



FINAL

Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force Meeting Minutes/Notes of July 11, 2018

OPENING: The meeting of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force was called to order at 9:10 am on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 at the Newburgh Armory Unity Center, 371 S. William Street, Newburgh, NY by Larry Neumann. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Larry Neumann welcomed all present.

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 35 in attendance.

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

Larry Neumann started the meeting by introducing our speakers and round table introductions. Christian Farrell also welcomed and introduction to our location. He reported on the status of our former location, Chamber of Commerce in Montgomery now owned by Girl Scout Heart of the Hudson Council.

Larry spoke of the summer being challenging for those with depression. We see it as vacation time. Depression and anxiety do not know summer/vacation; it does not know seasons. We must meet those we serve where they are and be sympathetic about their struggle.

GUEST SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS

Jim Williams – Coordinator for “The Wall that Heals”: The Wall that Heals is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica and Mobile Education Center. Last June he went to Pennsylvania to visit the Wall. He was so moved that he wanted to bring it to Newburgh. In December, he made the application to bring it to Newburgh. The Wall – it travels to 40 cities a year. Rubbings are being permitted. It will get to the Matamoras Airport on July 31st and will have a motorcycle escort. The Newburgh site is close to Washington Street right on the waterfront. There will be 500 motorcycle escorts and the wall will travel through Matamoras, PA, Dolson Avenue and Route 211 in Middletown, 17K in Montgomery and Broadway in Newburgh.

Opening Ceremony is on Thursday at 6pm. There will be a concert on Saturday night. Closing ceremony will be Sunday 12pm to 2pm. The wall will be guarded 24 hours except for Sunday. It will be taken down at 3pm on Sunday. Fact – 8 women veterans on the wall. Many Vietnam veterans volunteered for the overnight watch. Questions: There will be an app to connect to the wall and locate names. There are 5 member teams to help with locating names on the wall. The guard watch shifts are 8 to 1, 1 to 6pm and 11 to 8 is the overnight. All volunteers will have t-shirts. The wall comes with many regulations and stipulations which were met by Jim and his team. At the ceremonies, the names that will be read are from Dutchess, Orange and Morris, NJ. Parking may become a challenge so they are looking to shuttle people.

Dutchess will be providing a bus to visit the wall and a BBQ when they return from the wall.

Dawn Lynn Mathieu, Vet2Vet Gymkhana Fundraiser report:

\$5,350.50 was raised at this event. Some of the donors included a Vietnam veteran, the dad of one of the riders \$500; Hannaford in Walden. A collection for Suits for Soldiers was made at the event.

Rick – Town for Troops- Iron Chef Event “Bison and Bacon”:

13 teams have been selected to compete. There are 4 people to cook for each team. Donors include Pepsico and Orange County Choppers. On display will be the NYS remembering wall. Event will be rain or shine. 15 restaurants will be at the event.

TASK FORCE HOMELESS CASES Status:

- **WestCOP SSVF: Open/New Case Report – Christina Novak**
 - 13 open cases in 3 counties.
 - Dutchess County 7: 2 hotels, 1 shelter, 2 cars, 1 unknown, 1 living in woods.
 - Orange County 5: 3 at HONOR, 1 Domiciliary, 1 car.
 - Ulster County 1: living in car
 - SSVF
 - Question: Do we need another Point in Time count during the summer?
 - Some counties do have a summer count. Orange county possibly.
 - Looking for more creative housing – domestic violence victims and/or women veterans
 - Homelessness is at its all time high

VETERAN SERVICE AND COUNTY UPDATES:

- **Dutchess County**
 - **VSO:**
 - **Vet2Vet: Adam Roche, Program Manager, Vet2Vet Veterans' Peer Services**
 - Very busy with calls
 - 6/15 2nd annual sunset picnic. 150 veterans attended including a 101 year old WWII veteran
 - August 18 Veteran recognition picnic- will honor Korean veterans.
 - Car wash fundraiser 6/21
 - **Ignacio**
 - Homeless count 80; 61% HPs and 39% RR and everyone is accounted for.
- **Orange County**
 - **VSO: Christian Farrell, Director - Orange County Veteran Services**
 - Great American Weekend event in Goshen. Great July 4th event
 - July 21st Annual fireworks at Thomas Bull Memorial Park with special veteran event for 150 veterans and guest which includes a wrist band for food and special parking.
 - September 12 – Shop Rite fundraiser for veterans – golf outing at Crystal Springs Resort sponsor Honor Flight and other veteran events
 - Columbus Day – Orange County Veterans golf outing at Thomas Bull Memorial
 - VSO representation the 2nd and 4th Friday in Warwick starting in July
 - **Vet2Vet: Larry Neumann, Program Coordinator –**
 - Movie Night 7/31 – National Bird – drone warfare and the veterans returning with trauma
 - Veteran Appreciation Day event
 - Veterans to sign up ahead
 - Planning stages
 - Cost for each veteran is approximately \$18
- **Putnam County**
 - **VSO: Karl Rohde, Director, Putnam County Veterans Service Agency**
 - July 21 – first NYS Congressional Medal of Honor Parade
 - Shared about homeless veteran living in Jeep moved in to residence and on his 2nd month
 - 30 year old veteran’s dad called. Facilitated his going to Montrose for rehab.
 - Mini-bus to be converted to traveling office

- **Vet2Vet**
 - 2 ball game events – 75 tickets with Ice Cream Sundays
- **Rockland County**
 - **Vet to Vet: Ismael (Izzy) Quintana Jr., Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
 - 7/14 graduation of military behavioral training
 - 6/30 Acupuncture Therapy sessions for veterans
 - 6/30 Military appreciation night at ball game – provided information booth
 - 6/20 Veteran social at library next to be on 7/30
- **Sullivan County**
 - **VSO: Howie Goldsmith, Coordinator, Sullivan County Veteran Service Agency and Sullivan County Veteran Alliance** not present
- **Office of US Representative Sean Patrick Maloney**
 - Cullen Lyons/Khristian Silvis, Veteran and Military Advocate not present

UPCOMING EVENTS/ROUNDTABLE

Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am by Larry Neumann.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 9am Location: Unity Center, Newburgh, NY

Minutes taken and typed by: Millie Rivera-Velez

Minutes reviewed and submitted by: Larry Neumann