Macomb Fam Services

Charlene Myers, NCOA/DAV

Susanne Sebree, Grace Counseling

Sharon Urban, Vet Services

Kevin Hrit, Senator Gary Peters office

Mike Johnson, AFGE

II. **INTRODUCTIONS**

The committee members went around the table and introduced themselves and the service organization to which they worked.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The May 06, 2019 minutes were approved as a matter of record.

IV. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

No new/old business at this time.

V. **SPECIAL SPEAKER:** Mary Beth Ryan, Veteran Construction Communities Foundation (VCCF) Homecare

The Foundation is still in St. Clair Shores, the home care is now located at 550 Stevenson Hwy Suite 450 B Troy Michigan 48083. The phone number is 586-200-2356, fax is 586-200-2358. This move was a need for more room. We currently have 3 field representatives, 2 are veterans. Our in office

staff has expanded to 3. We also have a VA accredited agent on staff and all 3 of our legal staff have VA accreditation. We are expanding in several states. We work with providers AND hire our own direct care givers. More news to come..... from the Foundation as well.

vi. **VCAT UPDATE:** No updates at this time

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Benefits/Communication: Laura was absent but wanted the collaborative to know that the June 12th Health Care Training had been postponed. It will be presented later in the year; possibly at the October MVAC meeting.

B. Employment: Mark Meadows stated there was not a lot of updates since the last meeting. I.T. and health care jobs are still “hot.” “The employment picture for our veterans is still hot.” He also strongly recommends sending veterans looking for employment to the boot camp. Please sign up for the employment newsletter for the latest in employment opportunities for veterans.

C. Services: Madeline stated there were hard copies of the Right Connection available for \$15 or you can read it online at the HSCB website: <http://connection.misd.net/> The flow charts are available on the Macomb County Veteran website: <https://vets.macombgov.org/Vets-Home> or the MVAC website: <https://mvac.macombgov.org/Mvac-Home>

D. Membership: Shaun was absent.

E. Faith Based: Rodney Tolbert absent.

F. Higher Education: Kara Fields was absent but she wanted the collaborative to know: Yoga and Meditation will be offered free for veterans at South Campus, on Thursday nights – starting August 29th. Flyers are attached for distribution.

VA Medical Center full-service onsite registration at Macomb Community College, South Campus, K Building.

Monday 7/15 – 9 am- 3 pm

Tuesday 7/16 – 1 pm – 6 pm

Event will include 2 registration teams, 2 primary care providers for same day visits, live demos from whole health including complementary and alternative therapies (Yoga, Acupuncture, etc.).

Walk ins welcome and appreciated. Refreshments will be served. Flyer coming soon...

(FYI: There are limited appointment slots each day for MCC students or unique situations.)

VIII. ROUND ROBIN

Gerald Fisher-Curley stated they are still accepting students for the AY 20 at the Detroit Medical Center. 8 of the 12 spots are filled.

Ashley Kotowski from Macomb Family Services stated they have been getting more involved with the Suicide Prevention Coalition and working with substance abuse prevention. They have services to help veterans apply for suspended or renewal to get their license back after they have been taken away due to DUIs. Please reach out to her regarding this and other programs.

Stephen Boegehold stated that veterans have a right to apply for DHHS services at any location at any time or online. Encourage your veterans to apply for housing help through DHHS. Please contact Stephen for more details.

John Babcock stated the 63rd Veteran Boot Camp is underway this week. They have 14 veterans confirmed to attend. They have the Wayne County Sheriff's office and a skilled trade's temp agency representative coming in to speak this week at the boot camp.

John Mathis stated he had flyers for the Trauma Sensitive Yoga, Meditation and Mindfulness and the Battlefield Acupuncture services through the Vet Center. All of these services are open to ALL veterans.

William Cochran, Congressman Andy Levin's office, stated he is the new Veteran Case Worker in his office.

Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards stated she has received the Battlefield Acupuncture a couple of times and says it is very beneficial to help reduce chronic pain.

Nicole Gauthier, stated she is the Veteran Navigator through Community Mental Health. Her job is to assist veterans who might be "falling in between the cracks" in regards to Substance Abuse and Mental Health. She can work with any veteran and/or a veteran family member. If you are interested in how her services help veterans she is available for presentations. Please contact her for additional information.

Ewart Jarrett, WSU Veterans Upward Bound, has a college prep program that helps veterans get into college. Please contact him at 313-577-9717 for more information regarding this program.

Mark Kilgore stated CARE has assessment services for license restoration, there is a fee for this service. He also states they have 2 grants for Narcan training. This training is free of charge and can help stop a person from overdosing. The 10th Annual Recovery Cruise on the Detroit Princess will be August 22nd. This cruise is for family members as well as those who are in recovery. No alcohol is served. There is also a Walk and Rally scheduled for September 14th at Belle Isle. Please contact Mark for additional information.

Joshua Puranen from Freestar Financial Credit Union has a home buying seminar on June 12th at the Harrison Township Library. Please contact Joshua for more information.

Kevin Hrit, Senator Gary Peter's office, has a 2 quick legislative updates from last month. The National Defense Authorization Act was passed through the senate. Senator Peter's was able to get one revision in to improve the coordination between the DOD and the VA and the VSOs that allows for the service members when they are departing who opt in to information sharing to VSO and the VA which should allow for additional information traveling. The second was a Bill they introduced this month to address Reserve and Guard benefit paperwork. If this bill is passed it would provide a DD214 for all detaching service members whether Active, Reserve or Guard. Currently Reserve and Guard members do not receive a DD214, which is required for most VA benefits. He suggested to have a presentation for providers to talk about the implementation of the Mission Act. His office would like to have feedback regarding "what is working and what is not working" with this Act.

Mark Meadows also stated a presentation regarding the Mission Act would be beneficial. The Women in Workplace event has been rescheduled for some time in August due to presenter conflicts.

Susanne Sebree, Grace Counseling, states they just started screening for veterans and she is here to "gain resources to be able to help their veterans." Please contact Susanne or visit their website: gracecounselingresources.com for more information about their organization.

Sama Harp stated she has flyers for the 30th Annual Senior Fun Festival Wednesday June 26th. This year it will be held at the Lorenzo Cultural Center at Macomb Community College. Please share the flyer with any seniors you may know.

Emily Angus, The Mission Continues, provided flyers for different events they are hosting. Please contact Emily or visit their website for more information: <https://missioncontinues.org/>

Mike Dexter provided flyers for the MyCare Annual Health Fair on Saturday August 10 at Market Street in Mt. Clemens.

IX. NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 05, 2019 starting at 9:00 A.M. at:

Macomb Community Action Training Room, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township

August Special Speaker: Nick Bolhuis, Neurocore Centers

September Special Speaker: Harold Vick Funeral Home

October Special Speakers: Gerald Fisher-Curly (Mission Act) Laura Rios (Health Care Training)

November Special Speaker: Diane Laskey, Grace Counseling

December Special Speaker: Angela Bower, Yoga Medics

X. ADJOURMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 A.M.