

Governors Advisory Council for Veterans Services

Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
February 15, 2017

Aging Committee

Mr. Ed Beck

Ms. Samantha Cossman

Co-Chairs

**Aging Committee, Ed Beck and Samantha Cossman; co-chairs
Subcommittee met on 12/15/16, 1/18/17 (conf. calls); 2/15/17**

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ed Beck	DMVA
Samantha Cossman	Aging
Brian Natali	DMVA
Tim Cleveland	Tioga County Veterans Affairs
Jennifer Burnett / Georgia Goodman	DHS
Ben Laudermilch / Johnathan McVey	DHS
John Arway / Maxine Johnson	Fish & Boat
Kit Watson	American Legion
Philip Horn	PA Council on the Arts
Deborah Allen	PA Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition

Aging Committee (Continued)

Adult Day Care

- Holding pattern until construction begins
- POC available at PDA if there are questions or a need for SME

Partnership with County Homes

- White paper for VA
- Meetings with county nursing homes on hold until determination from VA

Aging Committee (Continued)

Reduce Aging Veteran Homelessness

- Work with Rick's committee to avoid duplication
- Housing stock deficit (affordable/accessible)
- Proximity to reliable transportation
- Incorporated committee members with housing specialization
- Potential resources:
 - DECD
 - SDHP/ RHC program
 - DHS 5-year Housing plan
 - PDA Housing and Community Services division
 - Local Housing Authorities and landlord associations
 - County-level Housing Coalitions/Task Forces
 - Engage PennDOT
- Is there a list of resources/groups by county or region?

Aging Committee (Continued)

Expand PA Link initiatives for Aging Veterans

Common barrier or gap	First/next steps.....
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involve a PennDOT rep? - PDA/AAA free transit/shared ride options; PwD program - List out options/programs by county or region (partners)
Understanding of Co. Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach/marketing campaign to promote
Caregiver Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise awareness (VA, PDA programs) - Bureau of Homes looking at regs - Look at disease/disability orgs and what they may offer
Resources to age in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote cross-system education and collaboration - PDA programs (Ins/med counseling, meals, housing, rides, legal, sr ctrs, health, sr employ, OPTIONS, etc.) - Promote assistive tech. / home mod. resources
Avoiding scams and fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aid & Attendance, other types (grandparent scam)

Aging Committee (Continued)

Collaboration/Education ideas.....

Outline groups also looking into aging and Veteran issues

- PA Long Term Care Council
- MLTSS SubMAAC
- OMHSAS Mental Health Planning Council

Interagency training and collaboration – promote increased communication and info-sharing/trainings (possibly leverage PA Link service areas)

Send info to those registered for PA Veterans Registry

Engage County Commissioners Association of PA

Leverage local radio and print PSA opportunities (statewide media list?)

Engage younger generations who provide support (social media, HR depts.)

Aging Committee (Continued)

Aging Committee also discussing

Expanding/Promoting Outdoor Activities for Aging Veterans

Next Step:

Seek info on what these groups offer to Aging Veterans

DCNR, Game Commission, PA Council on the Arts, AARP Pennsylvania

Veterans Directed Home & Community Based Services (VD-HCBS)

Next Step:

Could DMVA speak with VISN4 about interest from VAMCs

Education, Employment and Veteran Workforce Development

Mr. Brian LaForme
Chair

Education, Employment and Veteran Workforce Development, Mr. Brian LaForme

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Brian LaForme	Department of Banking and Securities
Christine Hawk	Department of Education
Bruce Foster	State Veterans' Commission
Cory Bender	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Bryan Lentz	Chairman, State Civil Service Commission
Corey Britcher	Fish and Boat Commission
Tina Kotsalos	Department of Banking and Securities
Thomas Applebach	County Directors for Veterans Affairs
Scott Sheely	Department of Agriculture
Shelly Forte	Office of Administration

Health and Behavioral Service Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp
Chair

Health and Behavioral Service, Mr. Rick Hamp Subcommittee met on 01 FEB 2017

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Ruth A. Fairchild	PA State Veterans Commission
Mike Stelacio	PA State Veterans Commission
Dr. Stanley Addair	Department of Human Services
Jodi Skiles	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Holli Senior	Department of Health
Angela Keen	VISN 4
Belinda Albright	County Directors for Veterans Affairs

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) (Veteran Wellness Initiatives)

OMHSAS funding enabled us to present 4 MHFA classes during the SFY. There is a large demand to conduct these classes. We have done an excellent job of sharing information on these courses and our classes have been filled to Capacity. We will continue to advocate for funding consideration to support additional classes during the remainder of the year.

Gino Merli Veterans Center – 22-23 June 2016 , 17 Persons Trained

South Western Veterans Center – 24 August 2016, 17 Persons Trained

Neumann University– 14 Sep 2016 (sponsored by Rep Barrar), 20 Persons Trained

Gino Merli Veterans Center– 30 Sep 2016, 31 Persons Trained

VFW Post 477, Carlisle – October 29th, 12 Persons Trained

These courses are so popular that we currently have requests to do more. We are working with OMHSAS to determine if there is any possibility to fund two or three more courses.

Veteran Centric Fairweather Lodge (Update) (Homeless Veteran Initiatives)

Veteran Centric Fairweather Lodge projects are well underway. Our partners on this initiative are DHS-OMHSAS, L&I, AG And Stairways Behavioral Health. Randy Loss, L&I has drafted a Fairweather Training Lodge concept for review and comment.

Erie Lodge Project

- Utilizing the Money Follows the Person (MFP) concept.
- Stairways is expected to receive 40% of funds during January with (3) 20% allocations in alternate months through the end of the State Fiscal Year.
- The Erie Project Team has 3 candidates for the Lodge Coordinator and they plan to select a candidate in the next couple of weeks.
- Currently orienting 2 homeless Veterans in the Erie Fairweather training lodge – These Veterans are scheduled to into the permanent Lodge on 1 February 2017

Cumberland County Project

- Located in Newville, PA
- They are interviewing multiple candidates/referrals
- Planning extensive public relations events to include participation in expos at the Chambersburg mall and the Martinsburg VA
- They are also planning to coordinate with the VA center in Shippensburg, PA

Venango County Project

- The Lodge is up and running with excellent community support
- The lodge received a \$5,000 donation from the Oil City VFW
- One member is currently residing in the lodge
- Erie VA is a potential referral source

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Veteran Treatment Services Work Group

(Service Member, Veteran and their families Wellness Initiative)

Veteran Treatment Services Working Group is nearing completion. Our partners on this initiative are DDAP, DHS-OMHSAS, and DGS

The Working Groups have conducted 4 sessions

- Develop/Validate Legislative support (Senator Browne, (R) Lehigh Valley
- Develop Categories (Lots) of services and vendor requisites to be delivered under a Commonwealth wide Invitation to qualify (ITQ)
- Develop a timeline for completion, kick off and press release.
- Conduct press release and Training/qualification for Vendors

Categories of Services

- Sex Offender Treatment services, Housing Assistance, Peer Support Services, Mentoring, Workforce Development, Family Reunification, Outpatient Alcohol and other Drug services, Mental Health, Batters Intervention
- Vendors will be able to pre qualify to deliver services throughout the Commonwealth

Goals

- To meet the emerging needs of our Service members, Veterans and their families with regard to “gap services”
- To pre-qualify vendors within regions so as to facilitate rapid access to services when needed
- To allow Vendors to enter the ITQ and expand service delivery as needed
- To establish fair and equitable pricing for services with regard to location while ensuring fiscal responsibility

KickOff/Press Release

- DDAP is the lead Agency with DMVA, DHS-OMHSAS and DGS in support
- DDAP will prepare the press release.
- Press Release and Vendor registration/pre-qualification will be held on 27-28 February 2017.

Women Veterans Committee

Jodi Zucco
Chair

Women Veteran Committee, Jodi Zucco Subcommittee met on January 27, 2017

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Jodi Zucco	Office of Attorney General
Constance Snavelly	State Veterans' Commission
Sonya Borrero	GAC-VS Member-at-Large
Lisa Kaye	County Directors for Veterans Affairs
Karen Herrling	Department of Human Services
Anne Long	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Patricia Conroy	VAMC
Desmarie DeCuir	VISN4

Women Veterans Committee (Continued)

Mission: ***Women Veterans Outreach, Women Veterans focus in Annual Veteran Symposium, Identify emerging needs, Identify Gaps in benefits, programs and services for Women Veterans***

Critical Need: Identify Issues of Unique Concern to PA Women Veterans

Barrier: Lack of Input from our Target Population (approximately 67,000 female veterans)

Mitigation:

- VA Research, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Women Veterans (CWV)
- 2017 National Women Veterans Summit, April 21-22
- Proposed initiative to develop and disseminate a questionnaire through DMVA Digest and other pertinent websites

Initiatives: Questionnaire, Brochure, Collaboration, Outreach, Evaluate “Soldier On, Life After Deployment”

Judiciary Committee

Mr. Ryan Yoder
Chair

Judiciary Committee, Ryan Yoder, PA DOC

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections
Ward Adams	Member at Large
Nicholas Gilliland	Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
Terry Stokes	State Veterans' Commission
Carl Feldman	Department of Human Services
Richard Podguski	Board of Probation and Parole

Veterans Resource Guide

**S:\VA_Share\E-Library (PDF)\Gov's Advisory Council on
Veterans Services\GAC-VS Resource Directory - 5Jul16**

JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

VETERANS' BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS IN PENNSYLVANIA

December 2016

<http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>

2017 GAC-VS Meeting Dates

- **May 17, 2017**
- **August 16, 2017**
- **November 15, 2017**

**Meetings will begin at 2:00PM
at Arrowheads Community Club, Fort Indiantown Gap**



Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 2:00 PM

Arrowheads Community Club

Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, PA