

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Macomb Community Action Training Room
21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48038
Monday, April 01, 2019

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

Attendees:

Susan Casadei, HHHC	Mike Dexter, MyCare Health
Chris Smith, St Clair VA	Gerald Fisher – Curley, VAMC
Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSCB	Megan Vinyard, MCC
Franklin Newman, AFSA	Brian Webb, SOM
Yolanda Spencer-Dandridge, VAMC	Mark Kilgore, CARE
Shaun Taft, Nat Kidney Foundation	Joshua Puraven, Free Star Financial
Darryle Johnson, Vet Services	Laura Rios (Co-Chair), Veteran Services
Stephen Boegehold, DHHS	Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, Veteran Services
Chris Franklin, AIVOMI	Susan McCain, Mission Ambition
Sama Harp, MCA	Charlene Myers, NCOA/DAV
Deanne Honeycutt, MHC	Emilee Angus, The Mission Continues
Kate Smith, Amicorps	Alexandra Zacks, DHHS
Emily Mastick, VAMC	Dean Shunk, Vet Services
Eric Jackson,	Patricia Wolschon, VAMC
Liz Sergent, MCA	Nicole Gauthier (Co-Chair), Veteran Navigator
David Hannum, Veteran Services	Kathy Koths
Keila Williams, MRS	Chris Reilly, Michigan Works!

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 March 04, 2019 minutes were approved as a matter of record.

IV. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

No new/old business at this time.

V. **SPECIAL SPEAKER:** Pat Wolschon, Director of Homeless Programming

The ultimate goal of the VA homeless program is to: “make Veteran homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.” There are four resources for homeless veterans within this program. There is a VA hotline which is available 24/7, its phone number is: 1-877-424-3838. The Veterans Community

Resource and Referral Center which is open 7 days per week/12 hours per day, its phone number is: 313-576-1580. The Healthcare for Homeless Veterans is a walk-in clinic open from 8:30 – 1:30 pm. The Inpatient Social Work Housing Consult is input by medical Social Workers. Housing All Veterans: goal is to connect veteran with most cost effective permanent housing option: rapid rehousing; subsidized housing, non-subsidized housing and permanent support housing. The impact from 2011 to 2018 per point in time count: In Macomb County; 30% reduction in veteran homelessness and 100% reduction in veterans who are unsheltered. For more information contact Patricia Wolschon at 313-576-100 X 64249.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Benefits/Communication: Laura Rios – The DIA is scheduling for their next Community Group Event for June, July and August for 12-20 participates. Please call Bylan at 313-578-6905 to schedule a group for this event. The Agent Orange list has added 3 presumptives to the list: Hypertension, Parkinson like symptoms, and Bladder Cancer. Gabe starts at the County in our office today. Her Financial Coaching class is mandatory for assistance with our 2 grant programs: Trust Fund and Relief Fund. The next Healthcare Education Training class will be June 12, 2019 at the MISD. This training will focus on how Medicare/Medicaid works with the VA Health Care as well as mental health and homelessness. This training will also go all day and will include lunch. To sign up for this event, please call our office at 586-469-5315.

B. Employment: Chris Reilly stated the 41B and Treatment Court will hold another job fair in June. There will also be a job fair for those who are impacted by the GM and contract staff layoffs. This will be held at the Sterling Inn on April 12, 2019. This is open to everyone but the target group is the people impacted by the GM layoffs. The event is open from 12 – 3 but if a person signs up by Monday April 8th, he or she can get in at 11. Chris also mentioned to look at the MichiganWorks! website for job listings. The Veterans Boot Camp starts today. Contact Chris for more information on any of these programs.

C. Services: Madeline Habib stated she had copies of the updated Transportation flow charts.

D. Membership: Shaun briefly mentioned how to sign in when coming to the meeting. She also mentioned how to get on the MVAC roster and get a name plate made.

E. Faith Based: Rodney Tolbert absent.

F. Higher Education: Kara Fields was absent

VII. ROUND ROBIN

Mark Kilgore mentioned they were starting their 2nd year with the DIA. He believes their program is a great one and encourages people to participate.

Chris Franklin has smoking cessation flyers available. There is also an AIVOMI Karaoke fundraiser event on Friday April 26, 2019 starting at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$5. There are flyers for this event available.

Megan Vineyard There is a job fair scheduled at the south campus Expo Center on April 24th from 4 – 7 pm. There is also a workshop on April 12th at the south campus from 10:00 – 11:00 and at the Center

campus from 1:00 – 2:00 that will help participants “do well” at job fairs. Please visit their website for more information.

Stephen Boegehold stated the April food benefits will be sent out the 2nd week in April. Then they will be back on schedule from the government shut down. He also reiterated DHHS has no crisis season any more, it is a 1 and done system for each fiscal year which runs from October 1st to September 30th. He asked the collaborative if they knew of any Bridges Navigation for Veterans in Macomb County so he can update his list.

Nicole Gauthier stated the Motor City VCAT meeting was rescheduled to this Friday April 5th. She is trying to get a program started in Macomb County for combat veterans and their spouses. She is also looking for veterans to help run this group with her as well as a location to host the program. This program works best with a way to have child care available and dinner. It is a 12 week long program that runs 2 hours one time a week. Please google rebootrecovery.com for more information.

Susan McCain was representing for Shelly Rood. She spoke briefly about the Female Peer Support Group which is not only for female veterans but also female first responders. There are 3 ways to connect with this group. 1) a Facebook page that can be joined online; 2) a subscription gift box that is sent out monthly to a member in the group. These are made available by sponsorship; 3) a Face to Face event. The first one will be held on April 14th. Please contact her or Shelly for more information on this and all programs.

Shaun Taft stated there will be a professional speed network being held on June 4th at the MISD building. This gives a chance for professionals to connect with a quick 1 – 2 minute summary of their services. Within the 1 ½ hours of this event, you could connect with 100s of professionals. Please sign up early if you would like to attend.

Brian Webb strongly endorses and recommends the Reboot Recovery program. There is a Faith Based initiative being coordinated by former Senator Bill Hardeman out of Lansing. This event will be held on May 2nd and 3rd in Grand Rapids; May 6th and 7th in Frankenmuth; July 18th and 19th in Marquette; and August 15th and 16th in Lansing. Brian will get more information out to the collaborative regarding this initiative event soon.

Emily Angus talked about The Mission Continues. This is a nonprofit organization that is veteran led. All veterans, active duty, civilians, and their families are invited to participate. There is a National Volunteer event on April 10th and on April 13th on Belle Isle they will be partnering with Team Rubicon, Team Red, White and Blue and the Macomb County Vet Center for a Run as One event. Please contact Emily for more information on these events and other upcoming events.

Keila Williams reminded the collaborative that their services were for any people with disabilities. They help people find and keep employment. One of their biggest service networks is for people with hearing loss. They can help people get hearing aids.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, May 06, 2019 starting at 9:00 A.M. at:
Macomb Community Action Training Room, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township

Special Speaker: Jacqui Rabine, MSU Extension: Stressless with Mindfulness

VIII. ADJOURMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.
