



Maine Veterans in Need
October 15, 2024
Meeting place is
Mid-Coast Veterans Council
at 1:00 PM

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Turn on “recording”

Attendance:

MVN Officers
David Patch
James Bachelder
Mike Roy
MVN Members
Elks
Lewin
MCVC
Pine Tree Legal
V.E.T.S.
Wellness Mobile

Approval of September-meeting minutes:

- David received a call from the VA and clarified that Heroes Home and Michael Kirk do not have a relationship with the VA formally or informally.
- Motioned made to approve and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly reports: ~~All in favor~~

~~1. Secretary’s Report: Minutes from the September meetings~~

~~2.1. Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurers report~~

Available Funds

- MVN – Lodging Account: \$2,632.61, Operating Account: \$12,106.74, Total: \$14,739.35
- Motion made to approve the Treasurers Report was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- \$1,000 in reimbursements on the way.
- VFW – There was some question about finances State and Federal funding for shoes and clothing to be provided at the Homeless Standdowns. The Federal funding was specifically for homeless veterans. The question was if the State Funding could be used for clothing for any veteran in need. At the Lewiston Standdown for a particular Veteran that who was not homeless, but needed shoes/clothing as looking for shoes/clothing. Jim had some understanding of other finances that others were not aware of and will be sharing some state documentation about how to get ahold of those funds for these cases for the future Matt Kennedy stated he would look at the language of the contracts providing the State funding to see if it was earmarked just for homeless veterans or not.

~~3.2. Gift Card Tracking –~~

- We spend a substantial amount on gift cards ~~right now~~ and are now starting to track the gift cards to specific veterans. ~~-, but the tracking~~ The tracking system is new and is definitely work in progress. ~~isn't going well so far.~~
- ~~There is a tracker that's sent to everyone with gift cards purchased, but Dave says he needs to tighten this up a bit better and to get a tracker to send along for case workers as well.~~
- If anyone is in talks with someone that may be interested in being the Treasurer for MVN, this would be a great relief!

Unfinished Business:

1. Case Worker Training Status: Dave

- Overall the case worker training documents looked great.
- Training was slated for the day after the meeting hosted by Health Affiliates of Maine.
- There will be a shared screen if those presenting would like to display some of their own information.

Chris asked: Have we ever thought about putting together a resource list?

Dave answered: He has a document that he hasn't shared yet, but will ~~do~~. He has each resource listed by category and has resource groups listed alphabetically as well. The document will go on our website and it will be managed by Dave with updated contact/resource information and a date it was updated.

2. Stand-Downs update: Matt

- 2 down and 2 to go
- Portland had 13 homeless Vets attend, Lewiston had 16 homeless Vets attend, both had 7 non-homeless Vets attend
- October 23rd – Tri County Career Center in Bangor
- October 30th – Mill Park in Augusta

3. By Name List status

- No update

4. MVN Client Summary: Dave

- Two Veterans are coming out of Mountain View Correctional Facility. We are hoping to provide a support group, but when/how is unsure at this time. We are working with their case workers to try to hash out more details.
 - i. One is a Vietnam Vet who has been there for 30 years. They will get out November 1st. They currently have no place to go, but he is working on being enrolled in Preble St, but hasn't completed enrollment as of the meeting. Maine Bureau will provide a duffle bag of clothes. They are most worried about losing the network they've had the last 30 years. Chris mentioned including Bruce Noddin who has a re-entry program that meets every week to support those coming out of prison.
 - ii. Second Vet could be released whenever he has a place to go, but his formal release is about a year away. Because of this, most resources are unable to help until they are 30 days away from their release date, therefore they aren't able to get help in finding housing. Chris mentioned Fresh Start being a housing resource that has 17 houses and buying more as they can. Shawn said they had already been contacted and they are unable to help at this time.
- No other clients were mentioned during summary.

5. Fundraisers Scheduled: Dave

- Winter Classic continues to be the largest fundraiser for MVN and it's coming in February. If companies don't want to write MVN a check directly, they can sponsor or donate to the Winter Classic event and it will still help.
 - i. Dave will get the sponsorship documentation out to the group as soon as possible so we can share that with potential sponsors/donators.
- Continue to reach out to businesses and organizations within a two-hour radius to help support.

New Business:

1. Shawn – He would like to be on call to help find a location to place trailers as he has contacts in most communities. Ed has made sure we have people to haul the trailers, but Dave mentioned that he and Shawn can connect separately.
 - There was a Vet we were looking for placement. Mike has someone coming out of KOA on 10/31 the closer to Bath the better. He will try to go through the Rotary to find a location and will reach out to the American Legion in Augusta to see if they are willing to house another trailer.
2. Chris – He asked that if anyone is interested, he's putting together a group of people to present on increasing empathy and reducing stigma for those going through mental health issues and is working with media coverage statewide. Reach out after the holidays if you would like to participate.

Updates:

1. Update from participants
 - Dave – He will be sending out all the hand-outs for review on the case-worker training at Health Affiliates of Maine. Asked for feedback and will welcome it going forward. He has already used one of the intake documents with someone looking to enroll in Preble St and so far it's streamlining the process.
 - Chris – Hope house is being taken on by Preble St so it will not be shutting down.

Meeting Adjourned

Contact information shared via chat:

Bruce Noddin – brunoskis317@gmail.com or r3entrymaine@gmail.com

Maine Re-Entry Network (MERN) meets every Tuesday from 9:30-11:00am (207) 330-1446

Fresh Start Inc, Sober Living Homes – Scott Parady (207) 944-2235 or ScottParady1@gmail.com

Chris's email – welcometohousing@gmail.com

Margo Walsh of MaineWorks for those releasing and dealing with substance abuse – (207) 650-9179 or Margo@maineworks.us

Next meeting on Tuesday, 19 November at 1:00 PM

Topic: MVN Monthly Meeting

Time: November 19, 2024 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88137580485?pwd=STNmZzdaeVB2cW5DNjU1SmlVR1RWdz09>

Meeting ID: 881 3758 0485

Passcode: 777765

