

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



DRAFT MINUTES
Tuesday, 6 June 2017
11th floor, Suite 1114
441 4th Street NW/One Judiciary Square
Washington DC 20001
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order:** Secretary Steve Dalzell called the meeting to order at 1834, in the absence of the Chairman.
- II. Introduction of new members:**
 - A) The following new members were introduced: Joe Finnegan, Andre Jones, and Nachee Miller.
 - B) Emily Grace Mate was absent and will be introduced at the next meeting.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance** Parliamentarian Sidney Locks led the group in the pledge.
- IV. Advisory Board Members Roll Call**
 - A) Voting Members Present: Curry (telephone), Dalzell, Finnegan, Grant, Khan (telephone), Jones, Lampkin (telephone), Locks, Mack, Miller, Scott, Spangenberg, Sydnor, White, Williams
 - B) Voting Members Absent: Adebayo, Dier (military duty), Mate, McClendon, Moore, Pridemore (deployed), Wynn
 - C) 12 voting members were present and three were on speaker-phone, so a quorum was present.
- V. Agenda**
- VI. Approval of minutes**
 - A) Minutes are online at <http://www.open-dc.gov/meeting/monthly-meeting>.
 - B) Minutes for March, April, and May were approved by voice vote.
- VII. Administrative Business (Director/Acting Chair)**
 - A) Director Ross announced that the Mayor has approved the appointment of Luke Dier as chairman of the Advisory Board.
 - B) In accordance with the recent by-law amendment, Mr. Dalzell opened the floor for nominations of a new interim vice chair to replace Mr. Dier in that position. Mr. Spangenberg was the only nominee, and was elected by a unanimous voice vote.
- VIII. Special Guests**

- A) Michael Ball of Serving Together (ST) was introduced by Director Ross and presented on his group's activities.
1. Mr. Ball is a 24-year veteran of the Marine Corps and Air Force, and previously worked as a veteran services coordinator in Loudon County.
 2. Among ST's programs is Peer Navigator, where individuals can call in and be guided to resources, a "warm hand-off" getting them directly to the resource.
 3. ST also hosts Veteran's Collaboratives throughout the area. The intent is to get all with an interest in vets around the table to eliminate duplication and increase coordination.
 4. A third pillar is Education, including the following:
 - a. 8 June: Suicide prevention
 - b. 16 June: Veterans' justice workshop at Fairfax County Courthouse
 - c. 27 June: A mental health first aid class. How a non-professional can help someone in a mental health crisis.
 5. He's been working with America Serves, who has a similar model for collaborative programs.
 - a. Uses the Unite Us software program (<https://www.uniteus.com/how-it-works/>) -- no special hardware requirements, so one can use it to enter in data from any provider, to share a need and allow direct response to veteran. One visit connects the veteran to the entire network.
 - b. They hope to hear back this week for ST to set this up and roll it out.
 - c. They have a roadmap from AS – in June will put out the call to organizations to come to an event to introduce model and software. Very data rich, tells you about both vets in area and the programs available. They hope to identify early adopters in next 1-2 months.
 - d. A big focus for ST is to educate organizations – and, from them, the vets.
 6. Q&A
 - a. ST doesn't rule out those with short service terms or any discharge status. These may limit what a particular partner organization may provide.
 - b. Brenda runs the DC Collaborative – her contact info will be shared with the board.
 - c. ST has programs in 10 cities, with DC and Dallas next. They plan to stop expanding at about 18. All the networks are tied in with each other, making a community of practice with the rest.

IX. Director's Report

- A) Director Ross reported on MOVA's activities over the last month.
- B) He thanked Mr. Khan for a speech on Congrats to Kahn for speech at an Asian-American history event (with retired General Shinseki) and Mr. Spangenberg for his work on Selective Service Administration initiatives.
- C) Housekeeping:
1. We have a full board and it is important to have a quorum at all of our meetings
 2. FOIA/Ethics update: He reminded all to use their DCBC email for all board business. They can cc a private account if they like.

D) Operations:

1. American Legion Emergency Town Hall had a “decent” turn out. He was impressed with the interim DCVAMC Director and his plan of action to remedy the interim OIG report. Issues largely centered on cleanliness and supplies. They have 90 days of supplies on hand – a new development -- and have a new inventory system.
2. Council Member Todd presented a ceremonial resolution to our veterans roundtable recognizing May as Military Appreciation Month
3. There were a number of events on the Mall – “51st State” event with Rep. Garcia and Sen. Brown. He also did an event at the Women’s Vietnam Memorial.
4. National Association of Black Veterans – MOVA supported their annual convention and received a certification of appreciation.
5. Catholic University Law School has stood up a legal clinic for veterans and is actively looking for cases. They can do any action, including wills or divorce papers.
6. DCVAMC has opened a Transition Management Center.
7. Small Business Boot Camp – VBOC & DSLBD
8. Veterans History Project (<https://www.loc.gov/vets/>)– He wants to make this a cornerstone of MOVA
 - a. The Office of Cable Television has loaned them a camera, and staff have been trained in how to conduct interviews. Next will be to get a Youtube channel.
 - b. New board member Andre Jones was the first interviewee.

E) Updates:

1. \$60,000 budget increase from Council to stand up a transportation program
2. Ascend 2020 in concert with the D.C. Aspire - Elliot

F) Upcoming Events:

1. Veteran round table – June 7 at 12-2 pm in our office
2. Veteran round table – June 21 at 12-2 pm in our office
3. Every other Wednesday in our office
4. Claims and Pensions counseling – June 22
5. Veterans Mental Health First Aid Course – June 27
6. DDS Counselor on site – June 27 (generally twice a month)
7. Pep Rally/Walk for Veterans – July 8 details to follow
8. “Thank You for Your Service” film screening at UDC Theater of the Arts – July 12 (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2352196/?ref =nv_sr_2)
9. Veterans Hiring and Resource Fair – July 19 Stadium Armory
 - a. This will include district government, but not limited to veterans living in DC.
 - b. This will also be a resource provider fair – he hope to make it an annual event.

- c. It's currently just for veterans, but he would like to open it up to spouses, family members, military care givers. The question is how to establish the nexus of relationship.

G) Q&A

1. Mr. Ross was asked about his strategy for getting information out about all these events.
 - a. The newsletter is now at 3429 addresses, up nearly 600 in past month.
 - b. He plans to work the phones to also reach out to vets, and get on TV to promote it
2. Mr. Locks asked if the resource providers at the Armory event really focus on the non-vets to give them info on programs.
 - a. Mr. Ross is still forming the vision for this event, but would like to include all constituents. Will do if he can, but would not open it up to the entire population.
 - b. He sees this as an opportunity to identify the other populations
 - c. On this subject, Ms. Black wondered if there ways to get people to provide help with daily events – ordinary chores, driving, babysitter, etc.
 - d. Mr. Mack suggested MOVA focus on getting the first one off the ground right, then look to expand it.

H) Mr. Ross added that MOVA is a co-sponsor of a mental health summit, where Ms. Black will be presenting.

X. Old Business (Chairman/Director)

- A) A draft of the board roster for internal use was circulated and will be send to members electronically soon after this meeting.
- B) Board members were again encouraged to attend local ANC meetings. MOVA has developed a pamphlet, now in publication review, for use as handouts in such events.

XI. New Business (Chairman/Director)

- A) Mr. Ross requested headshots and brief (one-paragraph) bios from board members for website. He sees this as a way to make the board accessible, a force multiplier to reach vets.
 1. He can have an official photographer come to a meeting and take head shots if the board desires.
 2. Some members said they would not like to post a photograph for professional reasons.
 3. Mr. Ross will put together a template and each can submit to MOVA, with a target date of the end of June.
- B) Draft amendment to bylaws on participation when absent (Secretary)
 1. Mr. Dalzell suggested the board review its bylaws and see if they need to more clearly state if members can provide proxies or attend the meeting by telephone when unable to attend in person.
 2. Several members noted that this also would require clarification on whether alternative participation counted in terms of the “three consecutive absence” condition for removal from board.

3. Mr. Mack suggested this would also be an opportunity to review what constitutes an excused absence.
4. Mr. Locks suggested we start by reviewing minutes from when the Board approved these bylaws in (Fall 2015) to see what was already considered.
5. We also need to review with DC government the general rules on boards and committees to ensure we remain in compliance.
6. The Secretary will send out the current bylaws and strategic plan, and work with the Parliamentarian to develop a draft document

XII. Committee Reports: None were provided.

XIII. Public Comment (Maximum 2 minute per person)

A) Clifton Lewis, US Veterans' initiative DC (<https://www.usvetsinc.org/washingtondc/>)

1. HQ is in LA, with offices in various cities. Each can reach out to sister sites.
2. DC site includes 85-bed hospital site, a housing program.
3. Working with other VSOs to collaborate, have pamphlets from MOVA.

B) Jack Barnes (US Navy, retired) had attended small business class.

C) Brenda Campbell, Give an Hour (<http://www.giveanhour.org>)

1. Offer free mental-health counseling, with broad eligibility to give access to those without VA coverage or other support.
2. They also host the veterans collaborative every other month.

D) Wassy Alaka (former US Navy) separated in 2005 and is now in federal service.

E) Dan Mehdi, Travis Manning Foundation

1. TMF provides veteran transition workshops – focus on identifying strengths and passions, and invite other VSOs to inform vets about other services available.
2. Looking to increase programs, such as their Ambassadors, who give Character Does Matter presentations to schools and youth groups.
3. Character in Leadership programs offer a deeper dive.
4. They also work with JROTC, and just did two presentations in Virginia.

XIV. Upcoming (Events/Meetings/Holidays)

A) Mr. Ross noted that the July meeting falls on July 4th.

1. After discussion, a motion, and a friendly amendment, the board voted on moving the meeting to 13 July, This was approved by voice vote.

B) See director's report for other events.

XV. Adjournment

A) The meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairman Spangenberg at 2015 hours.