

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, 1 August 2017
11th floor, Suite 1114
441 4th Street NW/One Judiciary Square
Washington DC 20001

I. Call to Order at 1840

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Advisory Board Members Roll Call

- A) Voting Members Present (8): Adebayo, Dalzell, Finnegan, Grant, Khan, Locks, Mate, Spangenberg
- B) Voting Members Absent (11, plus 2 excused): Curry, Dier (military duty), Jones, Lampkin, Mack, McClendon, Miller, Moore, Pridemore (deployed), Sydnor, White, Williams, Wynn
- C) Ex-officio members present: Black, Treadwell
- D) Ex-officio members absent: Gibson, Honore, Preston, Strickland, Tobin
- E) 8 voting members were present, so there was not a quorum.

IV. Approval of Agenda: No vote was taken due to lack of a quorum.

V. Approval of minutes from July

- A) Minutes are online at <https://www.open-dc.gov/meeting/july-meeting>
- B) No vote was taken due to lack of quorum.

VI. Special Guests

- A) Erick King and Richard Dudley, representatives of the Capital Youth Empowerment Program (www.cyep.org), were introduced by Mr. Locks.
 - 1. CYEP has a mission to fight family dysfunction.
 - 2. Mr. King, the group's founder, shared his personal story as a child of Army veterans who had to learn how to be a good parent and build positive relationships
 - 3. CYEP started in Alexandria, then Fairfax County, and programs expanded.

4. They started with programs for young men and teens (Project Success, programs on STDs, HIV, unwanted pregnancies, positive relationships)
5. Safe Dates – domestic violence program for teens
6. Teen programs expanding faster than programs for fathers, as it is harder to get them in, unless referred to by courts or other institutions. But they do work with them. The class helps fathers understand parenting roles, developmental stages of children, how to support their children at different stages.
 - a. The basic course is 12 weeks long, two hours a week.
 - b. Have monthly events where fathers and kids can share activity and apply the skills taught.
7. They have programs at Ft. Belvoir and Ft. Myer, who refer to them fathers when they have strains in relationships. They give them a resource off base and away from commanders.
8. Now see a need for their programs in DC, and are looking for a partner agency or non-profit to get a foot in the door. They would appreciate help connecting with them.
9. They gave packets with info on their programs, and invited board members to support their golf tournament in XXX Hills, October 6th. They also invited the board to check out videos showing past programs.
10. Q&A
 - a. Ely: city has commission on men and fathers, which might be helpful to their effort.
 - b. Ms. Treadwell noted that the child support division does outreach to community and activities
 - i. Mr. Ross added that the city has both a federal child support organization and a district one.
 - c. Ms. Avery offered that VOTR runs an after-care program that might also be able to collaborate in some way.

VII. Director's Report

A) Director Ross reported on MOVA's activities over the last month.

B) Operations:

1. 1 claims counseling day
2. 1 vocational rehabilitation counseling day. These have been averaging about three people, so he is looking for ways to expand awareness.
3. He threw out the first pitch at the DC Grays Veteran and Military Appreciation Night. The Grays are members of the Cal Ripken summer youth league, more info at <http://www.dcgrays.com/>). They would like to build this into a bigger annual event.
4. Clothing Drive in Ward 8, focused on homeless women veterans.
5. Resource guide complete

- a. As a first step, it will remain a small printable version that anyone can download and share.
 - b. He is considering an expansion of the guide for electronic distribution.
6. MOVA pamphlet is complete. His goal is hand out all 2,000 by 1 September.
7. LifeCents Financial Literacy Calculator is complete, and live on the MOA website.
8. Hiring fair is complete
 - a. This included 515 veterans coming through the door, 150 first interviews on site, and 80 second interviews scheduled. He thinks four were hired at the event.
 - b. An after-action report is due later this week.
 - c. MOVA is already planning the next event in April; wants to double all the numbers. Mr. Ross would like to make it semiannual.
9. New veteran small business course has been designed with DSLBD – the Build a Dream Workshop.
 - a. It is a nine-hour program for entrepreneurial ideas utilizing the lean canvas model, which replaces the elaborate business plan with a single page business model.
 - b. The focus is on the business content and not presentation. The idea is that it saves money for product testing.
 - c. The first course is scheduled for 12-14 September.
 - d. It is designed to be District-specific, so we have more control over it (vs SBA grantee-run programs).
10. The newsletter is now less than 40 people away from 5,000. It now has SMS capabilities, so it can go to mobile phones.
11. He will be out for our next Advisory Board meeting. Elliot will have the lead for the MOVA report.
12. He wants to find a way for the veteran to engage with office before a problem. This might take the shape of a Welcome-to-DC program.
 - a. He is asking for ideas on what to include.
 - b. He would use it for the special purpose funds coming from DC DMV.

C) Updates:

1. He has developed a transportation plan and it is currently being reviewed. It is based on one-time funding of \$60,000 and will focus on providing access for low-income and homeless vets to the public transit system.
 - a. A one-time funding, so imperative for it to succeed the first time

b. It is now getting legal review.

2. This month will focus on developing the website.

D) Upcoming Events -- see newsletter for updated dates

1. August 2 & 16 – Veterans Roundtable
2. August 4 – Washington Center has 600 interns, twice a year. They are now collecting the bedding used by the interns and donating them to veterans housing (Friendship Place) – will do this 2-3 times per year.
3. August 8 – Give an Hour Community Collaborative
4. August 8 & 22 – Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling
5. August 21 – Capital National Veterans Engagement Board Meeting
6. August 24 – Claims Counseling
7. September 5 – Advisory Board Meeting
8. September 12 – VA Mental Health Summit – old Council Chambers
9. September 12-14 – DSBLD Veteran Build a Dream Workshop
10. September 25 – Small Business Boot Camp
 - a. Have 20 people registered four days after it went online

VIII. Old Business (Chairman/Director)

A) Mr. Spangenberg reminded the board that we still need a Chair for Homeless Veterans Committee.

B) The board continued discussion on revising the policy on attendance, including proxy voting and telephonic attendance.

1. No updates from Parliamentarian, but he said he will be talking with community supporter Melanie Avery about accessing pro bono advice.
2. Mr. Dalzell suggested the revision should include the rules for counting personnel on military duties for determination of a quorum.
3. Mr. Locks stressed his desire to not copy from others, but design one that works for us. He reminded all that the deadline for giving input 1 September, but earlier is better.
4. Director has discussed this with MOTA, they have some concerns about call-in procedures. In the discussion, he emphasized the number of Reserve Component members on the board, and the desire to promote their participation. He said the city may need to change the enacting legislation, not just the board by-laws.
5. Emily Grace compared to utilization rates used by contractors, who exclude military members on active duty when computing data.
6. It was also noted that there could be separate rules for allowing voting and computing attendance.

C) Headshots and one-paragraph bios from board members for website (MOVA)

1. These are slowly rolling in, and the office will continue to press ahead.

2. In a future meeting, the Director will talk with the board about the way the new page will look.

IX. New Business (Chairman/Director): No new business items were presented.

X. Committee Reports (Vice Chairman)

A) Intent is oral briefing one month, slides on alternate months.

B) Economic Resilience Committee (Mr. Finnegan)

1. Mr. Finnegan handed out slides on his ideas for the committee.
2. One quote was from a friend whose company hires a number of veterans and described a “shadow concern” about veterans. He explained that workplace violence was a part of this, but also lack of understanding of what veterans bring to the table, how to translate military skills. They think of the military as ‘boot camp.’ One person noted that there’s no burden of proof for hiring discrimination against veterans.
3. Strategy
 - a. Starts with education and training, would see focus on vocational training, not education.
 - b. End up with long-term financial health – wants as opposed to needs.
4. Stoplight chart
 - a. He has committee members, and a draft Vision, Mission, and Strategy.
 - b. They need to meet with OVA director and develop an action plan.
 - c. 8 August at 6 pm they will have webinar on the financial calculator with LifeCents.

C) Veterans Health Care (Black)

1. Goal is providing health with options and promoting strategic interactions with key players.
2. Immediate objectives
 - a. Identify agencies
 - b. Work for a more seamless referral process

D) Government Affairs (Khan)

1. Looking for ideas to be examined as possible legislative issues.
2. Mr. Khan will be at an international veterans organization conference at time of our next meeting.
3. If a committee has an idea on a legislative matter, they should develop the idea and gather information, then bring to Mr. Ross and the committee to help develop.

E) Education (Mr. Dalzell)

1. The committee was still looking for a date to discuss education issues with Mr. Ross.
2. MOVA may be hosting student veteran chapters from DC universities in January.

XI. Public Comment (Maximum 2 minute per person)

A) Melanie Avery, Veterans on the Rise

1. Will be tabling at Hiring our Heroes job fair at Nationals Stadium (7 September)
2. Have arranged to have Upper Cuts, a local barber shop, give haircuts several days before career fair.

XII. Upcoming (Events/Meetings/Holidays)

A) 5 September: Next board meeting

1. The board recognized the risk of holding a meeting the day after the Labor Day holiday, but decided to keep it on that date.

XIII. Meeting was adjourned at 1943 hours.

DRAFT