

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Monday, December 4, 2017
Macomb Community Action Training Room
21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, MI

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Crystal Kinsman.

Attendees:

Alysa Wamsler, Training and Treatment Innovations	Katie Page, Macomb County Vet Center
Chris Franklin, American Indian Vets of MI, Inc.	Laura Rios (Co-Chair), Macomb Veteran Services
Christopher Golema, 127 W61 FRG	Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, Macomb Veteran Services
Crystal Bersche, SOM Veterans Employment Services	Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSBC
Daun Revin, VCA	Mark Meadows, VA Medical Center
Gerald Fisher-Curley, John D. Dingell VA Medical Ctr	Nikkie Hochberg, CARE of Southeastern Michigan
Gerald Thomas, Dearborn Vet Center	Rodney Tolbert, Dr.
Henry Storm, USN, Retired	Ronald Matten
Jen Weallans, Captel	Shaun Taft, What Works LLC
Jeremy Vonka, Macomb Veteran Service Office	Stacia Miller, SSAMAC
Joe McClellan, American Legion	Stephen Heid, Advanced Placement Services
Jonathan Drake, Simply Blessed Catering Veteran Owned	Wendy Martindale, St. Clair County Community Mental Health
Kara Fields, Macomb Community College	William Schranz, MCCMH
Kate Logan, Michigan Veteran Affairs	Yolanda Spencer-Dandridge, VA Medical Center

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees of the meeting introduced themselves and stated what agency or business they represent.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 06, 2017 Minutes were accepted as read.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

No old business discussed.

V. SPECIAL SPEAKER

DECEMBER SPECIAL SPEAKERS: Henry Storm. Red Carpet Volunteer Registration with the VA through this volunteer program pairs veterans with volunteers who will walk them through the process of registering with the VA for medical care. This process includes accompanying the veteran to the VA, helping them find their firm, helping them get their ID cards, helping register on MyHealtheVet, etc... Ideally, Macomb Veteran Services will compile volunteers to learn this process, formulate a training program and will begin performing this service. This is a navigation service. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

Stacia Miller. Sailor, Soldier, Airman and Marine Access Center. SSAMAC provides free and low cost legal services for veterans, active duty and retired military and their dependents. No criminal law services are

provided but all forms of civil, VA benefit, SSA benefit and focus on removing barriers to employment (driver license restoration; discharge upgrades; expungements; etc...)

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan

Laura is working on finding a location for a clothes closet. She will be checking with VVA Chapter 54 to see if they can accommodate.

Handmade cards for the troops to be able to send home to their loved ones. 586-995-1963 "Desert Angels" They are looking for card-making supplies.

New ID card project for all veterans. You can upload a picture to the website and get an ID. Macomb Veteran Services will be performing the service of providing that ID as soon as they can get the necessary equipment.

Jobs Committee: Crystal Bersche/Mark Meadows

Ford will be doing hiring/testing in December. Mark needs veteran contact information to add to testing list (12/7 deadline).

Veteran job availability is very hot right now.

Services Committee: Madeline Habib

Madeline has been updating the flow charts and the updates are available on the website.

There are two new Veteran Navigators: William Schranz and Christy Combs. Wayne County is looking for a full time Navigator.

Membership Committee: Shaun Taft

All members should initial the roster to ensure they are reflected in attendance on the meeting minutes. New members should sign in. If you would like to be a member, you should complete a membership form. Madeline can get a permanent tent printed for you if you would like.

Faith Based Committee: Dr. Rodney Tolbert

If you have families in need of food, please give Rodney the information because he has food basket resources available.

Education/Employment: Kara Fields

Veterans need more than just help with education benefits, they also need help with education goal counseling. There are points of contact at numerous educational institutions to help with that. Contact Kara for information on those contacts.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

The steering committee has new speakers lined up to present at the upcoming MVAC meetings. December's presentation will be on Red Carpet Volunteer Registration.

VIII. ROUND ROBIN

This Friday (12/8) is the Region 10 Motor City VCAT Meeting from 10:00 – 12:00 at Macomb Community College in Bldg. K, Room 324. All are welcome.

Chris Franklin – American Indian Veterans: Working on smoking cessation program, numbers are down.

Supportive Services for Veteran and Family: Focus is HUDVash and focusing on those in danger of becoming homeless and those that are homeless and ensuring they are connected with the right program.

William Schranz – MCCMH: Resource for veterans who need help.

Congratulations to Kara and her crew for making Gold Level for veteran services.

Stephen: State emergency applications should be filed now for assistance with utilities and furnace repair/replacement through the state. Please look at the utilities flow chart. I have a referral for someone who knows about managing a clothes closet. Arts organizations (Havens Place) for veteran therapy.

I can't hear anyone, please use the microphone.

Stacia Miller – SSAMAC: We need money and volunteers and we are here to help.

Christy Combs – I am still learning my position and will be living in Macomb County.

Rodney Tolbert - In January I will not be available, I will be in Utah for reserve duty.

Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams initiative. Every night in December people will be outside Children's Hospital with flashlights signaling the children in the hospital.

TSgt. Golema – Selfridge ANG Family Readiness: Holiday Earth Angels organization donates Christmas trees and decorations. They go house to house and deliver the tree, decorate it and deliver a basket of food. This year is done but keep them in mind for next year. Vet tix website plug.

Stephen Heid – Advanced Placement Services: We place seniors in advanced care and work with veterans.

This Saturday at the Vet Center is the Army/Navy potluck. 2:30 pm, bring a dish if you can.

Jen Weallans – Captel: Captel provides free captioned telephones for people with hearing loss. It is available in all 50 states to all people (not limited to Veterans).

Jonathan Drake - Simply Blessed Catering: Reminder to pay attention to the disability notices and question everything.

Gerald Thomas – Dearborn Veteran Center: National WWII Museum in New Orleans is donating scarves that were knitted by volunteers. Contact Gerald if you have need for scarves.

Kate Logan – MVAA: 4 year strategic plan is available for review. Please check out the website: michiganveteran.com and provide any feedback.

Ron Matten: This is my first time here but I want to get involved.

Macomb Family Services has counselors trained to work with veterans. Also, I'm working with the National Kidney Foundation and we are looking for Genesee, Lenawee and Livingston county connections for the Reggie Rainbow program.

Kara Fields – MCCC: We have a position available in the veteran military services office. Trauma Sensitive Yoga is returning.

Save the date HSCB Traveling Tours on May 16 & 17.

NEXT MEETING

The next MVAC meeting will be begin at 9:00A.M. on **January 8, 2018**. The meeting will be in the Macomb Community Action Training Room at 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township, MI.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. by Laura Rios.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacia A. Miller