

Minutes

STATE VETERANS COUNCIL SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

Manchester, New Hampshire

**May 17, 2016, VA Regional Office
275 Chestnut Street, Room 522
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101
1:00 p.m. to 4:00**

**Attendees: Mary Morin, Chris McIntyre, James Adams, Bobby Broneske,
Ken Leidner, Carter Higginbotham, Janet Dineen, Kyle Cunha,
Brian Toney, and Jamie Cummings.**

- 1) Position Interviews 1:00 to 2:00: Frank Morris, Vanessa Rogan, Frank Morris, Jennifer Riley and Thomas Mills were interviewed for two open veterans service officer positions.
a) Application Materials were provided for review**
- 2) Productivity Update: Director briefed SVC members on FY15 productivity. There were approximately 5,246 active clients with a recovery rate of over 57 million dollars. (Exhibit #1). 1,400 clients were scrubbed. Agency was closed for 6 weeks in order to complete the administrative review of files.**
- 3) Budget Status: The agency was able to get second position. New employees will start after the start of fiscal year 2017. Director has had some difficulty managing class 10 and 11 (salary and benefits) due to the enacted budget amount being substantially lower than the amount requested. Budget development is still in development stages. The agency isn't asking for anything else for FY17-18. Salary and Benefits will increase due to COLA and raises. Operating cost haven't gone up since 2004 except to update computers (IT equipment). Also, additional funds might be needed for outreach (brochures, reference guides, and posters).**
- 4) Legislative Changes / Updates / Requests: Members were given a copy of FY15 legislative issues/status spreadsheet of legislation tracked by our agency. (Exhibit 2)
a.) HB280- Decal stickers on special number plates for veterans.
b.) SB 75- Preventing people from charging fees to help people acquire VA benefits. It was tacked onto HB 280 recently**
- 5) New Hampshire State Initiatives (progress)**

- **"Ask the Question" Campaign - 2,700 providers have been contacted.**
- **"Military Culture" Training - 3,000 individuals have received training.**
- **Reference Guide Development - Online reference is available.**
- **Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) Task Force - Veterans Behavioral track. Annual conference is held.**
- **Commission on PTSD / TBI - They were approached by University of NH. Mary will be voted in as co-chair at the end of the month.**
- **NHTI /UNH Certificate Initiatives - NHTI is now offering a Veterans Counseling Certificate. It includes 3 courses (TBI in Veterans, PTSD, and specialized topics Military Culture). Mary will be teaching the Military Culture course in August.**
- **SAMSHA / Governor's Strategic Plan for Veteran - There was a meeting with governor at the beginning of the month. They are currently working on a strategic plan.**
- **Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery - A task force has been implemented.**
- **PARIS Project - There is a stumbling block with obtaining lists from DHHS.**
- **MYVA - No comments were made regarding MYVA.**
- **Statement of Commitment (SOC) - The military leadership team is working on SOC.**
- **Visitation Schedule/Personnel Issues - Will change with new personnel.**
- **ServiceLink Partnership - ServiceLink sites are becoming more productive than employment security offices. Aging resource centers and brain injury association are being considered as new sites.**

6) State Veterans Advisory Committee (SVAC)

- a) **DRED Issue - Howie Howe is proposing that a building be erected in Bear Brook State Park that will allow 250-400 homeless veterans to reside on the premises. No plan was available.**
- b) **AIRS (Alliance Information Referral Service) Attendance – A meeting is being held the last week of the month in St. Louis, MO. The director will be in attendance.**

c) NASDVA Conference – The director will be briefing NH State initiative.

7) How Can SVC Membership Help?

a) Military Leadership Team (MLT) – The director would like a council member to join.

b) Participate in the interview process

8) Other Business: Council member James Adams was asked by the governor what the SVC does. Council member Bobby Broneske wanted to know what the role and purpose of the SVC is. He asked the director to elaborate on the RSA that pertains to the SVC. He expressed concern over the fact that the RSA was only several sentences long.