

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Monday, August 7, 2017
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 9:00A.M.

Attendees:

Angela Saputo, <i>Real Estate One</i>	Joyce Moultrie, <i>Veteran Services</i>
Charlene Myers, <i>NCOA/DAV</i>	Katie Page, <i>Macomb County Vet Center</i>
Chris Franklin, <i>American Indian Vets of MI</i>	Laura Rios (Co-Chair), <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Chris Reilly, <i>Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!</i>	Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Darryle Johnson, <i>1st BN 24th Marines Selfridge</i>	Madeline Habib, <i>MCCMH/HSBC</i>
Dean Shunk, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>	Marie Goral, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Donald Nitkin, <i>American Red Cross</i>	Mark Kilgore, <i>CARE of Southeastern Michigan</i>
Ellen Palmer, <i>Macomb Homeless Coalition</i>	Mark Meadows, <i>VA Medical Center</i>
Gabriella Bathlow, <i>AFCS/CFPB</i>	Mary Beth Ryan, <i>VCCF</i>
Gerald Fisher-Curly, <i>VA Medical Center</i>	Michael Lamerato, <i>Great Lakes Psychology Group</i>
James Cody, <i>Bankers Life</i>	Rachel Price, <i>Vocational Rehab VA</i>
Jennifer Georgievski, <i>VA Work Study MDHHS</i>	Rachel Simons, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Jennifer Kimm, <i>Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works!</i>	Shaun Taft, <i>United Way of SE Michigan</i>
Jill Ruehlen, <i>A Place for Mom</i>	Stephen Boegehold, <i>DHHS</i>
Joe McClellan, <i>Buddy-to-Buddy</i>	Yolanda Spencer Dandridge, <i>VA Medical Center</i>

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No proposed changes. Minutes approved.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

The Selfridge Air Show is being held August 18, 19 and 20. Family day is on August 18th, any agency wishing to participate but have not signed up should email Darryle Johnson A.S.A.P. All participating agencies will get their passes from the ESGR shelter.

Laura Rios informed the group that MVAC was able to apply for two grants from MVAA. The grant can be used by VCAT to host meetings and events. The grant money is to be spent by the end of September. A request has been made to purchase food for the 9/11 Patriot's Day Veteran event at Macomb Community College in addition to a request to fund a trauma sensitive yoga instructor for the Macomb County Vet Center.

V. SPECIAL SPEAKER

AUGUST SPECIAL SPEAKER: Jill Ruehlen – A Place for Mom. This agency helps provide seniors with information on low income housing, assisted living and nursing care. Jill is a transition coordinator with A Place for Mom. Jill has experience working with the doctors and social workers at the VA. In addition to that she does a lot of community outreach to get the word out the A Place for Mom can help. She will assess the person's level of need for care, their current housing situation, the area the person wants to live and their budget. Jill will narrow the search based on the criteria and help people transition to the new living situation. A Place for Mom has partnered with VCCF to help house clients. The service is free to participants as the agency is reimbursed by referral fees. Jill's direct contact information is jillr@aplaceformom.com, cell phone 586-675-2933.

Jill introduced Jim Cody, he is a licensed health and life insurance agent and branch manager for Bankers Life. Veterans who use the VA and have Medicare part B qualify for a zero premium Medicare Advantage Plan through Humana. The plan provides a quarterly benefit to order pharmacy supplies such as band-aids, cotton swabs, etc. that are shipped to the client's home. There are no income limits for this plan but veterans must have Medicare part B to be eligible. Jim's direct contact information is james.cody@bankerslife.com, cell phone 586-489-0960.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan

Laura's office received a donation of medical equipment including Depends. They are size medium and XXL, they are finding it difficult to distribute the Depends to people who need them. She also has a box of catheters sealed in sterile packs. An agency in Southfield is accepting these items but if any other group has a need for them they should contact Laura.

Laura also asked the group to keep in mind that the benefits committee can't do everything but the person working with the church group is setting up some events. They are also working on setting up web trainings as they are usually free.

The Veteran Event is taking place on 9/11/17 at the Macomb Community College.

Financial classes are available for free through the MSU Extension. Veterans who are in need of these classes can be referred for financial counseling. Clients who are always in need of financial assistance should be referred for the classes.

The VA Red Carpet Treatment Team is seeking volunteers.

A Macomb 200 event is being planned for the 200th Anniversary of Macomb County. Laura will share more information as it becomes available.

Jobs Committee: Crystal Kinsman/Mark Meadows

The job market for veterans is hot. Mark Meadows has sent out the information in his newsletter. About 70 veterans showed up for Chrysler's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant interviewing/testing event. Ford Motor Company is going to do another round of testing to fill their open positions, Mark needs the veteran's name, address, phone number and email address to register the person to attend the next event. McKesson in Livonia is looking for midnight personnel/material handlers, they will work with felons on a case-by-case basis. Cyber security is another hot industry for veterans, the federal government is looking for 100,000

cyber security specialists. Cyber security certification classes take one year to complete. Beaumont is also hiring health care workers for all departments and all locations.

Services Committee: Madeline Habib

Madeline presented the flowchart for Mental Health Services for Veterans and their Families. She informed the group that she also updated the flowchart for homeless veterans. For the most up to date flow charts check the website mvac.macombgov.com.

Membership Committee: Shaun Taft

All new attendees should sign in and fill out a name plate. All other members should initial next to their name on the roster. Those who wish to join MVAC should contact Shaun or Laura for a membership form and will have a blue name plate at the next meeting.

Faith Based Committee: John Drake

Laura attended the last meeting and the committee is working on identifying goals and objectives.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

No new information.

VIII. ROUND ROBIN

Mark Kilgore, CARE of Southeastern Michigan: Several events are happening between now and October. Battle of the Bands is happening next week, Rocking Resources for Opiate Awareness at Halmich Park in Warren, Ride for Recovery starting at Metro Beach to Bell Isle and back, Michigan Celebrate Recovery Walk and Rally on Belle Isle; also working on getting more Tigers and Renaissance Festival tickets to show people in recovery how to have fun without drugs and alcohol.

VCCF: New veterans are working with VCCF and signed up for pensions. Veterans helping veterans is proving to be affective as they can relate to and help each other.

Great Lakes Psychology Group: they are trying to find ways to work in the community to help veterans who fall through the cracks or would like to receive care in a private office.

Madeline Habib: 1. HSBC Information Exchange will take place on October 26th. The event includes agency displays and break-out sessions. 2. New members can contact Madeline if they would like to receive her brief networking presentation. 3. She is also working on updating the Right Connection Services Directory.

Darryle Johnson: Marines are having a pre-deployment brief this weekend. Darryle also advised the group of an employer summit, the automotive industry is coming together at Walsh College in Troy on September 15th to inform veterans on how they can break into the industry. Check in starts at 11:00A.M. and the event is from 1:00P.M. to 4:00P.M.

Angela Saputo, Real Estate One: She thanked Laura Rios for the invitation to Selfridge. She reports that it is difficult to help vets buy a home because they have challenges obtaining necessary documentation.

Don Nitkin, American Red Cross: works with the Military Entrance Processing Station to inform the family of military members their resources and what the Red Cross can do for them. The Red Cross also provides

free smoke alarms. They are active with the VA Medical Center and take veterans for outings like the Tigers games. A yellow ribbon event is coming up as well as several stand downs to provide toiletries to the homeless.

Gabriella Barthlow: 1. VCAT covers Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties to collaborate and make sure they have the service organizations in place to support veterans, the last meeting was June 16th. 2. She is still accepting referrals for financial coaching.

Gerald Curly, Detroit VA Medical Center: 3 months ago, the Grant Per Diem programs for transitional housing were re-bid. Detroit received all their beds back. Some rumors are going around that transitional housing will end on 9/30/17. This is not true but there will be new rules for transitional housing. Gerald will report more at the next meeting.

Dean Shunk, Voc Rehab in Macomb: 1. A second counselor has been hired for Macomb County. 2. US Steel contacted Voc Rehab as they are interested in hiring veterans.

Meak Meadows: Southfield Job Fair hiring veterans will take place on August 24th 9:00A.M. to 2:00P.M. 80 employers will be there; resume reviews are available and Voc Rehab counselors will also be available at the event.

Jennifer Georgievski: VCOM at Macomb Community College is available to veteran students and the community. They are having a photo exhibit in the fall.

Stephen Boegohold, DHHS: Chore services and adult home health care is available to those receiving Medicaid. Anyone interested in applying can call 586-254-8048 to be screened for eligibility.

The number for Chris Pence of CB Solutions is 248-513-2925.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The September meeting has been cancelled since it was scheduled for the same day as the 9/11 Veteran Event at Macomb Community College. Anyone wishing to help with the event should call Kara or Laura.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42A.M. by Laura Rios.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Palmer