

Governor's Advisory Council for Veterans Services

Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
August 16, 2017

Aging Committee

Mr. Ed Beck

Ms. Samantha Cossman

Co-Chairs

Aging Committee, Ed Beck and Samantha Cossman (co-chairs)

Subcommittee met on: 7/18/17 (joint mtg with BH Committee); 8/16/17 (in-person)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ed Beck	DMVA
Samantha Cossman	PDA
Brian Natali	DMVA
Tim Cleveland	Tioga Co. Veterans Affairs
Kit Watson	American Legion
Jennifer Burnett / James Fearn	DHS (OLTL)
Ben Laudermilch / Jonathan McVey	DHS (Housing)
Philip Horn	PA Council on the Arts
John Arway / Maxine Johnson	Fish and Boat
Deborah Allen	PA Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition
Christopher Kemmerer	DCNR

Aging Committee

Focus Areas:

- **Adult Day:** no update at this time
- **County Home Partnerships:**
 - 6/23/17 - Bureau of Veterans Homes staff toured Delaware County Nursing Home
 - Facility does have space that could be made available for State Veterans Homes
 - Facility upgrades to meet VA requirements estimated at \$8 – \$12 million
 - BVH Director continues to work with VA to determine the best way forward with establishing agreements with county homes
- **Reducing Aging Veteran Homelessness:** 7-18-17 joint meeting with B.H.
- **Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans:** next slide

Aging Committee

Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans

- 9/13/17 - Brian Natali will present on DMVA and veterans systems/supports during PA Link Monthly webinar for our partner network and Person-Centered Counseling staff
- 10/6/17 – Aging Network services presentation during 2017 VSO Conference
- Veterans Day 2017 email message to PA Link partner network promoting Veterans Registry, local VSOs, Aid and Attendance assistance through VSOs (in development)
- Transportation Options list for VSOs (initial planning stages)

Aging Committee

Entertainment Opportunities for Aging Veterans, their Family Members and Caregivers

Key area of discussion for Aging Committee meetings moving forward

- DCNR (brought Mr. Kemmerer on board)
- Fish and Boat
- PA Council on the Arts
- Traditional aging network opportunities (community and senior centers)

What programs already exist and how can we help promote them and increase the use of them? Where is there a need and/or interest in new programs?

(Socialization, community integration, health and wellness, caregiver support)

Education, Employment and Veteran Workforce Development

Mr. Ruben Pachay
Chair

Education, Employment and Veteran Workforce Development, Mr. Ruben Pachay, (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ruben Pachay	Department of Labor and Industry
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, (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Ruth A. Fairchild	PA State Veterans Commission
Mike Stelacio	PA State Veterans Commission
Dale Adair	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

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Joint Committee Meeting

Health and Behavioral Service Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp
Chair

Aging Committee

Mr. Ed Beck
Ms. Samantha Cossman
Co-Chairs

Reducing Veteran Homelessness

- 7/18/17: 1st joint meeting between Behavioral Health and Aging

Agreed on joint effort to address homelessness and housing issues across the Veteran lifespan

- Next steps for this focus area
 - Ensure key stakeholder / SME involvement
 - Develop vision, goals, strategies

* Will report out in November

Veteran Centric Fairweather Lodge Initiative



All funds that were available for SFY 16-17 have been expended as of 30 June 2017
We have not received any new funds for SFY 17-18 yet (Budget Issues)

Developing Lodge Updates

Venango County

Open House scheduled for June was cancelled
We continue to conduct referrals to this lodge
4 Veterans currently living in this lodge

Erie County

Lodge is fully furnished and interviews continue for new members
Lodge coordinator continues to work with community leaders to
ensure community integration and support
4 Veterans currently living in this lodge

Cumberland Perry

Lodge is furnished and interviews continue for new members
2 Veterans currently living in this lodge

Lackawanna County

We are working closely with county officials to build stakeholder ship for a
new lodge in Lackawanna County

On July 18th, the Fairweather Lodge Team provide Maj Gen (R) Weller with an information update on the Fairweather Lodge Initiative.

Due to Budget Challenges we have not received and funding for this program

We continue to anticipate some funding in the near future

We have a plan once we have funding.

Suicide Prevention-Peer Initiative: National focused initiative for Service Members, Veterans and their families.

Initial planning meetings have been conducted

DMVA has been asked and agrees to assume the role of Convener

- Host Meetings, provide structure and resources for the committee
- Ensure that regular meetings and progress briefings are completed

We propose the SPPEER Committee be accepted under the GAC-VS

- Quarterly Meetings with reports to SPPEER co-chairs and GAC-VS
- Working Groups conduct business as needed
- Federal/State/Local Government, Community Partners, Public/Private Partners

We propose a leadership team of 3 co-chairs

DMVA, PAARNG, OMHSAS

Upon Approval of the GAC-VS to accept this Sub-Committee we will constitute our membership.

Information Technology Sub-Committee: to address inter-Departmental information Sharing requirements.

- Veterans Registry is up and running with over 10K registrants
- There is proposed legislation that will mandate inter-Departmental Info Sharing
- We MUST ensure that subject matter experts in the IT field help us develop the user needs and requirements to ensure success
- OA-IT should lead this initiative (Secretary Minnich is aware of our plan)

Upon Approval of the GAC-VS to accept this Sub-Committee we will ask OA to constitute its membership.

Women Veterans Committee

Jodi Zucco
Chair

Women Veteran Committee, Jodi Zucco, (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Jodi Zucco	Office of Attorney General
Constance Snavelly	State Veterans' Commission
Lisa Kaye	County Directors for Veterans Affairs
Karen Herrling	Department of Human Services
Anne Long	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Patricia Conroy	VAMC
Pam Iovino	Former Assistant Secretary Department of Veteran Affairs Former Navy Captain

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:

- Develop and disseminate a questionnaire
- Town hall Meetings
- Academic Research and Studies

Women Veterans Committee (Continued)

Proposed Questionnaire:

- Open-ended Questions Pertaining To
 - Types of Benefits Utilized
 - Opinions Related to Benefits Utilized
 - Knowledge of Available Benefits
 - Participation in Veterans Service Organization
 - Identification of Unique Issues of Concern

Town Hall Meetings:

- Regional Events at Armories
- Geared toward Women Veterans
- Dissemination and Gathering of Information

Academic Research: Pros and Cons

GAC-VS Quarterly Session, August 16, 2017

Judiciary Committee

Mr. Ryan Yoder
Chair

Judiciary Committee, Ryan Yoder (Chair)

Committee met on 4 August 2017

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ryan Yoder	Department of Corrections
Nicholas “Chip” Gilliland	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Richard Podguski	PA Board of Probation and Parole
Terry Stokes	State Veterans’ Commission (Veterans Court Advocate – PA VFW)
Ward Adams	Member at Large
Carl Feldman	Department of Human Services

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

The DOC incarcerates more than 3,200 inmate veterans. Recognizing the specialized needs this group of inmates requires, the DOC several years ago opened Veterans Service Units. While a majority of the veterans are housed throughout the entire prison system, VSUs are located regionally at SCI Dallas, 156 bed (eastern region), SCI Houtzdale, 196 bed (central region) and SCI Mercer 126 bed (western region). SCI Mercer recently opened its VSU to replace the one that had operated at SCI Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh facility was closed on June 30, 2017.

The purpose of the Veterans Service Unit is to prepare veterans for successful reentry into society. The VSU helps inmate veterans to improve life skills, address Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse issues and homelessness. In addition, the following needs also are addressed: vocational, financial, family-related, medical, educational, veteran's services, peer support/mentoring and connecting to community resources. Treatment programming for moderate- to high-risk inmates also is offered.

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

On June 27, an official from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) -- Nicholas Stefanovic -- visited SCI Houtzdale to tour the Veterans Service Unit (VSU).

Of the visit, Mr. Stefanovic said:

“Your program is the gold standard for what we should expect both in our treatment of veterans and in our criminal justice system. ... I am sure that jurisdictions all over the country will learn from what you have done. From the dogs to all the rest of the services. What most impressed me is that I met with men who had life sentences yet were hopeful and had found meaning in serving their fellow Veterans. That is something very special. I truly hope that this type of work becomes more commonplace in our criminal justice system.”





Houtzdale officials couldn't let this visit happen without sharing other successes with Mr. Stefanovic, such as the dog training program and showing the variety of wall murals throughout the prison that have been painted by inmates.

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

- Veteran's Court
- Currently in Pennsylvania 20 Counties have Veteran's Court
- On August 4th The Judiciary Committee along with members of DMVA-OVA staff attended a session of the Dauphin County Veteran's Court presided over by Judge William Tully
- Dauphin County Veteran's Court program is specifically designed for veterans involved in the criminal justice system
- The intent of Veteran's Court is to place the veteran into an individually developed intensive drug, alcohol and/or mental health treatment plan coupled with court intervention as an alternative to incarceration to help them return to a productive lifestyle
- Dauphin County utilizes a three track, three phase program lasting approximately one year
- The key component of any successful Veteran's Court is a Veteran's Mentor Program
- Veteran mentors are paired with a veteran participant to provide support as he/she navigates through the court and treatment process

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

- Prior to the court session a Treatment Team meeting occurs where cases are reviewed and client updates are provided to the presiding judge
- Members of the treatment team include individuals from the VA Medical Center, Probation and Parole, County Work Release Program, Veteran Mentor Coordinator, attorneys and Dauphin County Court staff
- During the Veteran's Court session, each participant stands before Judge Tully and are ask how they are progressing in the program, if they have encountered any obstacles and if they have stayed in contact with the proper people who support them through the program.

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

- Visit to the Veteran Service Unit at SCI Mercer
- Visit occurred on July 21st, representatives from DOC, DMVA, L&I, Altoona VAMC and Tomorrows Hope were present

Introduction

David and Rhett Goldsmith

Verdant Holdings, LLC

Introducing Greensburg Veterans Service Center

Greensburg Veterans Sunrise Center



Greensburg Veterans Sunrise Center

Developed by
Verdant Holdings LLC

VHLLC



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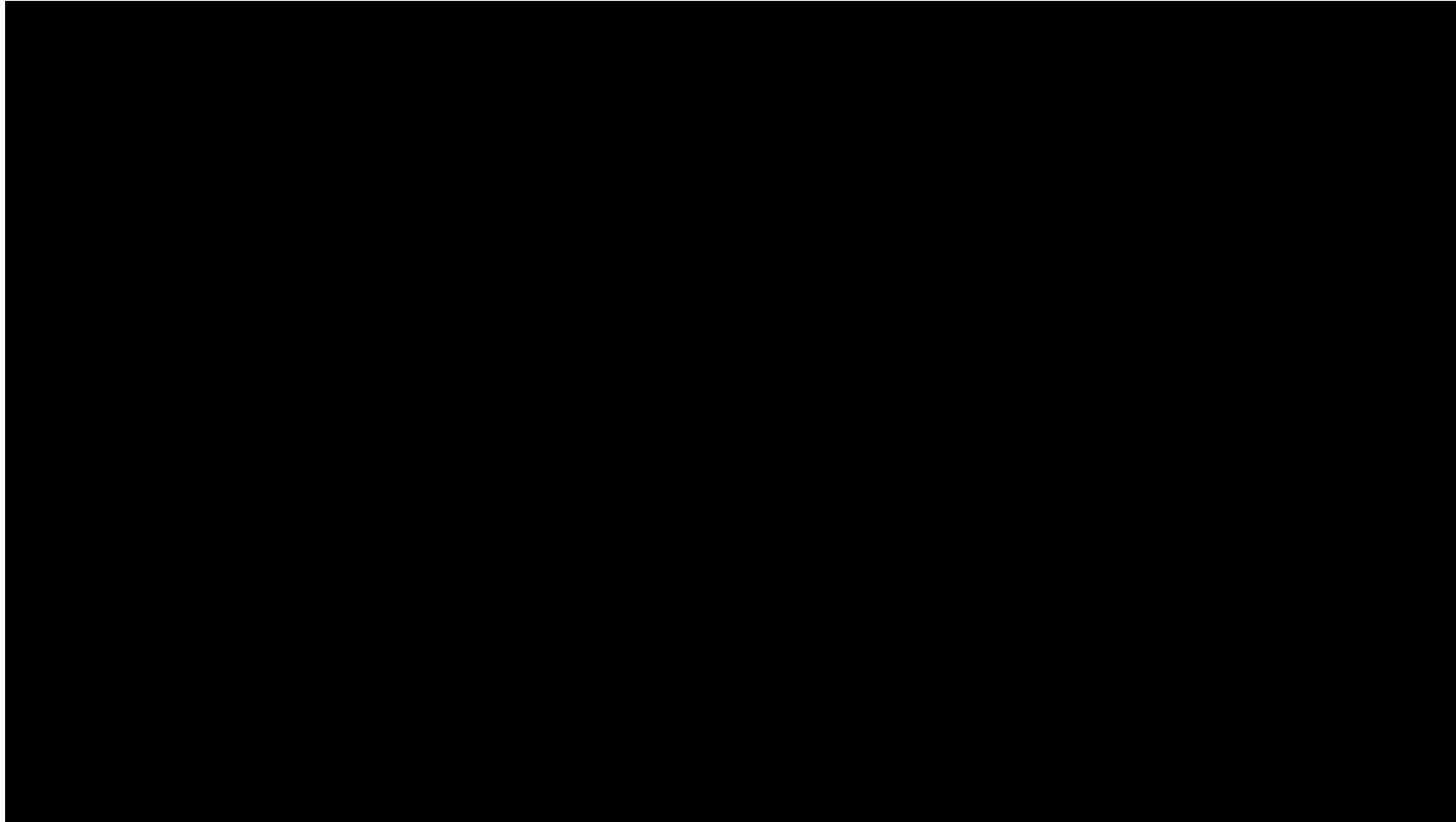
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Greensburg Veterans Sunrise Center

- **GVSC:**
 - Will be a private, independently financed Comprehensive Health and Wellness Facility in Greensburg, PA.
- **GVSC Proposal:**
 - Repurpose a retired 300,000 ft² state facility into a Comprehensive Health and Wellness Facility
 - Develop 96 acres of rolling hills into 1,500 Residential and Treatment Housing Units
- **Mission, Vision, and Service:**
 - Hope, Healing, and Health – The project is designed to transform lives and restore hope by providing compassionate, high-quality clinical and residential services.
- **Goals:**
 - Public (VA) Private (VHLLC) Partnership
 - Create a VA Approved “Veterans Choice Act” Behavioral Health, Clinical, and Transitional Facility
 - Become Certified and Licensed as a “Service Continuum of Care Provider” to the 23 VISNs and DOD
 - Provide Supportive Housing to Veteran’s including Veteran’s Re-Entry Programs, Veteran’s Drug Court Adjudications, and Veteran’s Treatment Court.

Greensburg Veterans Sunrise Center

- **Services Provided:**

- Continual Residential Treatment and Rehabilitation Care for Male and Female Veterans diagnosed with War Trauma, Visually Impaired, Homeless, Physically Disabled, Re-Entry Veterans, and Veterans Court
- A dedicated unit for Female Veterans' treatment and housing
- Behavioral Health for PTSD, TBI, Substance Abuse, Sexual Abuse, Mental Illness, and Psychosocial
- Clinical Health for any Veteran with needs

- **Needs from the Commonwealth:**

- We are NOT looking for State Funding for the Development of the GVSC Project – GVSC is Privately Financed Project
 - Build - Own - Operate
- Requesting a Letter from DMVA
 - demonstrating support for the GVSC Project
 - Committing to future veteran referrals
- Requesting a Letter from the Commonwealth
 - Demonstrating Support for the GVSC Project



veteranssunrisecenter.com



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Architects

Engineers

Program Managers

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We are better together
We are driven to achieve



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Years



Veteran's Administration Experience

3P Cambridge Develop. and Butler VA Outpatient Center, Butler PA

VA Mental Health Building Expansion, Charleston, SC

VA Facility Condition Assessment – VISN1, Manchester, NH

VA NEBC A/E IDIQ - VISN2 Energy Conservation Measures, Bath, NY

Build Mental Health Beds, B95-VA Health Care System, Tucson, AZ

VA West Roxbury Upgrade OR, West Roxbury, MA

Togus VA Women's Imaging Center, Togus, ME

VA VISN1, Renovate Patient Waiting Areas, Boston, MA

Philadelphia VAMC Facility Master Plan, Philadelphia, PA

Bay Pines VAMC Mental Health Addition, Largo, FL

Stantec Services

- **Planning**
- **Geotechnical Engineering**
- **Environmental Engineering**
- **Civil Engineering**
- **Landscape Architecture**
- **Architecture**
- **Structural Engineering**
- **Mechanical Engineering**
- **Electrical Engineering**
- **Program Management**

Development Phases

Assessment

Master Plan

Site and Building Design (*fast track*)

Site and Building Construction (*fast track*)

Occupy

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM

**Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA**