



**Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs  
Meeting Summary Minutes  
September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**I. Call to Order & Introductions:**

Jerry Godwin, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Commission on Veterans Affairs (CVA). Jerry asked for all present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and to remain standing for a moment of silence for all of those who have given their lives and those who have been wounded for our country in the different conflicts in which our country has been engaged. A POW/MIA Empty Chair is placed at all official meetings of the Commission as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Randy Stone, Commissioner, made a motion to approve the May, 2014 and June, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes. Roland Kauffman, Commissioner, seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the May, 2014 and June, 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes were unanimously approved as written. Approved minutes are available online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cva).

**III. Easter Seals Military Veterans Programs – Bob Simpson, Vice-President, Military and Veterans Operations, Easter Seals-Greater Washington Baltimore Region:**

Easter Seals has received grant funds from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide services to Homeless Veterans in Maryland (Prince George's County and Montgomery County); northern Virginia areas of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudon, and Prince William Counties; and Washington, D.C. Grant funding received for homeless female veterans is \$300,000 and grant funding received for homeless male veterans is \$299,960. DOL will continue to fund the grant as long as the statistics are good. Easter Seals provides job training, counseling, and placement services (including job readiness, literacy, and skill training) to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force. In order to be eligible for the program that veteran must be: homeless; have proof of veteran status (DD214 or VA ID card); and received any type of discharge except dishonorable.

The Veterans Staffing Network (VSN) is a full service staffing agency that provides temp-to-perm, contract, and direct-hire placements. All revenues generated by the VSN are reinvested to provide crucial support services for veterans, wounded warriors, and their families. For more information, visit <http://veteranstaffingnetwork.org>.

The Little Warriors Program provides free child care services to the children of wounded warriors who are being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Adult Day Service Centers are located in Silver Spring, Baltimore, Hagerstown, and Fairfax. There are several World War II veterans that attend adult day services.

**IV. Establish Top Two Policy Priorities for FY15 for County Council Due October 7<sup>th</sup>:**

Betsy Luecking, Staff, noted that Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Health & Human Services, proposed the following common themes for joint Commission advocacy: prevention services; mental health; and multi-generational poverty.

Jane McCarthy, Commissioner, suggested that the County conduct a needs assessment of the County's veterans and their families. It was suggested contacting the DC VA Medical Center, the Baltimore VA Medical Center, Ft. Detrick CBOC, and the Greenbelt CBOC to see how many veterans from Montgomery County are visiting these facilities for services. Ken Reichard, Representative, Senator Ben Cardin's Office, said he will ask his staff person to reach out to these facilities for data. It was also suggested contact local Veteran Service Organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, for data. Betsy added that when she met previously with Department of Veterans Affairs staff they had

asked the Commission in assisting with outreach efforts to get veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Data from enrollment will help us to locate where veterans are in the County and what services they are seeking.

It was suggested that the Commission ask for increased transportation services to VA health care facilities. Jason Franklin, Combat2College, Montgomery College, noted that a van was recently donated to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. The van provides round trip transportation from Charlotte Hall to the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC. Jason suggested that the Commission ask the County for a similar donation or program. Sharon Hodge, Commissioner, noted that the DC VA Medical Center has transportation that goes to the Capitol Heights Metro, but doesn't go any farther than that. She suggested asking the VA to extend its transportation services to the Silver Spring Metro.

Jane McCarthy, Commissioner, made a **motion: for the top two policy issues to be 1) increase access to health care for veterans, to include increasing transportation services to VA health care facilities; 2) supporting veterans at Montgomery College and Universities at Shady Grove.** Sharon Hodge, Commissioner, **added to the motion "outreach to the general population regarding programs, services and recognition events"**. Randy Stone, Commissioner, seconded the amended motion. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **V. Chair and Vice-Chair Report:**

None.

#### **VI. Unfinished Business:**

None.

#### **VII. New Business:**

Mike Subin, Commissioner, asked for the Commission to support an Accenture Panel & Job Fair for current military and veterans to be held at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners were not entirely in support of the event as it may open the door for other agencies and companies to seek our endorsement. Jerry Godwin, Chair, suggested the Commission support this event and review future endorsements on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Randy Stone is the President of the Flower Valley Citizens' Association. The Association along with the Manor Lake Civic Association has invited the Commission to hold one of its upcoming meetings in their Flower Valley and Manor Lake neighborhoods. The two associations will advertise in their neighborhoods as well as at Leisure World and other retirement homes in the area. The Commission agreed to hold its November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting

#### **VIII. Roundtable:**

The Commission scheduled a Veterans Recognition Workgroup meeting for Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post 41 in Silver Spring.

Betsy reported that the installation of a 55" flat screen television has been approved for placement at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Installation details are still being worked out, but the Commission hopes to dedicate the television at a Veterans Day event. Betsy and Carly Clem, Staff, will be working to design and add content to the new system which will feature information on programs, services and events for veterans and their family members, as well as the names and pictures of those from Montgomery County who have died in service to our country.

Bob Pelletier, MontgomeryWorks, will give a presentation about a new program at the next Commission meeting.

**Adjournment:** 7:30 p.m.

#### **Next Full Commission Meeting:**

Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at HHS – 401 Hungerford Drive, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Tan Conference Room, Rockville, Maryland 20850

Respectfully submitted:

Carly Clem, Administrative Specialist I

Betsy Luecking, Program Manager II