

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Monday, June 4, 2018
Macomb Community Action Training Room
21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, MI

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:06 am.

Attendees:

| | |
|---|--|
| Christopher Golema, 127 W61 FRG | |
| Crystal Bersche, SOM Veterans Employment Services | |
| Adrienne Gasperoni, CARE | Colton Darrow, TTI |
| Ojaruega, Emuobosam, Selfrige | Stephen Bilan, VFW Post 6250 |
| Bill Browning, Detroit VA Medical Center | Katie Bonham, Macomb Veteran Services |
| Charlene Myers, NCOA/DAV | Laura Rios (Co-Chair), Macomb Veteran Services |
| Chris Franklin, American Indian Vets of MI, Inc. | Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, Macomb Veteran Services |
| Bill Browning, VAMC | Chris Golema, 127 WG/Family Readiness Selfrige |
| Susan Casadei, Harbor Health Home Care | Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSBC |
| Jonathan & Tiffany Drake, Simply Blessed Catering | Mark Kilgore, CARE of Southeastern Michigan |
| Joseph Rodgers, HVRP, VOA | Chris Reilly, Michigan Works! |
| Gerald Fisher-Curley, VAMC | Rodney Tolbert, Dr. |
| David Maczik, The Standing Company | Sama Harp, Macomb Community |
| Chris Franklin, AIVofMi | Mason Turrell, MCC |
| Joann Sterne, McCrisis Center | Yolanda Spencer-Danddrige, VAMC |
| Sharon Urban, Macomb Veteran Services | |

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves and stated what agency or business they represent. Laura Rios reminded everyone that there will be no collaborative meeting in July.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rodney Tolbert made a motion to accept the minutes as written, Crystal Bersche seconded the motion, and it was approved by the collaborative.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Nothing to report

V. SPECIAL SPEAKER

David Maczik from The Standing Company presented the wheel chair that goes from seated to standing. This company has been in business for over 30 years. It is a veteran owned business and employees veterans. It is also based in Saginaw. Mr. Maczik demonstrated how easy it was to go from a seated position to a standing position in the wheelchair he brought. The chairs are custom made and very stable. He stated that "sitting is the new smoking" and mentioned how people in wheelchairs easy develop pressure sores, urinary tract infections, and other bowl conditions. The wheelchair he brought in was a manual chair but there are power

versions that can be used. The company is on a VA contract and wheelchairs can be free to veterans who have a prescription from the VAMC. For more information please visit: thestandingcompany.com.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan

Laura stated the Macomb County Veteran Service office has an opening for a VSO I. We hope to have this position filled within a month. She also stated the office has been approved to hire two more VSOs this year. These will be posted later this year.

Baker College offers veterans dental cleaning and Xrays for \$30. These are basically the two services they provide. There is an application process and you have to make an appointment and show proof that you are a veteran. There is also a Mycare dental service that provides most all dental services and their fees are based on a sliding scale.

Jobs Committee: Crystal Bersche/Mark Meadows

The Big 3 (Ford, Chrysler, GM) are gearing down for their shut down which is around the 4th of July. Most Tier 1 and 2 companies are also gearing down during this time. The news states the job market is strong in Michigan, Mark reiterates one of the most important things is to “marry the expertise of the veteran to the jobs available.” Send all veterans who are seeking employment to him, Crystal and/or the boot camp. There is a Job Fair next week, June 14th at Ford Field. Over 60 different vendors are expected to participate and there is usually a lot of veterans who come out. Please also guide your veterans to the event; the flyer is in the newsletter. Crystal met with a representative at DTE, they are in dire need of tree trimmers. She will be meeting with representatives from Jarvis Restoration in Mount Clemens and Chemico Systems in Chesterfield this week. Jarvis is also in need of labor type employees while Chemico is has openings for Supply and Logistics positions. She will send this information to Laura. Please sign up for the employment newsletter for additional information, flyers, and up to the minute job opportunities.

Services Committee: Madeline Habib

Madeline presented the Legal Service Flowchart and asked the committee to view it for any changes. If there are not any changes, this will be the final copy. The flowchart is on the MVAC website. Laura will also link The Standing Company’s web address on the MVAC website.

Membership Committee: Shaun Taft

Shaun is out today. Laura: membership applications are available and membership is free of charge.

Faith Based Committee: Dr. Rodney Tolbert

Dr. Tolbert asked the collaborative to send him any Veteran Day services, activities, or promotions to him for the upcoming Veteran’s Day. He also said Selfridge was looking for a full time Chaplin. The person had to active duty and be under the age of 45.

Higher Education: Mason Turnell

This year’s Patriot Day event will be held at the expo center of the MCC south campus. The date is Saturday September 15, 2018 from 10 until 2. They are looking for vendors, help advertising and getting the VA to attend. If you have any ideas, or want to have your organization represented at the event, please

contact Mason or Laura. So far they are looking to have haircuts and chiropractic care for humans and pets. The MVAC Steering committee will be discussing this event at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

VII. ROUND ROBIN

Crystal and Gabriella's commission as Chair and Co-chair of the Region 10 VCAT is up, the VCAT will soon be looking for a new Chair and Co-chair.

Mark Kilgore: Greater Macomb Project Vox will be hosting a Messaging training on June 19th from 9am – 1 pm. This is a free training. Vox is also hosting the 9th annual recovery cruise on the Detroit Princess on August 16th (the cruise is for those in recovery, their family members and those who support recovery). Post cards were distributed for the Camp CARE taking place this summer for children whose lives have been affected by addiction, the camp is 2 weeks and free. (Please see flyers provided) There is also a Ride 4 Recovery on September 30 where you can choose a 10 mile, 25 mile or 40 mile ride. Please contact www.careofsem.com to sign up or for additional information.

Sama Harp mentioned the annual Senior Fun Fest that will be held Tuesday June 12th from 9 until 12. This is a free event and includes tables on Wellness, Health and Live Entertainment.

Stephen Boegehold stated DHHS's crisis season is over. The new season will start November 1, 2018. They can still possibly help with water bills, housing repairs and evictions. He suggested to have veterans contact MCA and Veteran Services.

Bill Browning stated they are being visited by the American Legion this week as part of their System worth Saving review of the VA medical Facilities. They make recommendations to the VA Secretary and VA President based on these visits. American Legion is also hosting a Town Hall meeting tonight at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Detroit. The American Legion do this throughout the country to provide details about what they do and to also hear what they could do better. The Fisher House foundation received their first 50K donation from the Michigan Masons. This will go toward building the Fisher House. Only Ann Arbor and Detroit were selected sites to build a Fisher House.

Mark Meadows states the Drivers Responsibility fees will go away October 1, 2018. People can begin to go into SOS on October 5 to put in an application to have their license reinstated. The veteran will still be responsible for this fee.

Chris Reilly said there is a program going on through SOS and the Treasury department where a veteran can get the Driver Responsibility fees waived even earlier AND not have to pay the application fee to get their license reinstated. The veteran would have to go through a minimum of 10 hours of job searching through Michigan Works! to be eligible for this program. Please direct any questions to SOS.

Rodney Tolbert is running for Macomb County Commission in District 9. His platform is to look after veterans, seniors and to improve our roads.

Steve Bilan talked briefly about Operation Suit Up. This program gives suits and most any other dress related items to veterans who have completed the Michigan Works! Bootcamp so they will be ready to go for a job interview. They also have suits for females. The veteran does not have to be a Macomb County resident. Please call him at 586-292-1824 for additional information.

Zack from TTI states there is still funding available for rapid housing, utilities, and car repair.

Gerald Curley stated Harbor Light transitional housing will be closing September 30th. If you have veteran who wants to go through the 90 day program, they have until July 1st to apply and to get through their last program.

A lot of the Round Robin speakers do not identify themselves and do not speak loudly or clearly enough to get their information into the minutes.

NEXT MEETING

August 6, 2018. Special Speaker: Kathy Fazzalare – Narcan Training

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am by Laura Rios.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Urban