

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
Monday, October 04, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:02 A.M.

**II. ATTENDEES:**

Laura Rios	Kevin Hrit	Julie Hintz	Kara Fields	Jeff Arnold	Diane laskey
Marie Goral	Chris Rilly	Teena Sawicki	Katie Carroll	Tiffany Carr	Cynthia Ponton
David Hannum	Sarah Moore	Paul Salcepudes	April Clipper	Lisamarie Duncan-Edwards	
Brian(No last name provided)	Gabriella Barthlow	Ninette Probyn		Melissa Palonis	
Lisa Bowling					

**III. INTRODUCATIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Laura asked all attendees to enter their name in the chat box.**

The August 2, 2021 meeting minutes were approved and recorded as written.

**IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER:**

1<sup>st</sup> speaker: **Tiffany Carr**- Michigan Veteran Home

In the Grand Rapids location, there are mainly Vietnam Veterans. In the Chesterfield location, there are more of a variety of WWII, and Korean Veterans. In Chesterfield, there are 128 private rooms, 4 unique neighborhood buildings. It's skilled nursing, 29,000 sq ft, and 33,000 sq ft community center. Total cost was 76.5 Million, 46.1 million provided through federal grant awarded by the US. The Department of Veterans Affairs grant program supply 30.4 million from the state. This is owned and operated by the State of Michigan.

2<sup>nd</sup> Speaker **Ninette Probyn**: She is a Veteran, and woks at Selfridge air base one weekend a month currently. The Michigan Veteran affairs agency is looking for RN & LPN's, Transporter, CNA, Food Service and volunteer opportunities. The Volunteer opportunities Outdoor Fall clean up, 1:1 Veteran visits, Bingo, Poker, and card nights. Also, pet therapy! The Michigan Veteran home also has a wish list for supplies for the veterans and their wives living in the home. If you want to donate please contact Ninette probyn @ 586-210-7119 or probynn@michigan.gov.

**V. AGENCY UPDATES:**

**April Clipper**; Military one Source,  
Free services, transportation, wounded worrier project.

**Chris Rilly; from Macomb/S.t Clair MiWorks!:** Grants are coming, training and placement. October was supposed to be boot camp, but they are working half in the office and half at home. No Boot camp for October. They will keep an eye on the numbers and the variants.

The pandemic money has stopped and since unemployment benefits stopped, the job market is still in need of workers. The reason they predict so many help wanted signs are because of the childcare, they cannot find it so they can go back to work.

**Diane Laskey;** NEW Veteran navigator for Macomb County! She has social work as her career background. She works out of Selfridge also. She will email Laura Rios her contact information and Laura will forward on to everyone to utilize.

**Jeff Arnold;** Oakland County, not much to report. He was excited for Veterans week.

**Julie Hintz;** Macomb Community Action. SSVF is ongoing, Cera is the newest covid program, it's an income based program for rental, utilities program.

**Katie Carroll;** Use the Cera application first, before we send them to Trust fund and relief fund. Katie can print them off for the veteran, or they may go to the website. <https://ceraapp.michigan.gov/>

**Kevin Hirt;** Nothing to report.

**Paul Salcepudes;** Work force development. Sill not in person, but he will see Veterans if they request an in person meeting. Since unemployment end, referrals are sent out now.

**Teena;** Suicide prevention coordinator at the VA Detroit. They had a Facebook live event for National suicide prevention month in September. They have hired a new role, as partnership coordinators. The roles of that position will be working in the community implementing a specific goal.

**Kara Fields;** Macomb Community College is not back on campus, but 1-2 people are on site. They have had 32 changes to the GI Bill the tuition debt is now falling on the Veteran and the college, not the VA. This has been impacting enrollment, they cannot enroll with an outstanding balance. Open house with MCCC is Oct 4 @ 4-7 pm.

**Adrienne Gasperoni;** Care now has peer recovery. Free actives, groups and service people with substance abuse 10 and above.

**VI. VCAT UPDATE/MVAA UPDATES:**

Vcat update; Kara Fields; Still maintain Fall quarter meetings, employment partnering with the MVAA, the next VCAT meeting is December 17, 2021 Any more updates will be posed to facebook as soon as they are determined.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

December 06, 2021- virtual by WebEx @ 9:00 am

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 A.M.