

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes  
Monday, May 2, 2016  
Haven Place Inc.  
58575 Main Street, New Haven, MI 48048

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by the Co-Chair, Laura Rios at 9:00 A.M.

**Attendees:**

Gabriella Barstow	AFSC/CFPB	Althea Kyles	VOA
Stephen Boegehold	DHHS	Joe McClellan	Buddy-to-Buddy
Marcie Burt	Michigan Works!	Mark Meadows	VAMC
L.V. Ervin	Shepard's Gate	Dawn O'Connor	Active Heroes
Kara Fields	MCC	Katie Page	Vet Center
Gerald Fisher-Curley	VAMC	Julie Patterson	Veterans Services
Chris Franklin	AIVOMI	Laura Rios	Veterans Services
A.C. Giles	TTI	Paulus Obey	SANG Family Support
Madeline Habib	MCCMH/HSCB	Shaun Taft	United Way SEM
Crystal Kinsman	WDA/Veterans	Dave Thomas	MVAA

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chris Franklin made a motion, supported by Madeline Habib, to approve the April 4, 2016 minutes. The motion carried.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was addressed.

**IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER: TINA NAGY, HAVEN PLACE INC.**

Tina Nagy and her husband, John, have done mission work in ten countries through their church. About three and a half years ago they decided to sell their home and purchase a place in New Haven to do mission work locally. They found a PNC bank that had sat vacant for six years and started the process to purchase it and turn it into Haven Place.

Haven Place is a non-profit that opened a year ago. It's hosted numerous events including youth camps, free tutoring, piano lessons, and guitar lessons. Haven Place does not charge any fees to use their facility and everything they have has been donated or worked on by volunteers. They sold the safes and blinds that were in the bank to the FBI and these were removed by a group of Seabees sent from Virginia.

Haven Place is a general community center. They're trying to reach veterans and so far have only had a few who are taking advantage of the guitar classes for them. Having only been open for a year, they are still getting the word out to the community that they exist. Tina said they are open to hosting events for veterans, such as those that teach job skills. They also open their facility to community groups.

## **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan**

Laura Rios, Mary Beth Ryan, and Madeline Habib went to Beaumont Hospital in April to educate their social workers about Veteran Benefits. They gave all sixteen social workers that attended the informational binders that were created. They also handed out surveys and received a good response. The Veteran's Services Office is assembling 50 more binders.

Laura requested that if anyone knows a hospital employee or social worker that can connect them to her to please let her know.

### **Jobs Committee: Crystal Kinsman/Mark Meadows**

Mark Meadows reported that today is the first day of the 12 week Vets to Agriculture program.

Mark also reports that Ford just called 30 veterans in for temporary jobs. GM has been posting one or two hourly jobs at a time for the last month or so. Chrysler is currently looking for skilled trades individuals to work there.

The VAMC is sponsoring a hiring event May 24, 2016 in Dearborn. The next four events that the VA is sponsoring will be a joint military/civilian event.

### **Services Committee: Madeline Habib**

These flow charts have been updated and have been posted on the MVAC website, which is now available. She requested that if anyone knows of any updates to let her know as these charts are a work in progress.

Education, Training and Employment Opportunities for Macomb County Veterans and their Families is the current flow chart being worked on.

There will be a meeting of the Services Committee after today's MVAC meeting to review the draft flow charts on Education, Training and Employment Opportunities for Macomb County Veterans and their Families.

The Transportation Flow Charts are the next set of flow charts to be developed.

Laura Rios took copies of the flow charts to the State Veterans Service Officers annual training so that other counties may implement something similar.

**Membership Committee: Shaun Taft**

Shaun Taft explained what people need to do to be added to the MVAC roster and get a nameplate. Shaun asked that only new people sign the sign-in sheet and that everyone on the roster check in on the roster.

Membership forms and the roster will be posted on the website <http://mvac.macombgov.org/>.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Gerald Fisher-Curley will be our Special Speaker at next month's MVAC meeting. He will be speaking about the VA HUD VASH Program, which helps chronically homeless veterans obtain housing. It is similar to the Section 8 Voucher Program.

Podio will continue to have lunch webinars twice a month to educate members on how to navigate and best utilize the program. Podio now boasts 300 users representing 150 agencies.

Dave Thomas of MVAA spoke about how people and agencies need to share ideas on a Regional basis instead of just on a County level.

**VII. ROUND ROBIN**

Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves, stated what agency they work for, and gave a brief description of what they do.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Monday, June 6, 2016 starting at 9:00 A.M. in the Verkuilen Building Training and Conference Center, 21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48036

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Patterson, Secretary