

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, December 06, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:05 A.M.

II. ATTENDEES:

Gabriella Barthlow	Kara Fields	Diane Laskey
April Clipper	Elizabeth Sergent	Julie Hintz
Wendie Previdi	Lisa Bowling	Paul Salcepuedes
John Babcock	Teena Sawicki	Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards
Erica DeLange	Katie Page	William Ritchie
Keith Edwards	Melissa Palonis	Laura Rios
Sharon Urban	Mark Kilgore	Cindy Ponton
April Winkelman	Katie Carroll	Shelly Rood
Adrienne Gasperoni		

III. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Laura asked all attendees to enter their name in the chat box.

The October 04, 2021 meeting minutes were approved and recorded as written.

IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER:

Shelly Rood: Eisenhower Veteran's Reintegration Center (VRC) is located on Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township. The VRC provides Rehabilitation/Reintegrating services to military men, women and families in need of specialized care. The veteran/family may stay up to 1 year at the facility. Therapies included to rehabilitation/reintegration consist of but not limited to: Counseling Services; Cognitive Therapy; Animal Assisted Therapy; Music Therapy; Yoga; Nutrition Education; Vocational Coaching; Financial Planning and Allied Health Services (Physical/Occupational/Speech Therapies.) Most veteran costs are through 3rd parties right now. There are no out of pocket expenses for veterans and/or their families. Please contact Shelly Rood for more information.

Keith Edwards: Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 154 Operation Christmas has been supporting veterans and veteran families in need since 1985. Over this time they have served over 6,000 families with food and over 95 children under 14 with age appropriate toys/clothes. The Operation Christmas Fund Raiser dinner was December 4, 2021 and they collected many toys and money for this event. The volunteers will start packing on December 16th and will deliver the food/toys to the families on Saturday December 18th. This year they are looking to serve over 150 families. The VVA has a dedicated veteran food bank that the chapter runs throughout the year. Please contact Keith or the VVA for more information on these programs.

V. AGENCY UPDATES:

John Babcock stated he is now the Supervisor at the Roseville Michigan Works! Office. The Veteran Bootcamp is on hiatus until further notice.

Adrienne Gasperoni stated the Substance Abuse and Prevention Network is looking for veteran voices to join their team. Please contact her for additional information.

Diane Laskey introduced herself as the new Veteran Navigator for Macomb County. Her contact phone number is: 586-200-7888.

Erica DeLange from MyCare HealthCenter stated they have partnered with the Macomb Food Pantry for an open food bank on Tuesday 12/14 at the MyCare Center in Centerline. Please contact her for more information.

Julie Hintz stated MCA is still working in the homeless services area. They are now designated the Housing Assessment Resource Agency, (HARA). HARA provides centralized intake and housing assessment to insure a comprehensive community wide serve and housing delivery system. They work to rapidly re-house people who are homeless. Please contact her for additional information on this and all other programs. If you submit applications for Housing Choice Vouchers, please submit them to Sama Harp 586-759-0153.

Kara Fields stated Macomb Community College (MCC) is "back" with limited staff on site. There have been a lot of changes for veterans for education assistance, please contact her for more information.

Katie Page stated the Vet Center has weighted blankets and Play-A-way's preloaded with meditation tracks for veterans who come into their center. They also have free Battlefield Acupuncture every week and Virtual Yoga. Most of their services require an appointment. Please contact her for additional information.

Mark Kilgore stated they have a paid apprenticeship program for Peer Recovery Coaches that will specifically work with Veterans that may be new to recovery from substance abuse. They are looking for grant money to expand this program. Please contact Mark for additional information.

Wendy Previdi introduced herself as one of MCA's new SSVF case managers.

Willie Ritchie introduced himself as one of MCA's SSVF case managers.

April Winkleman introduced herself as the new Veteran Specialist at MI Rehabilitation Services.

Gabe Barthlow stated there are 103 MVAC members as of today.

Laura Rios stated that Macomb County won a state MVAA award as the Most Veteran Friendly County of the year in Michigan. Katie Carroll won the Trust Fund/Relief Fund Agent of the year. There were over 450 people who attended the Gala at Selfridge. Laura also stated the Trust Fund will be starting a pilot program in December of this year to include Peacetime veterans ages 65 + with at least 180 days of active duty service and a discharge under honorable conditions. This pilot program is for veterans only and will assist with utilities, shelter and home repair only. They were allotted \$200,000 for this pilot program for FY20-22. A determination in 2022 will state whether or not this program will be continued. She is also trying to get a representative from H-Wave to speak at the February 7, 2022 Collaborative meeting. H-Wave is a multi-functional electrical stimulation device intended to speed

recovery, restore function, and manage chronic, acute or post – operative pain. The VA is now allowing veterans to use this device for pain management. The veteran has to get a script from their VA doctor.

Shelly Rood stated they also have a Peer Support program for women veterans. This program meets once a month either on Selfridge or virtually. This is not counseling, just peer support. Please contact her for additional information.

VI. VCAT UPDATE/MVAA UPDATES:

The next VCAT meeting will be Friday 12/17. The focus will be on the VAMC. There will also be information regarding the Veteran Cemetery, suicide prevention, Post 911 and vaccine updates.

MVAA is in the works to host a female veteran symposium. This two day event will be held in Lansing.

VII. NEXT MEETING

February 07, 2022- virtual

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 A.M.