

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes  
Virtual Meeting  
Monday, October 3, 2022

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:03 A.M.

**II. ATTENDEES:**

David Wilson  
Elizabeth Sergent  
Diana Laskey  
Christina Mariani  
Stephen Boegehold  
Katie Carroll  
Mark Kilgore  
Sharon Urban

Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards  
Laura Rios  
Gabriella Barthlow  
April Winkelman  
Monisha Scott  
Teena Sawicki  
Pazz Colston

**III. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:02 AM**

The August 01, 2022 meeting minutes were approved and recorded as written.

**IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER: Teena Sawicki VA SAVE Training**

**What is VA S.A.V.E. Training?**

VA S.A.V.E. presents an overview of suicide prevalence, risks, and warning signs. It also provides guidance on how to intervene when someone is suicidal. The training highlights unique risks to Veterans and provides information on how to access VA resources. VA S.A.V.E. Training will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts.

VA S.A.V.E training gives you the important steps involved in suicide prevention.

S – signs of suicidal thinking

A – asks the most important questions

V – validates the Veteran’s experience

E – encourages treatment and Expedites getting help

Teena presented, explained, and gave examples of each step in the SAVE acronym and also gave supporting providers contact information.

**V. AGENCY UPDATES/ROUND ROBIN:**

Diane Laskey stated the County Veteran Navigators will be attending the Hoops for Troops event on October 4, 2022. The VFW National Home for Children will be hosting the Navigator Summit. Everyone is invited but you must pre-register. Please contact her for more information. This VFW houses active duty and family for free for up to 4 years.

Elizabeth Sergent reminded the members to send them any Veteran who is facing eviction or are homeless, they have SSVF funds to help.

Gabriella Barthow stated there are 107 collaborative members at this time.

Mark Kilgore stated that unfortunately they are struggling with the Veteran support group; they cannot seem to get Veterans to attend and/or attend regularly.

Monsha Scott stated they have expanded their HUDVASH eligibility, Veterans who have other than Honorable discharges may now qualify for services.

Pazz Colston stated their four unit apartment in Warren is now up and running and today a HUDVASH representative will be there for an inspection. She also stated at the end of the month they will have two units available in their shared housing.

Stephen Boegehold stated DHHS has one centralized phone number that clients can call to speak to a representative and get an answer or resolution to their problem or inquiry. The number is: 844-464-3447 State of emergency relief for heat and electric has an annual cap of \$1,150.00 each. The annual cap for water is \$350.00. People can apply as many times as they need to and any month until they reach the cap. Rental assistance eligibility must include a summons or a judgement.

April Winkelman introduced herself. She works at Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Please have Veterans with disabilities contact her for help with finding, preparing for and keeping a job.

Laura suggested that April present at the next collaborative meeting.

**VI. VCAT UPDATE/MVAA UPDATES:**

Gabriella Barthlow stated Teena Sawicky presented the S.A.V.E training at the recent VCAT meeting. There were over 30 representatives that attended and she believes it was successful.

**VII. NEXT MEETING: December 05, 2022**

MRS and Voc Rehab

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM