

## **Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force Meeting**

### **Minutes/Notes of November 8, 2017**

**OPENING:** The meeting of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force was called to order at 9:10 am on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery, NY by Larry Neumann. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The mission statement was recited by Larry Neumann.

***The mission of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force is to address the needs of those who served by having relevant agencies meet collectively, regularly and cooperatively, to ensure the timely administration of services and referrals in order to achieve an end to Veteran homelessness and meet their immediate and long term needs.***

**PRESENT:** Many veteran and human service agencies of Orange, Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland and Sullivan Counties were represented. The guests/presenters are listed below. There were a total of 31 in attendance.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS, Opening Remarks and Review of last month's meeting:**

Larry Neumann expressed the sadness of all of the tragedies in our country as of late.

Shared about "Sgt Ed" - veteran with many physical limitations and a severe bed bug issue that was going to be evicted and homeless. Many agencies came forward to assist him. Christian Farrell gave kudos to the Committee of Families of War Veterans that was the main contributor to aid with this project. He is now in a better situation and very happy.

Larry reviewed the highlights of last month's meeting and reminded the group of the speakers and their services.

#### **GUEST SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS**

##### **Paula Miritello: My Brother Vinny (914) 299-2106**

- Charitable organization that distributes furniture and other needed household items to veterans with physically, mentally and intellectually disabled. Located in Westchester County, and serves veterans primarily in that county and vicinity. They have provided services as far as Poughkeepsie, an expansion to the Hudson Valley.
- This program was started in honor of her brother, Vinny who had a disability. 100% volunteer. She works directly with hotels donating the furniture. Paula expressed her appreciation for the invitation. She would like to introduce her project and recruit assistance in the additional counties.
- Walk-a-thon is their annual fundraiser in April. Everything is coordinated in a thoughtful manner and all aspects of situation are considered and addressed.
- Questions: What do you need? expanded network of people who can load/unload trucks, and assist with deliveries to various locations. The pickups at hotels. Expenses like purchase of beds, storage and truck rentals.
- Are there any restrictions? No. Each person gets bathroom basket and kitchen baskets; lodging kits being sent by another agency. A starter kits with paper plates and such.
- Suggestions: Julio Oranda of \_\_\_\_\_ - reach out to College ROTC for manual labor.

##### **Raul Lopez: Survivor Outreach Services Manager, West Point**

- Family Community Services not just for active duty and also veterans. Our families of the fallen became disconnected from the Army. Try to be there long term for families suffering from the challenges of not having their soldier.
- We are a resource center. Navigate the caller's current need with the resources available.

- Provide economic counseling and provide support through networking with agencies providing many different services. Also providing comfort during the hard times.
- This program is an Army program started 10 years ago to support long term care support. Navy has a new similar service. They receive 20/30 calls a day.
- **Discussion:** Karl Rhodes - surprise more of us are not working with them. great resource.
- **Questions:** What is the most requested service on the calls? Financial assistance. At the Orange County VSO, the primary need seems to be for home health aide assistance.

### **Shara Abramaham: Legal Services of the Hudson Valley: Housing & Eviction**

- Serving veterans' civil legal needs. Shara presented a publication to the bar association.
- Sharing information with our task force - Veterans facing eviction and impending homelessness.
- If you are facing eviction without an attorney, there is a greater possibility of being taken advantage.
- Overview Housing law and eviction prevention:
  - 2 different evictions/proceedings:
    - 1 - nonpayment - when served with predicate demand, people tend to panic when it is given. Help them to keep them calm. Nothing is happening, yet. Nothing can happen until you are served with a warrant of eviction. The landlord can only demand the rent - not fees, lawyer fees, etc..
    - 2 - holdover- your lease expired. The terms of lease carryover. You become a month to month tenant. Another claim is when you are still in a lease and the landlord claims a violation and so gives you a notice to terminate the lease. Not the case - landlord must demand for rent and must state the violation.
  - All notices must be followed up with a summons with a court date.
  - If the veteran does not have an attorney or representation in court, they should agree to a possession judgment and avoid a money judgment - wages can be garnished.
  - If legal services is representing, there are strategies to extend housing or prolong eviction. The landlord must follow the letter of the law. One such strategy is exploring the habitable issues which can assist with abatement of rent.
  - Another strategy, after the court appearance, warrant on hold, one may be able to prolong the eviction. If there are possible assistance with funds.
  - Tenants do have rights. You need the proof - receipts, everything in writing.
  - For habitable issues you must put landlord on notice.
  - Proved retaliation can be another strategy for the veteran tenant.
  - **Questions:** Angela Jo Henze, OC MHA - What if the apartment is illegal? One could be evicted immediately. A issuance by someone from code enforcement would make lease null.
  - After the 3 days notice how long? It can be days or weeks when you receive the petition with a court date. How valid is the letter of support from agency? Some courts/judges will accept the letter and some do not. Landlord can demand rent right then and there. Some people choose to pay a little at a time.
  - Unless you pay the full amount you owe, the landlord can still proceed with eviction. You cannot be evicted until the warrant/judgment is signed and then served. When this happens one has at least 72 hours.

### **VETERAN SERVICE AND COUNTY UPDATES:**

- **Dutchess County**
  - **VSO: Nelson Eddy Rivera, Director, Dutchess County Veterans' Services,** excused.
    - **Vet2Vet: \_\_\_\_\_, Program Manager, Vet2Vet Veterans' Peer Services**

- *Past events:* pasta dinner fundraiser, VA clinic, hosted in the community training, attended statewide Dwyer conference, Vet2Vet mentor training - 26 registered, CIT training for the sheriff's department, Poughkeepsie day.
    - *Coming up:* City of Poughkeepsie police department invited Dwyer program to provide the veteran portion of Hostage Negotiation training; Christmas party for vets.
    - Very busy and hoping to add 11 trained mentors to their ranks.
  - **Julio \_\_\_\_\_, Veteran impact program.**
- **Orange County**
  - **VSO: Christian Farrell, Director - Orange County Veteran Services**
    - Wreaths Across America - placing wreaths on veterans' plots on Veteran's Day. The goal of \$30,000 has not been reached. Minisink Valley ROTC - placing flags pm gravesites.
  - **Vet2Vet: Larry Neumann, Program Coordinator -**
    - *Past Events:* movie night, Semper Fi - about the illness and deaths from contaminated water in Camp Lejeune. Movies are shown at the Down Film center when the month has 5 Mondays. Issues explored are pertinent to the veteran community. Honor Flight - great event and very well attended. Attended Yellow Ribbon event had many agencies represented and the soldiers checked in with each agency.
    - *Coming up:* Veteran service animal event - today, November 8, 3p to 6pm at Mount St. Mary - OC Vet2Vet will have an information booth; History event, Treasure Trove, regarding the Roosevelt presidency. Boxes for Soldiers - kick off on November 11. Letters to soldiers to add to boxes. Veteran Art showcase - November 17 to 19. December 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; OC Veteran Memorial - November 11 - DAV reading of the veterans' names that have passed from Orange County.
- **Putnam County**
  - **VSO: Karl Rohde, Director, Putnam County Veterans Service Agency**
    - Veteran exclusive Home - The only county that has such a home. Must be Putnam county residents. Small rent - free laundry, free cable. Veterans feel secure at the house.
  - **Vet2Vet - Kevin Cook - WWII veteran grandfather passed this week.**
    - *Past events:* Chow down - served 500 meals to veterans and their families. included a USO show and provided peer to peer outreach. Veteran Art Writing and Music Gala - show 30 people - free of charge and very successful
    - *Coming up:* 3rd Thursday of month - Movie night - showing Vietnam Series with discussion for the next 10 months.
    - Women Veteran group - Eddie, Vietnam Veteran - monthly meeting. Has had no attendance. She wants to be there for the women veterans.
- **Rockland County**
  - **Vet2Vet: Ismael (Izzy) Quintana Jr., Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
    - *Past events:* Combat Paper Artist exhibit in the Village Hall. Permanent display - 20 pieces sold and artist donated a portion to Vet2Vet. Attended Palisades Yellow Ribbon event. *Coming up:* November 10 - West Point Army Volleyball team free admission for all veterans. Women Veteran - Rockland county woman's action committee meeting on Tuesday November 14 at 7pm. Rockland County Veteran Task Force Meeting on November 16th 9a to 11am New City, NY. Worked at the VSO office and that is working well.
  - **Vet2Vet: Dr. Allen L Hershman, Veteran Services Coordinator**
    - Working relationship with Hi Tor Animal Shelter. There is a clinical intake of adopters to assure dogs are properly cared for when placed. Providing animals for veterans.
    - Military Behavioral Vet2Vet Mentor training, January 6, 13, 20 Saturday mornings; space limited class size will be 12 - 15. 180 mentors have been trained.

- **Sullivan County**
  - **VSO: Howie Goldsmith, Coordinator, Sullivan County Veteran Service Agency**
    - *Past events:* Yellow ribbon event on November 4 - information booth
    - *Coming up:* Transitional housing is opening up
- **Office of US Representative Sean Patrick Maloney**
  - **Khristian Silvis, Veteran and Military Advocate**
    - **???? Interviews 60 applicants for nominations for (I missed what she was reporting on)**
    - November 17 press release for "DD214 Legislation". This legislation will allow DD214s to be sent to the VSO of the county of resident.
    - Veteran advisory board meeting November 29 at 6pm Mt St Mary College. A newsletter is in the works.
    - Discussion: Veteran Advisory board does not have Putnam County veteran representation. There is a need of representation from outlying areas. Board is aware and will be addressing issue.

**TASK FORCE HOMELESS CASES Status:**

- **WestCOP SSVF: Open/New Case Report - Tenesia Terry**
  - *Qualifications:* low income, 1 day of active duty outside of training. 7 counties. This month we have 16 cases.
  - **3 Dutchess** - 1 living in caddie or truck over income for SSVF1 in hotel; 1 living his car; 1 housed in October.
  - **2 Sullivan** - 1 just received housing voucher; 1 housed last week in October.
  - **11 Orange County** - 1 refused all housing options. on streets; 1 in mark program; 1 Newburgh ministries - rehab program at Montrose - housing afterwards; 1 unreachable; 1 HONOR; 1 Newburgh ministry - does not qualify for services - still checking in; 2 HRC checking in; 1 on street became homeless yesterday - staying in hotel; 2 recently housed.
  - **Questions:** who is identifying? case managers and agency. Why are housed kept on list? because of temporary monitoring.

**UPCOMING EVENTS/ROUNDTABLE**

November 11: West Point Band, Eisenhower Hall  
 Army Volley Ball game - free for veterans

**Adjournment:** meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am by Larry Neumann.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 9am      Location: 30 Scotts Corners Drive, Montgomery, NY.

Minutes taken and typed by: Millie Rivera-Velez  
 Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Larry Neumann