

Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Attendance

Voting Members	Present	Absent	Excused
Daniel Campbell		x	
Sharon Jacko	x		
David Kaye	x		
Rachel Nachlas	x		
Fred Schumacher	x		
John Lynn Shanton	x		
Fred Wood	x		
Ex-Officio Members			
Dee Harrison		x	
Michelle Day	x		
Andrea Walker			x
Michael McLane			x
County Councilman Steve McKay			x
Delegate Carol Krimm	x		
Robin Summerfield		x	

Guests: Douglas Silvern, David Perez, Richard W. Jones, Miles Ward, Malcolm Fergol, James Cox, James Olson.

Staff: Linda Bergofsky

Welcome and Introductions

Fred Schumacher opened the meeting by leading the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Comments: Fred Schumacher welcomed Linda Bergofsky to her first meeting as Coordinator of the Veterans Advisory Council. He also mentioned that the May 18th proclamation for Guy Whidden went very well. He and Linda attended the celebration of the U.S. Army's birthday on June 14th at Fort Detrick; Guy Whidden was again recognized for his participation in D-Day as a member of the 101st Airborne.

Establishment of a quorum: After review of attendance, Fred Schumacher determined that a quorum was established.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: A motion was made by Fred Wood to approve the meeting agenda. David Kaye seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Approval of the April 17, 2019 and May 15, 2019 meeting minutes: Sharon Jacko made a motion to approve the minutes of both the April 2019 and May 2019 minutes. Rachel Nachlas seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Veterans Resource Day Event: Fred Schumacher reminded the members of the Council of the Veterans Resource Day event on July 10 and encouraged their participation. The event will be held at the Senior Center from 9 AM to 2 PM and is expected to be very successful, as it has in the past. The Council discussed whether the Mobile Vet Clinic will be there. Rachel Nachlas will follow up and report back to the Council.

Heavy Metal Playground Event: David Kaye provided an update on planning for this event scheduled for July 13. He is looking for 15 to 20 Veterans to sign up; however, he only has commitments from 4 individuals and will reach out to the Frederick Post and local radio stations with information as a means of spreading the word. Rachel Nachlas has distributed to students and Platoon 22 and Soldier Fit have been promoting as well. The Council discussed the possibility of having a sign up available at the Veterans Resource Day.

Presentation

Mission United and 211: Sharon Jacko presented on how Broward County Florida worked with the local United Way to establish Mission United, a comprehensive, collaborative and centralized approach to delivering case management and related services to Veterans. She noted that Mission United represents the one-stop shop that Frederick County aspires to create. Mission United is not a new program and has been demonstrated to improve community-based Veteran reintegration. United Way of Broward County and its affiliated organizations undertook a significant fund raising effort (\$700,000 in the first year) to cover the costs of establishing the infrastructure and creating the partnerships needed to deliver the overarching program, which took ten years to arrive at its current configuration.

There was extensive discussion among members of the Council regarding what would be needed to replicate Mission United in Frederick County and how such a program would interface with existing, well established providers and partners that currently serve Veterans. For example, MHA currently fields over 40,000 calls per year through the 211 call center and would have to be an essential building block if the proposal would go forward. The Mission United model requires an advisory board, which may be fulfilled by the existing VAC. As in Florida, access to the system would still require Veterans and/or their families to initiate contact.

Delegate Krimm asked whether the Welcome Wagon approach to reaching returning Veterans might be an alternative and whether memoranda of understanding (MOU) will be needed. Rachel Nachlas inquired as to how Mission United would compare to the Goodwill proposal to build a Veterans Center or connect Serving Together. Sharon Jacko reported that United Way in Frederick County has been in discussions with Goodwill, MHA, and other potential partners. Should this come to fruition, United Way would provide all training, templates for setting up and

managing the program, as well as outreach and publicity under the rubric of Mission United. As a next step, she noted that she and the head of United Way of Frederick County plan to travel to Florida to do additional fact gathering and assessment. She asked if the Veterans Advisory Council would signal its support for efforts currently underway with United Way and MHA.

Rachel Nachlas made the following motion: The Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council will support United Way and the Mental Health Association in their efforts to move forward with investigating a Mission United model in Frederick County. David Kaye seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

James Olson shared an invitation for the Council to the 25th annual Independence Day Celebration and Potluck Breakfast to be held at his farm beginning at 8 AM on July 4. In addition, he noted his concern for how Mission United would “add to the plate” of the 211 system and that the focus should be on how to get funding for year one and beyond. He mentioned that MHA has a facility that is not fully used and may be suitable should the 211 capacity need to be expanded.

Douglas Silvern of Service Coordination, Inc. introduced Richard Jones, a Service Officer with American Legion Post 191. Although his post is in Carroll County, Mr. Jones has been providing services in Frederick County for three years. Mr. Jones announced that in the near future, he will be making home visits to Veterans along with Mr. Silvern and Keri Kiefer (State).

Mr. Jones also mentioned his attendance at the Carroll County Veterans Commission meetings and recommended that Council members participate as their events are well attended and the Commission is pursuing initiatives that should be of interest to the Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council. A brief discussion took place about how the VAC may intensify its efforts to reach out to Veteran-serving organizations.

Subcommittee Reports

David Kaye noted that he requires additional support to complete the bylaws and will coordinate with Linda to move forward.

There was some discussion of speakers for the next meeting; Rachel Nachlas offered to present.

There was no report from the Tri-fold Subcommittee.

New Business

Carol Krimm asked if the VAC ever pursued creating a 501c3 designation for fundraising. There was discussion of how United Way, MHA and other organizations are already designated as

501c3 and are therefore well positioned to take on fundraising activities. There was a suggestion to invite the Community Foundation to an upcoming VAC meeting.

Fred Wood announced that the American Legion will be hosting a Bridge Dedication Ceremony on Friday August 9 to honor PFC Franklin Brandenburg, who was killed in action during the Vietnam War. The ceremony will be held at 11 AM at the Francis Scott Key American Legion Post 11.

Adjournment

Upon completion of business the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meetings:

Regular monthly meeting: July 17, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting will be held in Winchester Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Submitted by Linda Bergofsky

Approved