

Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force Meeting Minutes/Notes of August 8, 2018

OPENING: The meeting of the Hudson Valley Veteran Task Force was called to order at 9:15 am on Wednesday, August 8, 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 40 in attendance.

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

Larry Neumann started the meeting by introducing the VA's Whole Health Seminars at Castle Point and Montrose. He reported on passed events. The next Veteran Appreciation Day Planning meeting will be this Thursday at 2pm.

GUEST SPEAKERS/PRESENTERS

Fernando Ahumada and Kim Jacobs– Community Capital Veteran Business Loans: introduced program with a PowerPoint presentation (attached). The program has many benefits for new business opportunities. Some of the products include credit builder loans. Their program partners with you every step of the way.

Christian Holshek, Col. (Ret.) – will speak at a later meeting. Larry introduced his book, "Travels with Harley."

TASK FORCE HOMELESS CASES Status:

- **WestCOP SSVF: Open/New Case Report – Christina Novak**
 - 15 open cases in 3 counties.
 - Dutchess - 8
 - Orange County - 6
 - Putnam County - 1
 - 53 receiving additional transitional housing
- SSVF News
 - Grant through VA
 - Housing resources to work with apartment, landlords and hotels
 - Assistance with paperwork
 - Referring or assistance with other issues

VETERAN SERVICE AND COUNTY UPDATES:

- **Dutchess County**
 - **VSO: Marc Coviello, Director, Dutchess County Veterans' Services**
 - Received funding for transportation – fixing vehicles. New program Wheels to Work
 - Visiting Dutchess County jails – speaking with veterans and getting them set up for when they are released.
 - Bus trip to the wall in Pleasant Valley
 - September 30 – Poughkeepsie Parade, 1pm. Present 100 yrs since WWI at warrior park

- **Vet2Vet: Adam Roche, Program Manager, Vet2Vet Veterans' Peer Services**
 - 10 to 15 groups
 - Teaming up with Pets for vets
 - Monster truck performance
 - August 18 Veteran recognition- 11 WWII veterans and 3 Battle of the Bulge
- **Orange County**
 - **VSO: Christian Farrell, Director - Orange County Veteran Services**
 - August 21 Town Hall at Orange County Emergency Services, Goshen, 11a – 12p.
 - Representative to Warwick twice a month
 - Motorcyclist to escort Wall of Healing
 - Shop Rite Iron Chef event
 - **Vet2Vet: Larry Neumann, Program Coordinator –**
 - Lost one of our facilitators, Bernell Thomas (moved out of state)
 - New volunteer, Kat Kain – Liaison with HONOR. Together with Christian Farrell was instrumental in obtaining a flag pole for HONOR.
 - Continue to have support groups and have a large case load
- **Putnam County**
 - **VSO: Karl Rohde, Director, Putnam County Veterans Service Agency**
 - Shout out to Shop Rite for their support of the Congressional Medal of Honor Parade
 - Provided 3 hydration stations and \$2,000
 - **Vet2Vet**
 - Annual ball game event – 75 tickets and all gone in first day.
 - MHA moving to new offices and will be able to do evening hours.
- **Rockland County**
 - **Vet to Vet: Ismael (Izzy) Quintana Jr., Veteran Outreach Coordinator**
 - 15 cycle of the military behavioral training ended on April 28th with 6 new mentors
 - Run the Rock event – 30 veterans participated. Funds for Homes for Heroes
 - May 1st participated in Carry the Load for veterans and first responders; 1 mile walk.
 - Partnership with VSA – good relationship; 5 veterans referred.
- **Sullivan County**
 - **VSO: Howie Goldsmith, Coordinator, Sullivan County Veteran Service Agency and Sullivan County Veteran Alliance – Joseph Levi reported**
 - Howie had surgery and recovering.
 - Stand down – September 14 at 10am to 2pm in Monticello
 - Jake’s Event – September 15 – Family and kid friendly event
 - Legislation for burial expenses for veterans – State to refund up to \$2,800
 - Monster Run event had 49 attendees
- **Office of US Representative Sean Patrick Maloney**
 - Cullen Lyons/Khristian Silvis, Veteran and Military Advocate
 - “All quiet on front”
 - Request for event dates be sent to their office

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