

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Monday, January 09, 2017
Macomb Community Action Training and Conference Room
21885 Dunham Clinton Twp., MI 48036

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Attendees:

Bill Browning	VAMC	Joe McClellan	Buddy-to-Buddy
Gabriella Barthlow	AFSC/CFPB	Mark Meadows	VAMC
Jason Bruggeman	WDA/Veterans	Charlene Myers	NCOA/DAV
			SANG Family
Mike Johnson	AFGE	Paulus Obey	Support
John Babcock	MI Works!	Madeline Habib	MCCMH/HSCB
Jennifer Georgievski	VS Wk Study	Diana Ursu	S of MI Empl Srvs
Gerald Fisher-Curley	VAMC	Laura Rios	Veterans Services
Chris Franklin	AIVOM	Chris Reilly	MI Works!
	American Red		
Tony Gerheiser	Cross	Troy Schielein	Vet Center
		Yolanda Spencer-	
Sama Harp	Macomb Action	Dandridge	VAMC
Basil Forrest	Army Comm Serv	David Thomas	MVAA
Crystal Kinsman	WDA/Veterans	Shaun Taft	UW of SEM
Stephen Boegehold	DHHS	Paddy Laske	CARE of SEM
Sian Washington	Disability Network		

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 5, 2016 minutes were approved.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was addressed.

V. SPECIAL SPEAKER: BILL BROWNING - VAMC

Bill Browning spoke briefly regarding VAMC transportation program. There are lots of veterans that are treated under the special mode and the VAMC had to crack down on who received free

transportation. Blind veterans do not meet the regulation to receive transportation provided by the VA. The VAMC is looking for more volunteer drivers. SAIL rating – received 4 Stars in 2014 but 1 Star this last October 2016. There needs to be more outreach programs in a town hall setting to gain more satisfaction with the VAMC. VA is looking at a building a Fisher House in Detroit within a 5 mile location of the VAMC. The VAMC is hosting a job fair in March 2016. There are E-benefit tutorials at the VAMC library.

Basil had a question on whether active duty personnel separating had to wait 6 months after separating to apply for DOD jobs. Mark Meadows believes it is for officers only and not enlisted.

Mike Johnson asked how many veterans are employed at the VAMC – Mark Meadows answered 32% at the VAMC in Detroit.

Joe McClelland – VA Care – Patient advocacy person will take issues with care at the VAMC. There are now patient advocate liaisons in each clinic. Need to do better job at customer satisfaction. Need to find out what we are doing wrong at the VAMC.

The HoH March 18th event will open in the next 30 days. Suits for Free are being lined up for the event. They have over 1,000 suits.

The VA newsletter is how to get the latest information.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan

Our MVAC website is getting hits and we are receiving a lot of emails and inquiries regarding benefits.

Employment Committee: Crystal Kinsman/Mark Meadows

Mark Meadows mentioned he is looking for additional employers for the January job fair. There are 30 employers signed up and he is looking for at least 80. The Big 3 just came off the holiday shut down. There is no activity from them in the last 3 weeks. Looking forward to the new hiring season in 2017. Getting partnerships going with local communities and allowing civilians to come to job fairs. Looking to provide employers with veteran's resumes at one time. Event in March will be large. Kroger's and Penske is hiring right now. Kroger's is looking for 1,000 people. They will promote within. Ford Field event only drew 175 veterans at the VAMC job fair.

Services Committee: Madeline Habib

New Education Training Employment flow charts were presented to the committee for approval. The Port Huron Representative name was changed. The flow chart was approved. Visited Homeless Coalition and presented the flow charts to the new staff. The next topic will be Transportation to the VA and transportation reimbursements.

Membership Committee: Shaun Taft

Reminded the collaborative committee to verify and initial the roster as means of "signing in". If you are not on the roster, please add your name and contact information to the Sign In sheet.

Faith Based Committee: Paulus Obey

The committee is looking for members to reach out to the faith based community and senior housing areas.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

No new business.

VIII. ROUND ROBIN

Paulus stated Selfridge has a monthly newsletter. He suggested to have a person from leadership to speak at an upcoming meeting.

Basil reminded everyone to “take care of the veteran family members.” Do not turn any family member away and don’t forget to tell the family member about benefits they could be eligible for after the veteran passes away.

Joe stated the Detroit Free Press has an Affordable Care Act chart.

Crystal stated the Official Region 10 VCAT meeting will be held on February 9th at Baker College. They are still recruiting for the Vets to Ag program.

Gabriella reminded the collaborative members of her services and to please send any veteran her way that might need financial counseling.

Madeline stated the Traveling Tours will be held May 17th and 18th.

Dave stated that the Detroit VA Task Force’s general meeting will be today, January 09th at 3:00 pm. The Oakland County VCAT will be January 19th from 10 – 12 in the Southfield Pavilion.

Chris gave a smoking cessation follow up with veterans in the Ann Arbor hospital.

Shaun talked about the program Keep Michigan Warm. They have money to help with past due bills and you do not need a shut off to apply.

Chris stated they have 5 offices in Michigan. There are no residency restrictions with Michigan Works!, you can go to any office.

Sean stated their office still has funds available.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2017 starting at 9:00 A.M. in the Macomb Community Action Family Resource Center, 196 North Rose, Mount Clemens, MI

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.