

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Virtual Meeting
Monday, February 06, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ATTENDEES:

Laura Rios	Sharon Urban	Brian Zarzycki	William Browning
Paul Salcepuedes	Paulus Obey	Pazz Colston	Chris Reilly
Kara Fields	Mark Kilgore	Gary Purcell	Christina Mariani
Kayla Dadswell	Darryle Johnson	Allen Dow	Monisha Scott
Madeline Habib	Elizabeth Sergent	Tiffany Carr	Adam Hollier
John Babcock	David Hannum	Teena Sawicli	Adam Hartwell
Diane Laskey	Julie Hintz	Katie Carroll	
Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards		Senator Peter's office – Michael Schmid	

III. INTRODUCATIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting was called to order by Laura Rios at 9:10 AM

The December 05, 2022 meeting minutes were approved and recorded as written.

IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER:

Jason Johnson did not make it to the meeting. Paul Salcepuedes stated his K – 9 nonprofit assists retired service dogs with medical needs. Laura would like the Collaborative to work on a flowchart for service dogs. She would like to explain the differences between service/companion/therapy dogs. She has asked Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards and Paul Salcepuedes to help with this project. She also asked Madeline Habib to help with this project as well.

Director Adam Hollier stated he would like the MVAA to partner with all counties in Michigan so that Veterans across the state will be treated equally and receive the best care and support. He is looking across the counties in hopes of finding best practices in implement. The MVAA will also be focusing on Veteran suicide.

V. AGENCY UPDATES/ROUND ROBIN:

Monisha Scott stated they have a VBA Legal Administrative Specialist named Mr. Thomas Mengesha that will be at the VCRRC every 3rd Thursday of the month from 9 – 1, no appointment is necessary. VCRRC 301 Piquette Detroit, MI 48202

Teena Sawicki stated, their team is available to provide VA SAVE training to your department at no cost. This one-hour training 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. Please contact Teena Sawicki if your agency or organization is interested in this training. Teena.Sawicki@va.gov or 313.576.1000 ext. 65794
COMPACT ACT

Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care

Chris Reilly stated they are working on getting grants for apprenticeships for electronic vehicles. They are also trying to revamp their truck driving employment opportunities. They want to work with local agencies to share the cost of training.

Michael Schmid from Senator Peters's office stated they will be focusing on VA "quality of care" and VA mental health issues.

Gary Purcell states the VVA Chapter 154 will be hosting a Welcome Home party at the Bruce VFW post on March 29th. They are also having a fundraising that will benefit the food pantry on February 7 at Buddy's Pizza. He is also advocating for the widows of Veterans who will lose their property tax exemption if they have to move out of the house they shared with the Veteran. He believes this is wrong and widows should be able to keep this tax exemption.

Paz Coleston stated all 200 of their Veterans have been placed in permanent housing. They have 3 apartments available to Veterans holding Hud-Vash vouchers.

Kara stated the MCC dental program flyer will be sent out soon. Reduced price dental in Warren at their South campus for anyone who needs it, services are by appointment.

VI. VCAT UPDATE/MVAA UPDATES:

Kara Fields stated the VCAT received their 501c3 status, they are looking for a Treasurer. The next VCAT meeting will be March 10 and it will focus on "quality of life" and the PACT Act.

Allen Dow said the MVAA is conducting interviews to fill vacancies. Please go to their website for any events that have been posted.

VII. NEXT MEETING: April 03, 2023 - canceled

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM