

Frederick County Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 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: Teresa Spruill, Richard Jones, Teresa Mena, Karen Duffy, Julie Riggs, Michael Ball, Douglas Silvern, James Hubbard, Lori Perkins, Leigh Adams, Ramenta Cottrell, Nan Mann, Jack Andrews.

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 noted that the Council has been very busy during June and July and that he looks forward to continuing our efforts currently underway to connect to Veterans in Frederick County.

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

Approval of Meeting Agenda: A motion was made by Rachel Nachlas to approve the meeting agenda. Sharon Jacko seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Approval of the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes: Rachel Nachlas made a motion to approve the minutes of June 19, 2019 as submitted. David Kaye seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

July 4 event at the Olsen Farm: Fred Schumacher reported that the event was very well attended, with representation from the VAC on hand.

Veterans Resource Day Event: Fred Schumacher noted that this was the third year for this event and that it was the largest so far in terms of vendors and participants. He commended Joy Rowe on the great job she did organizing the event and in her selection of a very dynamic speaker. Next year's event is scheduled for July 8, 2020. His only suggestion going forward would be to modify the hours to include the afternoon and early evening in order for working veterans to participate.

Heavy Metal Playground Event: David Kaye reported that seven very happy Veterans participated, including a 90 year old Korean War/Vietnam War Veteran. David thanked the American Legion Post 11 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3285 for their sponsorship of this event. David also acknowledged owner Mark Stevanus for his commitment to Veterans and his willingness to host another event in the future.

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.

Presentation

Getting to know the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) and ServingTogether: Michael Ball presented an overview of ServingTogether and its affiliations with AmericaServes and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF). At its core, ServingTogether is the National Capital regional affiliate of AmericaServes. As such, ServingTogether uses a coordinated care model to deliver services to Veterans and their families through a network of 80 plus providers in 12 counties, including Frederick. Peer navigators, who either Veterans or military spouses, manage referrals on behalf of anyone who ever wore a uniform (and their families) through the network of providers who have agreed to work with AmericaServes. Additionally, the IVMF is an interdisciplinary academic institution within Syracuse University that provides oversight of the 17 AmericaServes networks and ties them together with a case coordination software, UniteUS. The software provides transparency and accountability for network providers and allows ServingTogether to track the types of service requests, e.g. housing, employment, and client demographics.

Members of the Council asked for clarification of the role of peer navigators versus that of a case manager. Mr. Ball explained that peer navigators help clients find services; if there is a need to for intensive case management, they will refer to a participating provider, such as

Service Coordination, Inc. Members of the Council also asked how ServingTogether works with the VA health system. Mr. Ball noted that VA has endorsed this model through a Memorandum of Understanding at the national level, but that he is still working to create a formal arrangement with the DC VA Medical Center and has met with leadership at the Martinsburg VA Medical Center. He also mentioned that they refer out of the network if needed. In response to questions about how ServingTogether works with VSOs, Mr. Ball identified several VSOs, including the American Legion and VFW that are part of the provider network but that it depends on the post. Finally, when asked how ServingTogether could work with the VAC, Mr. Ball requested that the Council get the word out to organizations with a track record of serving Veterans across issues that would be a good fit for the network and would be willing to use the UniteUS software (which is free).

Public Comment

Douglas Silvern from Service Coordination, Inc. noted that his organization has been working with ServingTogether for about one year. The two organizations have a great relationship and the UniteUS software is easy to use.

Leigh Adams, Executive Director of the Ausherman Family Foundation mentioned the Foundation's continuing support of ServingTogether and its importance to local Veterans.

Sub-committee Reports

Tri-fold: Linda Bergofsky noted that she and the sub-committee (Fred Wood and Michelle Day) have been looking at different formats and plan to meet to discuss in the near future. In the interim, Linda prepared a one-page quick reference guide to services Veterans that was handed out at the Veterans Resource and Recognition Day.

Speakers: Linda Bergofsky reported on the proposed speakers for the remainder of the 2019 slate of VAC meetings into the beginning of 2020. They are as follows:

- September: Sydney Dexter, Delaplaine Arts Center and Rachel Nachlas, FCC
- October: Diana Modelski, Community Veterans Engagement Board and Julie Riggs, Frederick Veterans Service Network
- November: Col. Lauren Barone, VA Veterans Experience Office
- December: Col. Dexter Nunnally, Commandant, Ft. Detrick Garrison
- January: Legislative panel (TBD)
- February: VSO Panel (TBD)

Steve McKay noted that because the County will be working on its legislative priorities for the next General Assembly in the late summer and fall, he asked that we approach Carol Krimm to present in September rather than wait until January.

Bylaws: Sub-committee chair David Kaye reported that Linda Bergofsky drafted bylaws for review by the sub-committee. This draft, which was modeled on the recently approved Senior Services Advisory Board bylaws, has also been reviewed by the County Attorney for consistency

with the enabling legislation. There was discussion about whether the term limits in the bylaws were typical for a County Board or Commission and how to address term limits being faced by current VAC members. Mr. Kaye will distribute the current draft to the entire Council, with plans to discuss and vote on them at the August meeting.

New Business

Coordinator's Report: Linda Bergofsky gave the Coordinator's Report. In the past month, in addition to continuing efforts to meet with members of the VAC and representatives of Veteran serving organizations, she produced a calendar of events for the VAC web site, which was shared with the VAC. Council members wanted to make sure that the various Veterans Days events around the County were prominently featured. Ms. Bergofsky also prepared the required annual report on the VAC for submission to the County Executive and County Council. Ms. Bergofsky shared a copy of the report, which is also posted on the website. Given the short turnaround time for the report, which was due July 1, the VAC did not have a chance to review it in advance. In the future however, Ms. Bergofsky will work with the Council to design a format and content that best highlights the VAC's accomplishments.

Announcements

Dee Harrison shared information about an upcoming event sponsored by Team Red, White and Blue and a handout on the Mission Act, that she asked be distributed to the VAC.

Sharon Jacko mentioned a new stenography training program available to military spouses.

Adjournment

Upon completion of business the meeting was adjourned.

Next Meetings:

Regular monthly meeting: August 21, 2019 at 6:30 pm.

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

Submitted by Linda Bergofsky