

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Monday, October 03, 2016
Verkuilen Building Training and Conference Center
21885 Dunham Clinton Twp, MI 48036

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Co-Chair, Crystal Kinsman at 9:12 A.M.

Attendees:

Monica Alderman	SOM/VA	Mark Meadows	VAMC
Gabriella Barthlow	AFSC/CFPB	Darryle Johnson	Selfridge
Rebecca Couch	M-SPAN	Tammy Hubble	Sal Army
Tony Gerheiser	Am Red Cross	Kathy Koths	MCCSA
Sian Washington	Dis Network	Katie Page	Vet Center
Kara Fields	MCCC-Veterans	Kyle Pollet	Staff/Sandy Levin
Gerald Fisher-Curley	VAMC	Laura Rios	Veterans Services
Emily Rissman	MVAA	Emma Lentini	UWSWM 211
Madeline Habib	MCCMH/HSCB	Reese Kewin	MDCR
Crystal Kinsman	WDA/Veterans	Heather Whited	Macomb Action
Althea Kyles	VOA	Sama Harp	MCCA
Joe McClellan	Buddy-to-Buddy	Diane Ursu	SOM Vet Empl
John Gardner	Wayne Cty Vet Srv	Stephen Boegehold	DHHS
David Thomas	MVAA	Brian Webb	
Shaun Taft	UW for SEM		

I. INTRODUCTIONS

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Madeline Habib made a motion, supported by Mark Meadows, to approve the August 1, 2016 minutes. The motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to report.

V. SPECIAL SPEAKER: REESE KEWIN – MDCR

Reese Kewin from Michigan Department of Civil Rights spoke regarding Service Animals. She handed out a packet of information that spoke about the laws, types of service animals and frequently asked questions.

It is a Michigan law that if a business is open to the public, it must be accessible to service animals. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as, “a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal individually trained to provide assistance to a person with a disability.” “The tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. It does not matter if you have a note from a doctor stating that you have a disability and need the animal for emotional support. A doctor’s letter does not turn an animal into a service animal.” Michigan does not require a service animal to be registered, certified or licensed. There are only 2 questions a business establishment can ask a person with a service animal; “Is the animal a service animal required because of a disability?” and “What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?” Please see the handout for additional information or contact elliss1@michigan.gov.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits/Communication Committee: Laura Rios/Mary Beth Ryan

Nothing to report at this time.

Employment Committee: Crystal Kinsman/Mark Meadows

There is a job Fair at the MISD on October 21st, if you would like to volunteer, please contact Mark Meadows. The hiring season is hot right now, please take note of the newsletter and upcoming job fairs. Ford, GM, and Chrysler are posting open positions in skill trades.

Services Committee: Madeline Habib

All the flow charts have been updated and are on the MVAC website <http://mvac.macombgov.org/>. There is a Service Committee meeting after this meeting where the education training and employment flow charts should be finalized.

Membership Committee: Shaun Taft

Membership forms and the roster will be posted on the website <http://mvac.macombgov.org/>. The membership and sign in process was addressed. If you would like to be included in the roster, please fill out the membership form. Each member is asked to initial beside their name on roster at each meeting. This will make your attendance a matter of record and it will be noted in the minutes. If you have not filled out a membership form, please sign in on the sign in sheet.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Brian Webb will be the November speaker and Dave Leonard, VA Regional Office MyVA will be speaking in December.

VIII. ROUND ROBIN

Madeline Habib stated the HSCB Information Exchange is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016. The registration information will be posted on the HSCB website: mhscb.mccmh.net

Laura mentioned the new Faith Based Committee will be chaired by Paulus Obey. If you would like to volunteer for that committee, please contact Paulus.

The Hope Center is closing. The tax program will not be closing. That program will fall under the Veteran Services office. Laura is looking at possibly housing the program at the MCA Washington Center. MCA is now opening a food pantry.

Laura also mentioned that since her office has been inundated with grant requests, the MVAC could use another person to type the minutes. If anyone could volunteer, please contact her.

Kara Fields mentioned MCC has free Veterinary care for veterans. MCC will not have a Veteran Day event this year but if you know of an event, please contact her. She is putting together a list of these events for veterans MCC comes in contact with.

Dave Thomas reminded everyone that Region 10 VCAT meeting is Oct 27, 2016 at Baker College in Allen Park; registration is at 9:30 and the meeting is from 10 – 12. This meeting will focus on the 4 pillars: Education, Health Care/Benefits, Employment and Quality of Life. The Region 10 VCAT is set up to “remove barriers” and support your work within your field. It will start posting the meeting minutes, work groups and events under the shared document tab in Podio.

Stephen Beogehold reminded the collaborative to tell the veterans they come in contact with to identify themselves as a veteran on DHHS paperwork and if possible, initiate a conversation about their designation to a DHHS worker.

Emma Lentini stated that 211 is creating their Veteran Process with Americorp works. These workers will follow up with veterans once they are referred to a service. 211 is also working to increase the amount of programs listed on their call information line.

Shaun Taft gave an update on the Macomb Family Services book; it is in its final editing and copywriting.

Althea Kyles from Volunteers of America Safe haven state they discharged 5 veterans into independent living. They now have 5 beds open.

Sian Washington stated the Disability Network has grant money available.

Sama Harp stated their MCA closed their SSVF program at the end of September. She said they achieved high outcomes and serviced a great number of veterans. They ended with rapid housing only taking approximately 2 weeks. She mentioned the key to success was the intense case management after housing.

Tammy Hubble spoke about the Pathway of Hope. It is an approach that provides case management for 6 months-year to families that want to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty or need extra assistance/support in getting back on their feet following a job loss, etc. Case workers work with clients to set goals and encourage them to accomplish them through strength based case management. Our Corps provide emotional, spiritual, and in some cases, financial support to help them in accomplishing these goals. They also encourage getting the children involved in the youth programming. Families with children under the age of 18 are eligible. For additional information contact her at: tamera_hubble@usc.salvationarmy.org

Darryl Johnson - Family Readiness/ESGR 1stBn 24th Marines requested job and hiring event info for the under employed and un-employed service members and resource support for the upcoming pre-deployment Yellow Ribbon Event which is tentatively set for mid Jan 2017.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Monday, November 07, 2016 starting at 9:00 A.M. in the Verkuilen Building Training and Conference Center, 21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48036

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Stahl for Julie Patterson, Secretary