

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Monday, June 5, 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 9:07 A.M.

Attendees:

Donald Nitkin, <i>American Red Cross</i>	Joe McClellan, <i>Buddy-to-Buddy</i>
Mallory Perley, <i>Macomb Family Services</i>	Mark Meadows, <i>VA Medical Center</i>
Nicole White, <i>Macomb Family Services</i>	Jonathan Drake, <i>Simply Blessed Catering (Veteran Owned)</i>
Susan Casadei, <i>Harbor Health</i>	Katie Page, <i>Macomb County Vet Center</i>
Jason Abro, <i>Humana</i>	Zachery Dieck, <i>Training and Treatment Innovations</i>
Lisa Beauvais, <i>LCB Counseling and Consulting</i>	Kara Fields, <i>Macomb Community College</i>
Chris Franklin, <i>American Indian Vets of MI</i>	Gerald Fisher-Curly, <i>John D. Dingell VA Medical Center</i>
Kate Logan, <i>MVAA</i>	Basil Forrest, <i>Army Community Service Survivor Outreach</i>
Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>	Ellen Palmer, <i>Macomb Homeless Coalition</i>
Darryle Johnson, <i>1st BN 24th Marines Selfridge</i>	Dean Shunk, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Gabriella Barthlow, <i>AFCS/CFPB</i>	Chris Reilly, <i>Macomb/St. Clair Michigan Works</i>
Anglena Saputo (sp?), <i>Real Estate One</i>	Jennifer Georgievski, <i>VA Work Study MDHHS</i>
Charlene Myers, <i>NCOA/DAV</i>	Heather Whited, <i>Macomb Community Action</i>
Laura Rios (Co-Chair), <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>	Marie Goral, <i>Macomb County Veteran Services</i>
Jason Bruggeman, <i>SOM Veterans Employment Services</i>	Rachel Simons, <i>Macomb Veteran Services</i>
Mark Kilgore, <i>CARE of Southeastern Michigan</i>	Diana Ursu, <i>SOM Veterans Employment Services</i>
Stephen Boegehold, <i>DHHS</i>	Brian Webb, <i>MDHHS</i>
Madeline Habib, <i>MCCMH/HSCB</i>	Crystal Kinsman, <i>SOM Veterans Employment Services</i>
Shaun Taft, <i>United Way of SE Michigan</i>	
Sue Walker, <i>Salvation Army Harbor Light</i>	
Mike Johnson, <i>AFGE Vets Affairs</i>	

II. INTRODUCTIONS

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from May 1, 2017 were approved with the following changes: remove Crystal Kinsman from the attendees list, add Joe McClellon and Katie Page for the attendees list; Zachary Dieck 1st, Heather Whited 2nd, AIF.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Sean Green from Vets Returning Home is no longer with the agency.

V. SPECIAL SPEAKER

Howard Meyer – Blind Vision; cancelled.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan

Congress has proposed reducing the individually unemployable benefit when the Vet reaches the age to receive social security. This will affect Veterans who are under 100% disabled.

Jobs Committee: Crystal Kinsman/Mark Meadows

A referral form for Chrysler has been sent out via the newsletter, they are hiring in Sterling Heights. Mark has only received a few referrals from Macomb County, he advised the group to look at the attachments that are sent out with the letter. Ford tested 200 Vets for full time employment this month. The job market continues to be good throughout the region. Federal positions are also available in the region, available on USA jobs. The largest Vet group experiencing unemployment is 48-62 years old. Ex-felons and the homeless vet population continue to be difficult to find jobs. Logistics Expo saw 223 participants, 82 were Vets.

Services Committee: Madeline Habib

The mental health services flowchart is almost complete; the information for the buddy-to-buddy program will be added once it has been confirmed.

Membership Committee: Shaun Taft

Everyone was reminded to initial the roster or sign in to be reflected in the minutes. Name tags are also available for new members and their information can be written in until a permanent tag is printed. Anyone interested in joining can complete an application.

Faith Based Committee: John Drake

The committee met in may and are working on an action plan.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/IDEAS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATIONS

AUGUST SPECIAL SPEAKER: Jill Ruehlen – A Place for Mom

VIII. ROUND ROBIN

Crystal Kinsman IS no longer DVOPS. She announced the Joint Region 9 and 10 VCAT meeting being held next month, the information was sent out via eventbrite.

Chris Franklin of American Indian Veterans: Smoking Survey being collected and turned into the state.

Madeline Habib MCCMH: Announced the Information Exchange save the date for October. The Traveling Tours took place last week and had over 200 participants.

Darryle Johnson reports there was a good turnout at the family day; had 10 employment resources available. Air Show being held on August 18 which is Employer Day and Family Readiness Day, those interested in attending the events should get in touch with Darryle for the invite. Atlas Oil is sponsoring food for the air show. Darryle's email address is on the roster.

John Drake, will be fully operational and doing events for DAV chtr 129. Review recording.

Mark Meadows reports a job fair scheduled for June 15th Recruit Military Job Fair at Ford World Headquarters. Hire our Heroes in November.

Sue Walker, seven beds are available at Harbor Light as other have found permanent housing.

Don Nitkin from American Red Cross, man work is with MEPS and he gets in touch with families who's children has just enlisted. They are the only agency who can bring home a soldier in case of an emergency. He also makes contact with student vets who want to go into formal education like doctor and dentists and helps them choose a career and get into a school. The American Redcross also assists with victims of fire and also give out free smoke detectors.

New employability boot camp is kicking off today with resume writing. One month on May 3rd the Roseville service center had a fire and is shut down until further notice. No staff or customers were hurt. Everyone has been reassigned to Warren and Mount Clemens location. Please do not refer anyone to the Roseville location. Michigan Works has information for employers who might be interested in hiring a returning citizen (ex-felon).

Macomb Family Services offers help within the schools and northern Macomb county for Mental Health services.

Angelina Saputo, Real Estate One: she wants to help Veterans buy homes. Angelina works with the DAV in Fraser, she is certified in Military Real Estate. She reports that paperwork is a huge challenge for Vets and often times holds them back from buying a home.

Ellen Palmer, Macomb Homeless Coalition: agency has funding to help homeless Veterans get into housing.

Joe McClellon, Buddy-to-Buddy: a lot of new retirees, reports that retirement ceremonies are happening almost every drill weekend.

Basil Forrest reports retirees seem to be having challenges completing paperwork for retirement.

Dean Shunk: Vocational Rehab is expanding in Macomb County and will be hiring another counselor.

Mike Johnson reports that many apprentice programs are available. Visit www.realestateoneacademy.com for more information.

Stephen Boegehold of DHHS: SER crisis season ended May 31st, starts again Nov 1. Water and rental assistance does not apply crisis season. Vets in Warren or Centerline can be referred to the eviction diversion program by their landlord through the 37th district court. Vehicle repair

programs will pair for repairs up to \$900/year for families with minor children who are working or going back to work.

Lisa Bobey is a mental health therapist in private practice and she accepts Tricare. Her office is located at 16 mile road and harper.

Jennifer Georgievski, she is completing her VA Work Study at DHHS. To qualify, the Vet has to be in school three quarters time and doing veteran work up to 25 hours per week.

Kate Logan of MVAA reports 1-800-MICH-VET is the Michigan State hotline for specific resources for Veterans in Michigan. If anyone is interested in learning more about resources Kate can set up an appointment for someone to come talk to your organization.

Jason Abro: Humana is hiring sales associates. Those interested in applying can call 248-508-4802 for more information.

Brian Webb, Veteran Liaison with MDHHS: The state will be implementing a program that ensures all Veterans have access to mental health services. The program is modeled after a Texas program and was just finalized through the state of Michigan. Very soon there will be regional Veteran navigators available in communities in Michigan.

Kara Fields of Macomb Community College: There are many changes happening to the education benefits for Veterans. Those changes have not been announced but it is expected to affect the housing allowance for Veterans in college. Effective for the fall semester, a new on-boarding process has been implemented and the staff at the college will also be aware of community resources in addition to the resources available through the college.

Mark Kilgore from CARE of Southeastern MI: There is a new group called Students in Recovery available to anyone enrolled in school and dealing with addiction. A Health and Wellness Fair is being hosted at the MISD on Friday, it is geared towards those in recovery but all are invited to attend from 1-6pm. Mark is also taking a group of 30 (in recovery) to the Tigers Game, refer clients to Mark if they'd like to attend. They are also planning the Recovery Cruise for August and if someone would like to attend but can't afford Mark can help.

Katie Page, Macomb Vet Center: Katie works with a Navy Veteran who volunteers to meet with a Veterans at the VA to help them through the registration process, she calls it the Red Carpet treatment. This is an important service because if the registration isn't completed properly they are not eligible to other programs. Katie would like to organize more Veteran volunteers to create a program for help Veterans register for the VA. MVAC is excited about this idea and will work towards making it a functioning program.

Shaun Taft: Her grant is ending August 31st but will continue working in human services. She is planning a networking event for the faith based service providers so they can be connected to multiple resources.

Gabriella Barthlow, AFSC/CFPB: accepting Veteran referrals for financial coaching.

Laura Rios: MVAC cancelled for July, next meeting is the first Monday in August. Her office also received a donation of Depends in sizes Medium and XXL.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, August 7, 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 at 10:55am by Laura Rios.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Palmer