

## Governors Advisory Council for Veterans Services

Arrowheads Community Club  
Fort Indiantown Gap  
May 17, 2017

# Aging Committee

Mr. Ed Beck

Ms. Samantha Cossman

*Co-Chairs*

**Aging Committee, Ed Beck and Samantha Cossman, (Co-Chairs)  
Subcommittee met on 3/22/17 and 4/17/17 (conference call); 5/17/17 (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 / Joanna Zigerell	PA Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition

## Aging Committee

### Focus Areas:

- Reducing Aging Veteran Homelessness (need to schedule with BH Committee)
- Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans (info follows)
- County Home Partnerships



### Aging Committee

## Caregiver Supports

- VA Caregiver Program
  - Partner on making the toolkit or portions of RESCUE available?
- Caregiver Support Program through PDA (administered by local Area Agencies on Aging)
- Exploring partnership with PA Council on the Arts; also F+B, Game, DCNR
  - Caregiver respite, stress reduction; Activities for Veterans themselves
- Explore Pittsburgh area idea of caregiver info at libraries (VSO, library, AAA, PA Link partnership)
- Tioga County's local VFW
  - Explore whether other posts do this informally

## Aging Committee

### Transportation

- Options exist, but may not be well known; many areas with no viable options
- Catalogue options through PA Link → VSOs
- Increase knowledge of Shared Ride, Free Transit programs, fixed route, etc.
  - DMVA Digest; info to local posts; cross trainings and transportation seminars
- How to increase volunteer drivers # (e.g. DAV) – research what other states have done?
- Which counties have found viable solutions to ride issues – poll VSOs? Try to replicate...

Some other transportation-related resources include:

Person with Disability Parking Placard Application

Non-driver ID Cards

Auto Insurance Discounts

AARP Driver Safety Program

Motor Vehicle Registration Fee Discounts

Low-Vision Restricted Driver's Licenses

Rides for blind or visually impaired individuals through Sight Centers (must qualify)

Road to Recovery – American Cancer Society - <https://www.cancer.org/treatment/support-programs-and-services/resource-search.html>

## Aging Committee

### In Home Care and Assistance

- VD-HCBS (Philly only; where is there VISN interest?)
- HCBS programs through DHS/OLTL and PDA
  - Cross train on what is offered, basic eligibility, how to refer to seek enrollment
  - Aging Waiver; Community Health Choices coming; OPTIONS through PDA
- Cross trainings
  - Veterans system supports and programs ← → traditional aging network
- Person Centered Counseling
  - Info from VSOs – quick reference sheet on what VSO can do to help → PCC staff
  - Look at areas of need outside veterans-system resources
- Many PA Link partners that provide in home care
  - MA, PP, Insurance, long term ‘contract’ vs short term
  - Hospice programs – ‘We Honor Veterans’ program
- GAC-VS Quarterly Session, May 17, 2017 > community > commonwealth > country
  - Is there a set of criteria that a VSO needs to know in order to refer a Veteran?

### How to address these issues:

- Cross-system collaboration and education – develop plans to address the following
  - Campaign on asking the Veteran question properly
  - Encourage and foster local connections between VSOs and aging network
  - Cross-train on what is offered by each system
    - VSOs could speak at local PA Link partner meetings/other collaboratives
    - Market VSO info and how they can help (e.g. Aid and Attendance)
    - Invite aging providers to speak at Veterans meetings, posts, etc.
    - Put info about non-traditional supports that could benefit Aging Veterans in the DMVA Digest or send out to VSOs electronically
    - Refer aging Veterans who need more to PCC or aging network provider

# Partnership with County Homes

- Continued dialog with VA
- Exploring requirement for legislation
- Upcoming conference call regarding Delaware County Fair Acres Home – 5 June

# 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

## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- The Committee met on February 15 to discuss tasks.
- Action Steps:
  - Increase visibility of job fairs and education events for military by posting announcements on individual agency social media networks and sending email invitations through contact lists
  - Collaborate more effectively by conducting joint events to increase audience attendance
  - Share agency resources to better educate military on financial readiness



## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- Recent Events
  - Financial workshop on Sunday April 23 at the 56th Striker Brigade at Horsham Air Guard Station – 125 in attendance
  - Senator Laughlin Erie Military Expo
  - PA SAFE participation of 22 agencies, of which many are members of the PMFA
  - Comprehensive DOC Reentrant Plan, includes VSUs!
  - June 2016, Financial Workshop at Lebanon VA
- Reports
  - DMVA & Agriculture collaboration – Scott Sheely
  - DMVA awareness of little-known grant program – Corey Bender
  - OA employment resource updated – Shelly Forte
  - Workforce updates – Steven Wolf

## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- Educational Gratuity Program
  - provides financial assistance,
  - currently up to \$500 per term/semester
  - up to eight semesters
  - to children of honorably discharged Veterans who have service-connected disabilities.

[DMVA](#) > [Veterans Affairs](#) > Educational Gratuity Program

### EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY PROGRAM

Educational Gratuity program provides financial assistance to children of honorably discharged veterans who have service-connected disabilities and served during a [period of war](#) (PDF) or armed conflict or children of veterans who die or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

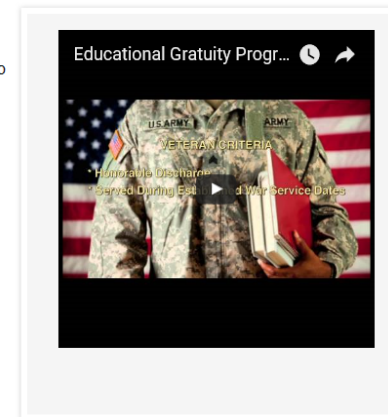
#### Veteran's eligibility criteria:

- Died in service during a period of war or armed conflict or,
- A veteran who has:
  - An honorable discharge from the U.S. military
  - Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. \*\*The following decorations can also be used to establish wartime service:  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Veteran must have a 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

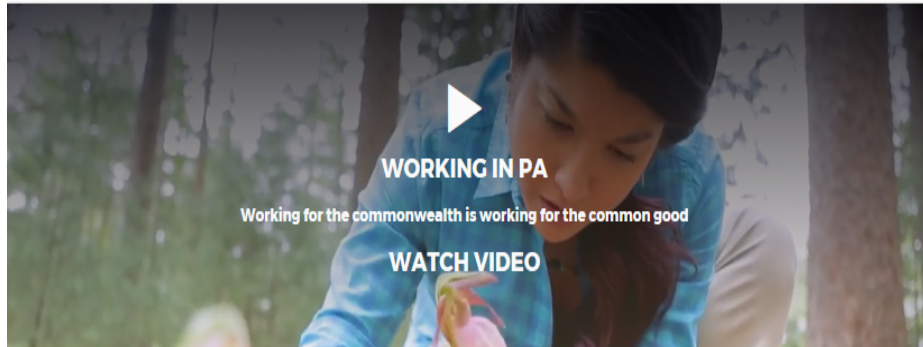
#### Child's eligibility criteria:

- Must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth.
- Applicant must have a financial need.

**Payments:** Payment will not exceed \$500.00 per term or semester per qualified child to each approved



# Employment.pa.gov



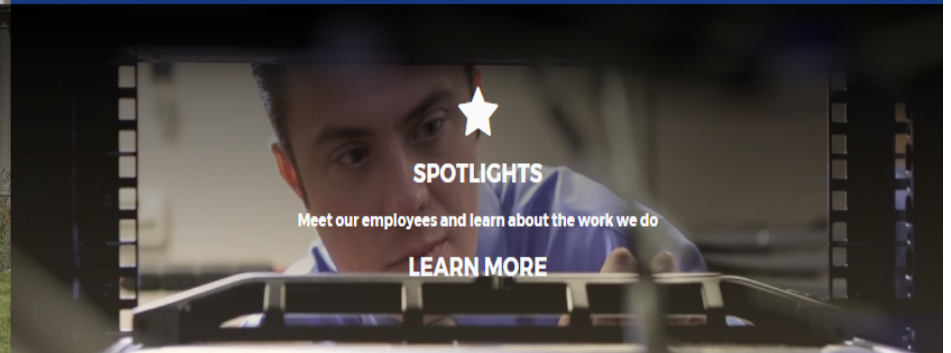
**WORKING IN PA**  
Working for the commonwealth is working for the common good  
**WATCH VIDEO**



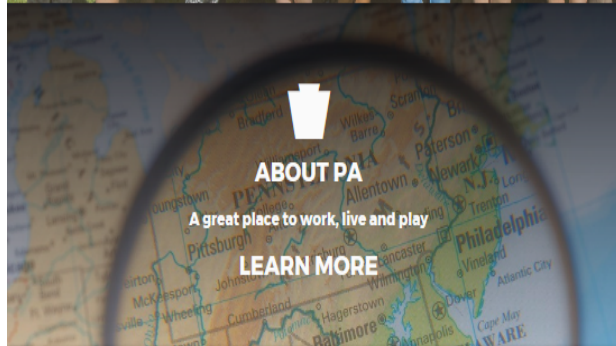
**OPEN JOBS**  
Opportunities across a wide variety of occupations  
**VIEW JOBS & APPLY**




**INTERNSHIPS**  
For high school, college and post-graduate students [psl.pa.gov](https://psl.pa.gov)  
**VIEW PROGRAMS & APPLY**



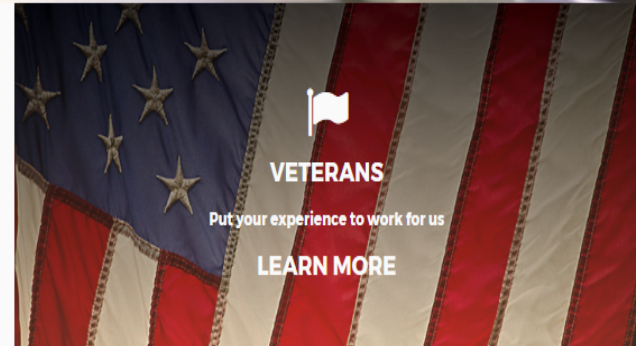
**SPOTLIGHTS**  
Meet our employees and learn about the work we do  
**LEARN MORE**



**ABOUT PA**  
A great place to work, live and play  
**LEARN MORE**



**BENEFITS**  
Financial, health & wellness, work-life balance, career development and other rewards  
**LEARN MORE**



**VETERANS**  
Put your experience to work for us  
**LEARN MORE**

# Employment.pa.gov



## VETERANS

### Put your military experience to work in Pennsylvania!

Returning to civilian life? Starting a second career? Looking for an employer that values active National Guard and Reserve service? Bring the unique experience and personal qualities you developed in the military and continue your work in public service with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!

## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- PA L&I Veteran Initiatives
  - Currently going through a hiring initiative...filling 15 total veteran positions:
  - 7 Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs)
  - 8 Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs)
- Increased coordination/communication efforts with:
  - PA Department of Military and Veteran Affairs
  - US Department of Veteran Affairs

[DLI](#) > [Businesses](#) > [Workforce Development](#)

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Welcome to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry's Workforce Development web pages.

Pennsylvania's workforce development system enables businesses and workers to compete in the worldwide, knowledge-based economy. The workforce enhances employer competitiveness and innovation while preparing Pennsylvanians for jobs that pay in an economy that grows, supports families and businesses and is effectively improving the quality of life for our most valuable resource - our people.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT	CENTER FOR WORKFORCE INFORMATION & ANALYSIS	PA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
WORKFORCE POLICIES AND FORMS	GRANTS	PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES
FINDING SKILLED WORKERS	EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDITS	PLANS AND REPORTS

#### RESOURCES:

[PA Foreign Labor Certification Program](#)  
[OVR Services for Employers](#)  
[PA CareerLink®](#)  
[JobGateway®](#)  
[Employer UC Information](#)  
[PA WorkStats](#)  
[Publications Library](#)  
[UCMS](#)

## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

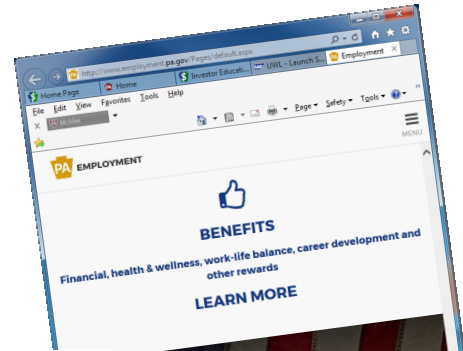
- Upcoming Initiatives
  - DMVA Military and Veterans Affairs 24th Annual Health, Wellness & Safety Fair, May 18
  - June 9 FTIG, Making Sense of Finance
  - July 17th, 75th Anniversary Letterkenny event
  - September 16, Making \$ense of Finance event, Letterkenny





## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- New Resources
  - New PA Employment Website
  - Financial Field Manual
  - When I'm 65 – Military specific video
  - Publications just for military



**Kiplinger's PRESENTS**  
**THE FINANCIAL FIELD MANUAL**  
A Personal Finance Guide for Military Families  
FINANCIAL READINESS IS MISSION READINESS

**AUDIENCE KEY** NOTE: Publications are listed alphabetically.

- Working Adults
- Military and Veterans**
- Seniors and Caregivers
- Students
- Women

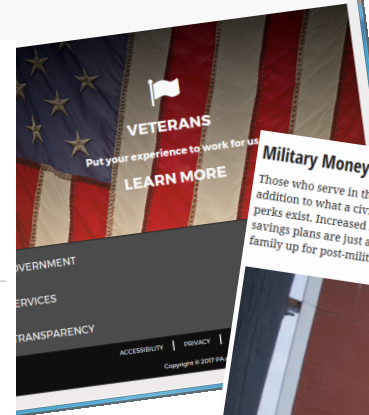
**PUBLICATIONS**

<a href="#">10 Tips To Keep Track Of Your Investments (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">10 Tips To Protect Your Nest Egg (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">12 Investing Principles That Every Young Person Should Know (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">20 Questions To Ask Someone Selling Investments (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">40 Money Management Tips Every College Student Should Know (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">ABCs for APS Professionals (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">A Primer for Investing in Bonds (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">Banking Basics (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">Brokerage Fees (PDF)</a>				
<a href="#">Buying a Home (PDF)</a>				

<http://www.dobs.pa.gov/Documents/Brochures/Financial%20Field%20Manual%20for%20Military%20amilies.pdf>

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Investor Protection Trust  
Investor Protection Institute

pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND SECURITIES



**Military Money Secrets**

Those who serve in the military deserve the best for their service. Though the military offers benefits in addition to what a civilian might get from their corporate company, many service members don't know the perks exist. Increased investments when in a combat zone, free tuition to further education, and enhanced savings plans are just a few bonuses the military offers. See how one vet took advantage of these tools to set family up for post-military life.



## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- Resources
  - New PA Employment website, featuring resources specifically for Veterans
    - <http://www.employment.pa.gov>
  - Financial Field Manual
    - <http://www.dobs.pa.gov/Documents/Publications/Brochures/Financial%20Field%20Manual%20for%20Military%20Families.pdf>
  - Other Publications
    - <http://www.dobs.pa.gov/For%20Media/Pages/Publications-and-Reports.aspx>
  - When I'm 65 – Military Money Secrets
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rlrO-98tv4&list=PLPptG\\_EW3WhTnLvEmSt3CzHjx6YXFfbyv&index=14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rlrO-98tv4&list=PLPptG_EW3WhTnLvEmSt3CzHjx6YXFfbyv&index=14)
  - Other When I'm 65 videos
    - <http://www.wi65.org/>
  - Calendar of Events – includes events in local area, and PMVA events
    - <https://www.secure.dobs.pa.gov/?a=events.home>
  - Educational Gratuity Program
    - <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Programs%20and%20Services/Educational-Gratuity-Program.aspx>



## Education, Employment and Workforce Development Committee (Continued)

- We Want YOU!
  - ✓ Audiences for Making \$ense events with the PA Military Finance Alliance
    - Active Duty – voluntold
  - ✓ Audiences with Seniors
    - How to avoid scams targeting military
  - ✓ Audiences for caregivers of senior vets (we co-present with Dept. of Aging)
    - How to identify & report suspected elder abuse
  - ✓ Share these resources!



**WE WANT YOU!**

# Health and Behavioral Service Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp  
*Chair*

## Health and Behavioral Service, Mr. Rick Hamp, (Chair)

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
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

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

**No change since last meeting**

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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**There have been a number of MHFA classes hosted throughout the Commonwealth by Various organizations. The Veteran Service Program (VSP) of Trout Unlimited has become A big sponsor of MHFA for SMV&F in Central PA!**

file:///S:/VA\_Share/E-Library%20(PDF)/Gov's%20Advisory%20Council%20on%20Veterans%20Services/Slides/Health%20and%20Behavioral%20Service%20Committee%20May%202017.pptx

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

WG Meeting Held March 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM

WG Meeting held April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM

**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**

- Currently hosting 4 Veterans in the Erie Veteran Centric Fairweather lodge
- Funding is stable

### **Cumberland County Project**

- Currently hosting 4 Veterans in the Cumberland/Perry Veteran Centric Fairweather lodge

### **Venango County Project**

- Currently hosting 2 Veterans in the Venango Veteran Centric Fairweather lodge

### **Lackawanna County Initiative**

- We hosted an initial teleconference between Lackawanna County Officials and our partner at Stairways Behavioral Health in April.
- High levels of interest and we hope to have a Veteran Centric Fairweather Lodge open in NE PA soon.

## **Veteran Treatment Services Work Group**

(Service Member, Veteran and their families Wellness Initiative)

This Working Group has been placed on HOLD pending resolution of budget and Funding issues.

# Women Veterans Committee

Jodi Zucco  
*Chair*

## Women Veteran Committee, Jodi Zucco, (Chair)

Subcommittee met on 3/15/17 and 4/12/17 (conference calls)

### 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
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:

- Develop and disseminate a questionnaire through mixed media
- Academic Research and Studies

## Women Veterans Committee (Continued)

### Proposed Questionnaire:

- Purpose and Use
- Background and Administrative Information
- Service Data
- Employment and Residential Information
- Open-ended Questions Pertaining to:
  - Types of Benefits Utilized
  - Opinions Related to Benefits Utilized
  - Knowledge of Available Benefits
  - Participation in Veterans Service Organizations
  - Identification of Unique Issues of Concern

## Women Veterans Committee (Continued)

- Meeting 5/12/17 to discuss proposed dissemination
- Next Call Scheduled for 6/21/17 to discuss Academic Studies

# Judiciary Committee

Mr. Ryan Yoder  
*Chair*

## Judiciary Committee, Ryan Yoder (Chair)

Subcommittee met on April 5, 2017 @ D.O.C. Central Office

### 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

- During our April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, we had the pleasure to include special guests, Maj. Gen (R) Weller as well as Secretary John Wetzel (DOC) to our discussion panel, and their input and support was very much appreciated.
- Previously, I had mentioned that all incoming inmate veterans via the DOC receive an “Inmate Veteran Information Packet.” I have copies of the packet to share with the committee for your review.
- Update: The Western Region now has a new Veteran Services Unit, which is located at SCI- Mercer. I have had the pleasure to be part of this project from the beginning, and I am very excited and optimistic about the future of veteran services within this region and facility.
- On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Secretary Wetzel aired an episode of “Bustin Walls” which is a podcast via the DOC. During the episode, I was interviewed and asked about my background as well as Veteran Services initiatives and Veterans Service Units within the DOC. The episode was shared with Criminal Justice professionals throughout the state and country. This was a great opportunity to share information about veteran services and promote similar initiatives among our peers. Please feel free to listen and share with your colleagues: <http://www.cor.pa.gov/About%20Us/Newsroom/Pages/Podcasts.aspx#.WQO9HhkpDqD>
- We discussed the importance of continued veteran outreach within our prisons, in order to better prepare our fellow veterans for a successful reentry back into society. It is imperative for all of us to continue with our joint efforts and support.
- PBPP can also play an important role in successful reentry by assisting incarcerated veterans via the Veterans Service Unit’s. DOC policy indicates that each VSU should provide a RPA (Reentry Parole Agent) to assist the inmates with parole preparation as well as home/employment plans and Community Corrections Center placement. Currently, the DOC has agreements with (3) CCC’s to house and assist veterans with their transition. These centers include Tomorrow’s Hope, ADAPPT, and Coleman Hall.
- Veteran identification and services within the PA Courts was discussed to include details from House Bill 887, which promotes statewide counties to set up Veteran Courts. Currently, many veterans are going through the court system without being properly identified and/or treated for their PTSD and related conditions.
- Committee member, Terry Stokes will address the Council on House Bill 887 and Veteran Courts. He is a Veterans Court Advocate for the PA VFW.

## Introduction

**Who are we?** Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) is a statewide, non-profit organization that provides education and financing for people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians for the purchase of assistive technology (AT) devices and services.

**PATF helps Pennsylvanians:**

- All ages
- All disabilities and health conditions
- All income levels



## Examples of AT Devices



Independence is priceless...we help make it affordable

**PATF** PENNSYLVANIA ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION



## What Are Examples of AT Services?

- Evaluation
- Selection
- Designing
- Construction
- Training
- Repair



## Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

PATF offers two cash loan programs:

- ✓ Mini-Loan Program
- ✓ Low-Interest Loan Program

Who is eligible to apply?

Pennsylvanians of all ages, income levels, and disabilities or health conditions. *Must be willing and able to repay a loan.*

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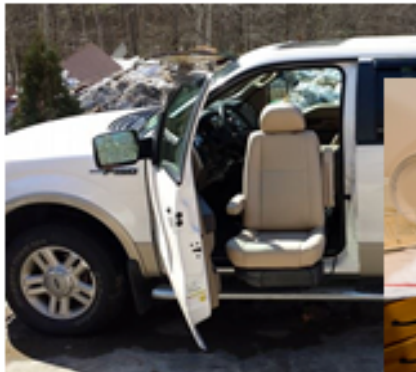
## Mini-Loan Program

Mini-Loan Program: \$100 to \$1,500 at 0% interest. \$20/month minimum payment.



## Low-Interest Loan Program

Low-Interest Loan Program (\$1,500 and above)  
Non-Guaranteed (up to \$60,000 at 3.75%)  
Guaranteed (up to \$25,000 at 3.75%)



## Why Choose PATF Over a Traditional Lender?

- PATF provides low interest loans and extended repayment terms, therefore the payments are more affordable.
- PATF has more flexible eligibility requirements.
- PATF offers information about possible funding resources, provides financial education, reports repayments (helps build credit!), and can provide a rescue payment if an emergency happens.



## Other Resources and Funding for AT

### Home and Community-Based Waivers

Waiver services make it possible for people with disabilities to live (with supports) in the community (and *not a nursing home or other institution*).

- There are both functional and financial requirements that must be met for each waiver.

### Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

- provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. Contact **800-442-6351**.

### Assistive Technology Lending Library

Pennsylvania's Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT), a program at the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University. Contact **800-204-7428**.

- Provide trainings, demonstrations, equipment lending, reuse programs, Telecommunication Device Distribution Program

### Disability Rights Pennsylvania

Contact: [www.disabilityrightspa.org](http://www.disabilityrightspa.org) or **800-692-7443**

- Provides advocacy, publications on AT

## For More Information...

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation  
1004 West 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

888-744-1938  
484-674-0510 FAX  
[www.patf.us](http://www.patf.us)



# Sub-Committee Guidance

**Contact: CRYSTAL PETERY-SHERMAN, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**[CPETERYSHE@PA.GOV](mailto:CPETERYSHE@PA.GOV)**

**717-861-6904**



## 2017 GAC-VS Meeting Dates

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

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



**Wednesday, August 16, 2017 at 2:00 PM**

**Arrowheads Community Club**

**Fort Indiantown Gap**

**Annville, PA**