

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Macomb Community Action Training Room
21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48038
Monday, December 03, 2018

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:08 am.

Attendees:

Wendy Martindale, St. Clair Cty CMH

Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSCB

Mike Johnson, AFGE

Justin Baldwin, 1st BN 24th Marines

Julie Hintz, MCA

Darryle Johnson, Vet Services

Stephen Boegehold, DHHS

Katie Page, Vet Center

Sharon Urban, Vet Services

Jonathan Drake, Simply Blessed Catering

Elizabeth Sergent, MCA

Colton Darrow, TTI

Adrienne Gasperoni, CARE

Doug Cann, Vet Services

Darryle Johnson, Vet Services

Nicole Gauthier, Veteran Navigator

Kara Fields, MCC

Paulus Obey, Selfridge Family Support

Joseph Rodgers, VOA

Mark Kilgore, CARE

Christy Koons, Region 10 PIHP

Laura Rios (Co-Chair), Macomb Veteran Services

Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, Macomb Veteran Services

Franklin Newman, AFSA

Charlene Myers, NCOA/DAV

Chris Reilly, Michigan Works!

Joann Sterne, MC Crisis Center

Gabriella Barthlow, AFSC/CFPB

Sama Harp, MCA

Broderick Johnson, US Coast Guard

David Hannum, Vet Services

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 November 5th minutes were approved as a matter of record with the changes to remove Bill Browning's 2nd name off of the attendee list; his name was listed twice.

IV. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

The Bark A Bout funder raiser for Prevention Concepts Solutions raised over \$3,800.

The MVAA grant that Macomb County Veteran Services applied for was approved. Gabriella Barthlow (Financial Counseling) and the Vita Tax Site Coordinator were approved. The Vita Tax Coordinator will start in January 2019 and Gabriella will be under the Macomb County umbrella at the end of March 2019. The Veteran Services department were also approved for an advertising grant. Part of the tax grant approval was to seek additional ways to process veteran's taxes. Laura is working with Selfridge to set up a date during a drill weekend for veterans to have their taxes prepared.

- v. **SPECIAL SPEAKER:** Stephen Boegehold and Julie Hintz (utility assistance)
Stephen and Julie spoke about the changes to the SER programs that took place October 2018. These programs help with emergent needs, i.e. utilities, rent, security deposit, and home repair. They passed out handouts summarizing their presentation. The first service provider that a person needs to contact would be DHHS (SER) to determine eligibility. After DHHS determines this, other service providers such as MCA (MEAP) could possibly help with any additional needs. Anyone can apply for any or all SER programs. DHHS has 10 days from the date of application to determine eligibility for the SER program. Household has to have less than \$50 in the bank or there will be a copay for the applicant. Any money will not be submitted toward the emergent need until all other service providers have committed to pay their portions, if applicable. Basic items to bring to apply would include: proof of emergency (court order or shut off) proof of bank account (any income change from previous applications) ID, Birth Certificates, and proof of residence. A hand out was also provided that detailed DHHS Navigation partners. This hand out was a listing that listed Agency Name, County, and level of partnership was offered. There are three levels of partnership: Access (computers are available at the location to apply for help), Referral (accept referral through the online system) and Navigator (onsite person to help the applicant through the application process).

The Veteran Service Department's 2 grant programs, The Michigan Trust Fund and the Macomb County Veteran's Relief Fund, both require veterans to apply through the above programs before applying to these programs.

vi. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Benefits/Communication: Laura mentioned in the New/Old Business section about the MVAA grant approval for Gabby and the Vita Tax Site Coordinator.
- B. Employment: Chris Reilly stated there were 20 people who signed up for the December boot camp but only 6 people showed up. The VCAs are now available at the Boot Camp. There is a lot more professional veteran resource involvement. The State of Michigan through the Talent Investment Agency has created a standard single log in process in the computer system, it is called My Log In. DHHS is not on that system yet. The Secretary of State is already using this system. Unfortunately during the 2 weeks Michigan Works! has been using this site, it has not worked very well. The idea is to have one Michigan log in for all State systems. Their Career workshops will be changing next month. The Big 3 are in shut down for the holiday and are not hiring or seeking people to hire.
- C. Services: Madeline stated the Mental Health Flowcharts are updated. She is working on updating the utilities flowchart.
- D. Membership: Shaun Taft was not in attendance
- E. Faith Based: Rodney stated that almost to the end of Thanksgiving he gave out over 100 boxes of food to veterans and widows of veterans. He received his LLC for his business and is looking for donations. He is still the Chaplain on Selfridge. He is also the Pastor at Liberty Mission Baptist Church. He does not have anything scheduled for December but if you know of someone who needs food, please let him know by December 15th.
- F. Higher Education: Kara: Higher Education: Kara: Update for Forever GI Bill: VA has put everything on hold, and are doing the RFP process. They are looking at vendors to come in and do an overhaul of the process with the goal of being done by December 2019. Another Congressional hearing stated the payments would be correct by January 2020. In the winter of 2020, schools may have to transmit more data to VA which could create additional back logs. The current payment back log for housing is basically over; most have been paid and are being paid timely. When all the changes are in VA's system

in 2020, those who were underpaid will get their full payment and those who were overpaid, will not have to pay it back. Kara is available to speak more in-depth about this program and situation, please contact her for additional details.

VII. ROUND ROBIN

Adrienne Gasperoni: CARE will be having its annual parenting conference on March 23, 2019. They are looking for people who are interested in presenting information on parenting. i.e. are there special considerations with veterans and parenting? A few members suggested: Homefront Strong, Tri-Care special families insurance for families with special needs who have high medical expenses, U of M Family Strong and PMTO through Mental Health.

Mark Kilgore: talked about the DIA's community program. Please go to the DIA until Jan 6 to see the art work the participants did through this program. A speaker for the DIA will be presenting at the February Collaborative meeting.

Gabriella Barthlow: Please keep sending her veterans and dependents for financial coaching.

Chris Franklin: There are flyers available for the smoking cessation program.

Dean Shunk: Voc Rehab has not yet been expiring the problems with payment. But they are updating their operating system next year.

Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards: Moment of silence in remembrance for the death of former President George H. W. Bush.

Justin Baldwin: just wanted to introduce himself, member of the Active Duty staff 1st BN 24th Marines. He was just given the job of Readiness Coordinator.

Julie Hintz: Meals on Wheels need volunteers. Minimum requirements are 2 delivers a month. MCA has 2 Show Me the Money events coming up in February. These are financial empowerment events with workshops. As soon as the flyers are out, she will bring them in to the collaborative.

Madeline Habib: The CMH Director is retiring in January 2019, his replacement is David Pankotai. As of right now, they do not know if he will be taking over the leadership of the HSCB.

Brian Webb: The Female veteran centered program, Peer Support Program, will end in January 2019. They are also looking to start a female mental health and substance abuse program. They are starting a faith based initiative in all 10 regions. They will be looking for a small coalition of individuals with a faith based background that will be willing to work together with our CMH and navigators in Macomb County.

Nicole Gauthier: introduced herself and said she had business cards

Katie Page: provided a flyer with the winter dates of the Trauma Sensitive Yoga class that is held at MCC. She also invited everyone to the Army/Navy game event being held Saturday December 8 at the Vet Center. It starts at 2:30.

Laura Rios: please leave your gift at the door so she can drop it off at the Chapter 154. The bullet proof vests cost \$700 to \$1000 for per dog. Please go the GoFundMe web site to make a donation to this worthy cause.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Monday, January 7, 2019 starting at 9:00 A.M. at:

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

Special Speaker: Madeline Habib: Using Existing Service Networks in Macomb County

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.