

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes  
Monday, April 3, 2017  
Macomb Community Action Training Room  
21885 Dunham Rd, Clinton Township, MI

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Crystal Kinsman, at 9:00 A.M.

**Attendees:**

Gary Purcell, <i>VVA 154</i>	Ellen Palmer, <i>Macomb Homeless Coalition</i>
Susan Casadei, <i>Harbor Health Homecare</i>	Steve Bago, <i>VVA 154</i>
Rodney Toubant, <i>Pastor</i>	Jonathan Drake, <i>Simply Blessed Catering</i>
Jason Abro, <i>Humana</i>	Gabriella Barthlow, <i>AFSC/CFPB</i>
Stephen Boegehold, <i>Department of Health and Human Services</i>	Zachery Dieck, <i>Training and Treatment Innovations</i>
Kate Logan, <i>MVAA</i>	Kara Fields, <i>Macomb Community College</i>
Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, <i>Macomb Veteran Serves</i>	Gerald Fisher-Curly, <i>John D. Dingell VA Medical Center</i>
Basil Forrest, <i>Army Community Service Survivor Outreach</i>	Crystal Kinsman (Co-Chair), <i>SOM Veteran Employment Services</i>
Joyce Schleicher, <i>MCCMH/UBHC</i>	Joann Sterne, <i>MCCMH/Crisis Center</i>
Charlene Myers, <i>NCOA/DAV</i>	Dean Shunk, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Laura Rios (Co-Chair), <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>	Chris Reilly, <i>Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works</i>
Mary Beth Ryan, <i>Vets Constructing Communities Foundation</i>	Sue Walker, <i>Salvation Army Harbor Light</i>
Mark Kilgore, <i>CARE of Southeastern Michigan</i>	Heather Whited, <i>Macomb Community Action</i>
Madeline Habib, <i>MCCMH/HSCB</i>	Althea Kyles, <i>Volunteers of America-Warren</i>

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Members of the group proposed the following corrections to the minutes from March's MVAC meeting:

1. Stephen Boegehold's last name has a typo on page 3 and should be corrected.

A motion was made to approve the minutes with the corrections, Madeline Habib 1<sup>st</sup>, Kara Fields 2<sup>nd</sup>, AIF.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

Laura Rios: A date for the Town Hall Veteran Access meeting needs to be finalized.

## **V. SPECIAL SPEAKER**

1. Joyce Schleicher-UBHC (Urgent Behavioral Health Center): They are located on Garfield across from the MISD, open 7 days/week, 24 hours/day. They are an urgent center that treats people on a walk-in basis who are having a crisis, their role is to de-escalate the crisis and assist the client. They will assess the person using crisis intervention and a risk assessment to find out what that person needs to end their crisis. The UBHC staff works with clients to connect them with appropriate services to end their crisis and stabilize them. A member asked if there is a residency requirement, Joyce advised that they would not turn anyone away but would work to link them with services in their county. Laura Rios asked if they were treating people with addiction, Joyce advised that they are not a medical facility but if they assess a person who is highly intoxicated they will contact emergency services to transport that person to the local ER. Another member asked if they provide transportation to the center, Joyce replied that the center staff cannot transport a person but in special high risk situations they may help out with a cab. Madeline Habib asked if the client has to pay for services, Joyce responded that the person would be responsible for co-pays if their insurance requires that. If a client does not have insurance there is not set fee for services, the UBHC accepts Medicaid. The UBHC also serves Veterans; they would connect that Veteran with the services for Macomb and also work with the VA to provide treatment for the Veteran. The UBHC tries to treat clients in the least restrictive environment. Laura Rios is going to connect Joyce with Katie from the Vet Center to discuss a partnership for when they receive walk in clients who are in crisis. Joyce estimates that they serve about 300 people per month.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan**

No updates at this time.

### **Jobs Committee: Crystal Kinsman/Mark Meadows**

Laura Rios advised the group that the Job Fair at the VA Medical Center was very successful.

### **Services Committee: Madeline Habib**

Madeline Habib reports that the utility flow chart has been completed but a third person is reviewing it and may have some changes. The flow chart was distributed to the group. Heather Whited talked about the Weatherization Program that is on the flow chart, clients should contact Macomb Community Action to be screened for eligibility. Stephen Boegehold advised DHHS can help with furnace repair or replacement if the homeowner is income eligible and it is a lifetime benefit with a maximum of \$4,000.00. DHHS also can help with hot water heater repair or replacement if the homeowner is income eligible and it is a lifetime benefit with a maximum of \$1,500.00. If the repairs are over and above the benefit maximum Veterans can seek additional assistance from Veteran Services. DHHS and Macomb Community Action can also help with home repairs depending on the client's eligibility. Stephen Boegehold advised the group that DHHS can help with shut offs and restoration of utilities for clients who qualify for services during the crisis seasons. Heather Whited from Macomb Community Action reported

that they can provide utility assistance throughout the year if the client is eligible. Laura Rios advised that Veteran Services can help after all other avenues have been exhausted and the assistance is not income based, they are the last payer so they require their clients to seek assistance through other programs first. She also stated that every county is different and to keep that in mind when referring Veterans for services. Madeline went over the home heating credit benefit that is also on the flow chart. Madeline went over the remaining details of the programs on the flow chart and noted some additions that she will add to the document before publishing it to the website.

### **Membership Committee: Shaun Taft**

Laura Rios advised new members to sign in to be on the roster for the next meeting and turn in the blank name plate so one will be available for the next meeting.

### **Faith Based Committee: John Drake**

John Drake reports no new information but has met some people who may be interested in joining the committee. He said that after he has a good understanding of the role of the committee he will set up a meeting and report back. Laura Rios advised their goal is to reach out to churches to advise them of services available for Veterans so they can refer people for assistance.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS/IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS**

MAY SPECIAL SPEAKER: Randy Whitmire, Veterans in Business

JUNE SPECIAL SPEAKER: Howard Miller, Blind Vision

## **VIII. ROUND ROBIN**

Laura Rios: Annual VA training coming up next month, will present any new information at the next meeting.

Madeline Habib: Registration available online the MISD website for the HSBC traveling tours. Laura Rios is partnering with Mike from Vick's Funeral Home to discuss What Happens When a Vet Dies and will have a ceremony for unclaimed remains during the last 10 minutes of the session. Sign up as soon as possible as the tours fill up fast.

Chris Reilly: Boot Camp starts next week.

Stephen Boegehold: Macomb Community College had about 40 applicants for a contest to start a business and Jennifer Georgievski won first place!

Jason Abro: Humana offers plans for Veterans on Medicare who also have VA benefits that allows them to use local hospitals and doctors and does not cost more than what they pay for Medicare. The plan also includes a gym membership.

Zachary Dierk from Training and Treatment Innovations announced that Jeremy Bonka is no longer with the agency and pursuing a career with the post office.

Gabriella Barthlow continues to accept referrals for financial coaching.

Gerald Curley advised the group that all GPD programs had to apply for funding through a grant competition.

Basil Forrest: The Fallen Soldier Luncheon in Lansing is scheduled for May 25th, it is an invitation only event.

Mark Kilgore: CARE of SE Michigan has a recovery program at the South Campus that meets the second and fourth Tuesday every month.

Dean Shunk: Reported to the group that there is an employer incentive program available to encourage employers to hire Michigan Works! Program participants, this program helped get a Veteran hired last week.

Gary Purcell: Advised to the group that some Vets feel slighted when they have to seek assistance through DHHS rather than going directly to Veteran Services. He encouraged the collaborative to advocate for their Veteran clients who are being served by government agencies to ensure that they will not fall through the cracks and miss out on services.

Mary Beth Ryan: VCCF will be opening their first facility soon, introduced Susan to the group. Susan will be their case manager and medical social worker.

Michigan National Guard Tuition Reimbursement Program is changing again, more details are coming out next month and will be announced.

Crystal Kinsman: Region 9 & 10 joint VCAT meeting will be held in June, details to be announced at the next meeting. They are recruiting for volunteers for the event.

## **IX. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Monday, May 1, 2017 starting at 9:00 A.M. in the Verkuilen Building Training & Conference Center, 21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48036

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Crystal Kinsman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Palmer, Secretary

## MVAC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT - March 6, 2017

- A. The *Homeless Flow Charts* will be updated with new information and then re-posted on the MVAC website, probably by the end of the week.
- B. On February 08, 2017, Laura, Mike Kolb from Vick Funeral Home, and I presented information on the *Before and After a Veteran Dies* flow charts and the portable fingerprinting device. MVAC will need to follow up with the homeless shelters individually to get their buy in.
- C. The draft *Transportation Flow Charts* have been completed. Copies are available at the door. *TM to Fred BARBRET, Laura Rios, VOA, JULIE KAVANAGH*
- D. Bill Doub from Genesee Health System contacted Madeline and requested editable copies of all of our flow charts. These were provided to him electronically.
- E. Madeline met with Stephen Boegelhold from DHHS and Julie Kavanagh from MCA to start the development of flow charts about Utility Assistance.