



Maine Veterans in Need
March 19, 2024
Meeting place is
Mid-Coast Veterans Council
at 1:00 PM
Zoom Call information
1 646 876 9923 US (New York)
1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID 881 3758 0485
Passcode 777765

Meeting Started at 1:00 PM

Attendance:

James Bachelder, Maine VFW, MVN Veteran Outreach Officer
David Patch, MVN President
Jerry Dewitt, DAV
Michael Roy, MVN Vice President
Leo Deon, Veterans Program Manager, Maine Department of Labor
Tom Pangborn - Maine Bureau of Veterans Services
Jarad Greely - Forward Operating Veterans
Marty Diller - MCVC
Roy Driver – Maine foster program with dogs

Agenda accepted with no opposition.

Formal members are: the Elks, Shawn Lewin, MCVC, Pinetree Legal, Emergency Trailers and Wellness Mobile, Jerry DeWitt.

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the February meeting minutes by:
Jerry Dewitt, seconded by Roy Driver, so voted

Treasurer's Report: Lodging account balance is \$3,137.78, Operating account balance is \$5,687.29. Total all accounts is \$8,825.07.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by: Jerry Dewitt, seconded by: Jim Bachelder so voted.

1. David Patch presented the Maine Veterans in Need Power Point Presentation.
 - a. The United States Interagency Council on Homeless is the only federal agency with the sole mission of preventing and ending homelessness.
 - b. Veteran is any person who served on active duty in the armed forces regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received. To immediately offer and provide some form of shelter. No barriers such as sobriety, minimum income requirements, etc. local agencies add their red tape with barriers like the Veterans' definition.
 - c. The history
 - d. The service needs.
 - e. Immediate Assistance and a warm handoff.

- f. The only 24/7 phone number available.
- g. Cases come from 211 (4 to 5 per week), 988, agencies, VA, MBVS and First Responders.
- h. Immediate assistance until the system takes over.
- i. The process
- j. Map of agencies.
- k. Usually much less than \$500 per claim.
- l. 177 Veterans Helped in 2024.
- m. The financial need. We could do what we do with \$40 to \$50 thousand a year.
- n. Final Comment

This will be on our website soon.

I have asked Brian Commings to present his organization next month. Maybe Mike can do one in May and Wellness Mobile. We hope this will help others see what is being done.

- 2. Stand-Down. Brian Commings, Jim Bachelder and I will be meeting.
 - a. Jim, I asked Jen Lane to attend. Shouldn't we ask MBVS?
 - b. Tom, we are looking at filing for the grant. We can diversify the material we get.
- 3. 2023 990 – The 990 is not due until May 15th. H&R Block does all the other taxes that are due on April 15th.
- 4. Has anyone heard about the By-Name-List? Jim, they are trying to figure out what agency is responsible for verifying the data entry. Also, they have been working on the wording on everything. They were looking at a July, August time-line a year ago. That is not happening. They are the Homeless Veterans Action Committee.
- 5. Website, has anyone look at it. It is still in development. Take some time to look at the website and give us feedback on your ideas. I tried the donation button and am tracking where the donation is deposited. Looking for funds that Pay Pal may be holding. Don't use it next.
 - a. Mike, when I click on the need, I get an error screen. I tried it a third time and it worked.
 - b. Shawn, most people wouldn't try 3 times. We should get that fixed.
- 6. Fundraising, Shawn and I are getting onto the calendar of organizations. We can use a shortened copy of the Power Point presentation.
 - a. David, the last line is we need donations.
- 7. Furniture, David – we have furniture in many locations around the state so we need the furniture committee to look at not duplicating the effort. We need to use the furniture closest to the need.
 - a. Eddie, we defiantly need coordination. If we get a group together, the manager at State Surplus is willing to help as much as he can. He has storage next to the old bread store in Augusta and trucks going out to all parts of the state.

- b. Dave, we rented a U-Haul for 2 people. It was under \$100. They supplied the labor. It was easy and cheap.
 - c. Jim, the MBVS had a special meeting with the leaders of the Veterans Service Organizations along with doctors, universities and others. We discussed the possibility of the students helping with our labor needs. Dave, when you talk to David Richmond, ask him when the next special meeting will be held. We need to stress the need and see what the schools can do to help.
 - d. Dave, Tom, can you talk to Dave Richmond about, "Who is the contact for student labor?" This came from the special meeting the Governor called with the leaders of the VSO's.
 - e. Tom, I will get these questions on the labor, HMIS to Dave and see what he thinks.
 - f. Jim, the meeting generated a large list of action items. It would be nice to see where they are on that list.
8. Change of time and date of meetings. Mornings are out for Jim and Mike.
- a. Dave, we will leave it where it is now.
 - b. Jim, we could use a different Tuesday.
 - c. Mike, we could move it to a later time like 3 PM.
9. Jim, results from the year's end of assistance from the VA last year. The percentage of Veterans that return to homelessness is 4.9%. the goal is to be under 5%. House 146 homeless Veterans and we have already housed 206 homeless veterans, 141.1% of our goal. Engage with at least 99 new homeless Veterans. They engaged with 166 Veterans for a 186% of their yearly goal.
- a. I'll send you the agenda that has these numbers. You can send it out to MVN.
10. Dave, how do we make these meeting worthwhile for all the participants. Think about it and get it back to me. I would like to share where our funds are spent. This is without any names. Maybe you can tell us if our specific support is worthwhile or just a waist of our funds. I'm learning about the incarcerated Veterans. It helps to share the unique cases. Next month Brian will share the Veterans Forward organization and I will share some unique cases I have had.
11. Mike, a lot of meetings I go to are truing to restructure. We are truing to get the most out of the time. You hit on something with taking thee unique clients or situations, that might be worthwhile.
12. Roy, are people being tracked when they return to homelessness and is it because of their mental health issues. Where is it they are being seen and for whatever condition they have and how is it being treated?
13. Mike, we use the Vet Center. We ask if they are combat Veterans and direct them to the Vet Center. If they are not eligible for the Vet Center, we go outside the agency for assistance. A concern is that the more times a Veterans loses their housing it is harder to get them into another place.

14. Dave, according to a message from the American Legion, there are 2.8 million Veterans dealing with illicit drugs and/or alcohol and only 7.6% are being treated.
15. Marty, MCVC has a Lewiston mental health provider come every Thursday and do office hours here.
16. Dave, how do we wrap this up? Identify the homeless number and how do we keep track of those that need mental health support and who are not getting any mental health.
 - a. Mike, the Tuesday and Thursday meetings are not mental health tracking. We discuss housing opportunities and other resources. Mental health issues may come up in the discussion as needed but it is not concentrated on MH. The team helps each other when we have a tough case.
 - b. Jim, a question I have is, "What else causes a Veteran to lose their housing other than MH?"
 - c. Mike, I'll see if that is something we can start tracking.
17. Does anyone have anything else? You can send an email with your thoughts or answers. I have a lot of homework here to do.

Our next meeting is on April 16th at 1:00 PM.

Adjourn at 2:20 PM