

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes  
Monday, September 10, 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:**

Gerald Fisher-Curley, VA	Stephen Boegehold, DHHS
Doug Cann, Macomb Veterans Services	Katie Bonham, Macomb Veteran Services
Mike Dexter, MyCare Health Center	Jennifer Kimm, Michigan Works!
Dan Bowman, Michigan Disability Lawyers	Darryle Johnson, Macomb Veteran Services
Bill Browning, Detroit VA Medical Center	Greg Cronce, Macomb Veteran Services
Jason Foltz, Prevention Concepts	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	Mark Meadows, VAMC
Sharon Urban, Macomb Veteran Services	Charlene Myers, NCOA/DAV
Danny Cusenza, Prevention Concepts	Chris Franklin, AIVofMI
Franklin Newman, AFSA	Dawn Revyn, VOA
Chris Golema, Selfridge	

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 August 06, 2018 minutes were approved by the collaborative, with no corrections. A motion was presented by Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards and a second from Chris Franklin.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

V. **SPECIAL SPEAKER**

Special speaker did not show.

VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Benefits/Communication

Laura spoke about the VSOs the veteran office has just hired. She will be representing the MVAC at the MISD Volunteer Fair. She reminded the committee that if they wanted to volunteer at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Freedom Fest, to let her know.

B. Employment

Mark Meadows stated the employment opportunities are high in the Metro Detroit area. He stated, "If your veteran is not working, it is because they don't really want to." The best two companies to gain employment through right now is Michigan Works! and VA Workforce Development. The Big 3 is in a

holding pattern for production but the Tier 1 suppliers are hiring. Mark suggested to read the news letter to keep abreast of the latest employment opportunities. If you know of a job opportunity, please send it to Mark so he can put it in the news letter.

C. Services

Madeline was not present. Laura stated there was no new flow charts being worked on. If the committee has an idea for a flow chart, please let her or Madeline know.

D. Membership

Shaun was not present. Laura passed the roster around the table and asked each member to look it over to see if there were people listed that either did not attend the MVAC or left the organization listed.

E. Faith Based

Rodney was not present.

F. Higher Education

Kara was not present but she emailed the latest updates. We included them on the agenda for this meeting.

G. Round Robin

Stephen from DHHS: there are new guidelines starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. The crisis season will be extended. Veteran and families will only get a maximum of \$850 for utilities and can only request 1X. He will clarify at the next meeting. Please call him with questions: 586-530-6691.

Mark Meadows: Workforce Development employers around all demographics will look back 5 years instead of 7 years. There is still a concern with hiring very violent people due to insurance reasons.

Bill Browning: VA has entered into the formal process to acquire the property at East Palmer and John R, approximately .5 mile from Detroit VAMC. VA Central Office will conduct the negotiations with the City of Detroit officials. The land acquisition is expected to be completed within 12-18 months. They applied for a grant from ACS to help transport patients undergoing cancer treatment at the medical center; this would be for patients who have other means to make their appointment. The next Red Carpet Registration will be October 27th .

Chris Franklin: He would be happy to come to your organization to talk about the Smoking Cessation project.

Dean Shunk: The VA outreach office here in Macomb County exceeded its targets for the end of the fiscal year. It is the most successful outreach in the state.

Darryle Johnson: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Patriot Ruck for 911 remembrance was successful. There were over 1,200 attendees; 30 employers; and 20 service organizations. He invited everyone to come out and support it next year.

Lisa Marie: The VVA Chapter 154 will be hosting a MIA/POW all-night vigil at Resurrection Cemetery. The vigil will begin at 6:00 PM.

Dan Bowman: is now working with Michigan Disability Lawyers. The firm currently has 2 attorneys on staff.

Dawn Revyn: mentioned Safe Haven will be closing September 30, 2018 Salvation Army Harbor Light will be closing September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Charlene Meyers: reminded the commission about the Retiree Appreciation Day at Selfridge Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9:00 AM.

Gerald Curley – Fisher: The SSVF program will be expanded. Salvation Army Harbor Light will be closing September 30, 2018.

Jason Fotz & Danny Cusenza: Prevention Concepts will be having an event October 14<sup>th</sup> for veterans and First Responders.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

Monday November 5 at the **Macomb Community College Center Campus**  
**44575 Garfield Road CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48038**

**VIII. ADJOURMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.