

Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative Minutes  
Macomb Community Action Training Room  
21885 Dunham Clinton Township, MI 48038  
Monday, February 04, 2019

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Attendees:**

**Charles Garling, DIA**

**Katie Page, Vet Ctr**

**Madeline Habib, MCCMH/HSCB**

**Colton Darrow, TTI**

**Gerald Fisher – Curley, VAMC**

**Chris Reilly, Michigan Works!**

**Darryle Johnson, Vet Services**

**Stephen Boegehold, DHHS**

**Susan Casadei, Harbor Health**

**Kara Fields, MCC**

**Jennifer Georgievski, MI Veteran Employ**

**Lynn Karnes, Womans Life Chapter 911**

**Jennifer Kimm, MI Works!**

**Adrienne Gasperoni, CARE**

**Sama Harp, MCA**

**Katie Carroll, Veteran Services**

**Keila Williams, MRS**

**Deanne Honeycutt, MHC**

**Kate Logan, MVAA**

**Mark Meadows, VAMC**

**Jason Bruggeman, Mi Vet Emp Serv**

**A. C. Giles, TTI**

**Mark Kilgore, CARE**

**Joshua Puraven, Free Star Financial**

**Laura Rios (Co-Chair), Macomb Veteran Services**

**Lisa Marie Duncan-Edwards, Macomb Veteran Services**

**Franklin Newman, AFSA**

**Charlene Myers, NCOA/DAV**

**Joseph Rodgers, VOA**

**Alexandra Zacks, DHHS**

**Mike Dexter, MYCare Health Ctr**

**Liz Sergent, MCA**

**Nicole Gauthier, Veteran Navigator**

**David Hannum, Vet Services**

**Emily Masttick, VAMC**

**Erick Jackson, Buddy to Buddy**

**Byron Nemela, DIA**

II. **INTRODUCTIONS**

The committee members went around the table and introduced themselves and the service organization to which they worked.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The January 07, 2018 minutes were approved as a matter of record with the change to correct the spelling of Lynn Karnes' organization name to Woman instead of Women.

IV. **NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

No old business at this time.

V. **SPECIAL SPEAKER:** Byron Nemela and Charles Garling, DIA

The DIA is free of charge for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. "The DIA Artmaking Studio has partnered with social service agencies throughout Southeast Michigan since the 1990's, providing a safe, nurturing environment for creative expression and socialization, while building positive relationships within their group and the wider community." (excerpt from the 10<sup>th</sup>

Annual Community Group Art Exhibition booklet. This program provides meaningful experiences through art with gallery tours and hands-on art making. The annual community group exhibition, provides a unique opportunity for group members to share their artistic work with museum visitors.

## **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Benefits/Communication: Laura stated the State County Incentive Grant was approved to fund the Financial Coach and Vita Tax Coordinator for this year. The Macomb County Veteran Services department also received an additional \$220K in state grant money. She briefly spoke about possible ideas to help veterans with these funds. Any ideas have to be approved by the Veteran Service Commission and then to the MVAA committee. Madeline stated the Mental Health flowchart has been updated and she has hard copies available for pick up. The Education and Training flowchart should be updated by the next meeting. The Utilities and Transportation flowcharts are still being updated but should also be available at the next meeting. Madeline will bring hard copies to the next meeting but you can always find them on the MVAC website.

B. Employment: Chris Reilly stated there was a Veteran Court 41B Job Fair on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12 - 4 in Judge Fuca's court. Any veteran going through her court is welcome to attend the job fair. The employers attending this job fair are felony friendly. Jennifer Kimm reminded everyone that the next Veteran Employability Boot Camp was next week. Mark Meadows stated that 1<sup>st</sup> step for any veteran seeking employment was to attend the Veteran Boot Camp. On February 25 there is a Warriors to Work event at the VA Hospital. This event is for homeless veterans. The next Hire Our Heros event is March 9. GM has begun their cutting over 3,000 people from their jobs. The Big Three are on hold regarding hiring, but the service companies are hiring.

C. Services: No new updates.

D. Membership: Shaun Taft was absent. Laura briefly mentioned how to sign in when coming to the meeting. She also mentioned how to get on the MVAC roster and get a name plate made.

E. Faith Based: Rodney Tolbert absent.

F. Higher Education: Kara states the changes in the Forever GI Bill are progressing. The VA is pushing off the requirement for the new calculation for the housing amount for Post 911 users until January 2010. The underpaid will still get their back pay around the first of the year 2010. If you have questions regarding these changes, please contact Kara.

## **VII. ROUND ROBIN**

Laura Rios: provided hard copies of this year's tax flyer. There are 5 locations with a veteran resource fair on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the VFW in Shelby Township.

Lynn Carnes: Her organization is made up of a group of volunteers. They help individuals/families in their time of need. i.e. house fires medical expense and/or funeral. If there is an emergency, her organization is there to provide funds to help. They receive the funds by fund raising. There is a Wine, Women and Wellness event this Thursday. If anyone is interested in this event, please contact her. She provided canned goods to the Coast Guard during the government shut down.

Madeline Habib: There are hard copies of the Right Connection available for \$15.00. The next Traveling Tours is May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Charlene Myers: The DAV 129 chili cook off is March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11 - 3.

Brian Webb: There is a female veteran peer support program that has just started at the state level. He was able to secure two contractors: Shelly Rood and Amy Batchelder. Shelly will be on the east side of the state and Amy on the west side of the state. If you know any female veterans who are having mental health or substance abuse challenges, please connect them with Shelly or Brian. Former Senator Bill Hardeman will be coordinating a new faith based initiative starting in May. For more information, please contact Brian.

Kate Logan: The state is looking to be proactive with a response team to help Coast Guard families in need in case the government shuts down again on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact her for more information.

Gerald Fisher – Curley: The VA is seeking to hire 12 Master Program Social Workers. The Veteran's Justice Outreach is now under his charge. He would like to have a representative speak at an upcoming collaborative meeting.

Stephen Boegehold: The February DHHS Bridge Cards have gone out.

Liz Sergent: The Show Me the Money Dates, which is a financial resource fair, are scheduled for February 16 and Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> both are 10 – 2.

Sama Harp: March 2, will be the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Walk for Warmth event. There is a mobile pantry that comes to the Thompson Center in Warren every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month; they have boxes of food and are open from 10 – 12. During the government shut down they gave out over 65 boxes of food, each box contained around 25 pounds of food.

Susan Casadei: Their organization can provide personal care services for veterans through the VA at no cost.

Keila Williams: MRS helps people with disabilities find employment and support. She provided pamphlets regarding their services.

Adrienne Gasperoni: There are Parenting Conferences coming in March, lunch will be included.

Katie Page: Free Trauma Sensitive Yoga at MCC 10:00 every Wednesday.

Kara Fields: MCC has started social activities for veterans. Please let her know if you would like to be included in the dates.

Chris Franklin: Looking to do a follow up after the Smoking Cessation program.

### **NEXT MEETING**

---

Monday, March 04, 2019 starting at 9:00 A.M. at:  
Macomb Community Action Training Room, 21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Township

Special Speaker: Chaka McDonald ,Veterans and Military Families Navigator

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 A.M.