

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes
Virtual Meeting and In-person meeting
Monday, October 02, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ATTENDEES:

Laura Rios	Marc Trail	Elizabeth Leonhard
Chris Reilly	Stephen Boegehold	Paul Salcepuedes
Allen Dow	Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards	Mark Kilgore
Nikkie Hochberg	Angela Nichols	Kevin Nichols
Liz Sergent	April Winkleman	Henry Storm
April Clipper	Olivia Raye Leonard	

III. INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 7, 2023 meeting minutes were approved and recorded as written.

IV. SPECIAL SPEAKER:

Henry Storm – VeteranFacilitator.org

VeteranFacilitator.org is a website and YouTube channel about helping informing Veterans about the benefits available to them and how to access them. They are primarily focused on educating Veterans and conducting 1 on 1 talks/conversations to ensure Veterans are taking advantage of their benefits. He spoke about the changes to the VA travel claim system and about the free tablets and WiFi available to Veterans.

Paul Salcepuedes – Veteran Employment Services (VES)

VES works through Michigan Works services centers and provides coaching and help with gaining employment for Veterans and Spouses. VES conducts 1 on 1 counseling to help with resumes, job searches, and help identify and reduce or eliminate the barriers Veterans have, to gain and maintain employment. Local VES has successfully helped 10 Veterans this summer to gain full time employment.

Laura Rios – Operation Christmas and VA Updates

VVA will be conducting operation Christmas for veteran families, they need to be identified by 01 December.

VA will be conducting ongoing PACT act events with the nearest being 03 and 05 October at Macomb Community College.

V. AGENCY UPDATES/ROUND ROBIN:

Nikkie Hochberg:

Talked about Care SEM offering Parenting classes. DHHS has a new contact number and features a callback function. DHHS # (844)464-3447

Mark Kilgore:

Care SEM has 3 Veteran coaches that offer help to veterans seeking assistance.

Allen Dow:

MVAA is hiring new VSO's, a VSO Manager, and a suicide prevention coordinator.

MVAA is looking for Veterans to march in Thanksgivings Day Parade. There will be a DOD Tap Class November 6-8th at Selfridge and a Resource Fair on the 7th. NCO (E6 and above) Military service will suffice for some state of Michigan jobs in leu of bachelor's degree and relevant work experience, information can be found in the job posting.

Elizabeth Leonhard:

Easter Seals MORC has started a new program for Veteran Outreach. They are attempting to help veterans in need that may not meet other programs requirements.

Mark Trail:

Care Patrol Macomb offers assistance in locating the best community or resources for elderly care.

Angela Nichols:

Macomb Community Collage spoke about MVAA conference for higher education and the VA presentations that will take place at the center campus on the 3rd and the south campus on the 5th. Motor City VCAT will be held Friday December 8th at 10:00.

Kara Fields:

South Campus had a huge renovation on our skilled trades building; these programs are back on at our Warren Campus. Macomb's Dental program has reduced cost services for Veterans. Macomb has a Macomb Tuition Advantage program, which pays full tuition costs for Michigan residents who do not qualify for Pell but have an annual household income less than \$70K. Students simply need to apply for FAFSA and the college will check them for eligibility automatically.

VI. VCAT UPDATE/MVAA UPDATES:

Macomb Community College – South Campus will be hosting on Friday December 8 at 10:00 – noon an in-person event. All three county VSO directors, local VSO champions, MVAA and VCAT members will have a facilitate conversation covering process, challenges, and successes for connecting Veterans to VSOs. Join us to be part of the conversation to break bread and to network.

VII. NEXT MEETING: December 04, 2023

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM