Veteran Assistance Commission

of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent

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| **11 Jan 2022** | **VAC Executive Commission Meeting** | **7:00 AM** |

***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor’s recent disaster proclamation, the number of COVID-19 cases in Will County and the CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19, the President of the Veterans Assistance Commission has determined that in-person meetings are not practical nor prudent. Therefore, all meetings for the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County shall be held via video and/or audio until further notice.***

***The public is invited to comment or pose a questions by email at*** [***vacwc@willcountyillinois.com***](about:blank)***. At the For Good of the Commission/Public Comments portion of the meeting, the emails will be read into the record. Please email vacwc@willcountyillinois for a link to attend the meeting via ZOOM***

1. Call to Order: Picciolo
   1. Pledge of Allegiance
   2. Opening Prayer: Mlynek
2. Roll Call of Attendees: Williams

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| **VAC Commission** | | |
| **Attendee Name** | **Title** | **Status** |
| Jack Picciolo | President | P |
| Nicholas Barry | Vice President | P |
| Denise Williams | Secretary | P |
| Amanda Koch | Sgt-At-Arms | P |
| Jim Singler | Chaplain | A |
| Tom Mlynek | Member | P |
| Janet Blue | Member | P |
| Steve Benicke | Member | P |
| Vic Martinka | Past Chairman | A |
| John Kestle | Past Chairman | A |
| John York | Past Chairman | A |
| Wayne Horne | Past Chairman | A |

1. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: Debra Sirek, Catholic Charities; Danielle Gritzenbach, Catholic Charities; Darcy White, Catholic Charities; Bry Williams, Catholic Charities; Kathleen Schweikert, Catholic Charities; Natalie Manley, State Rep; Robert Gilbert, Chief of Staff Natalie Manley; Steve Daly, AL 52; William Sutton, AL 13; Geriann Weisbrook, Hey G!; Julie Sander, WCVAC; Greg Wiza, WCVAC; Kristi McNichol, WCVAC; Jen Solum, WCVAC; Joe Martin, WCVAC; L. Gleeson; E. Papineau WCVAC;
2. Chris Wise, States Atty; Brandi Mullins-WCVAC-(Powerpoint, Contact Sheet attached below)
   1. Deborah Sirek; Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet Foster Grandparent Program & others

Catholic Charities programs existing and/or initiated in Will County for Seniors, homebound, supportive in-home services, financial/resources counseling; various programs for Will County residents 18-59 on disability/60+ w/w/out disability; recreation, physical/social classes; “Telephone Reassurance Program”, volunteers contact seniors for social/isoloation remdiation; SHIP/SHAP-certified medicare guidance counselors, benefit access;

D. White-Longterm Care Ombudsman-cover Manteno Veterans Home, 83 other facilities; makes unannounced/unimpeded visits at least every 3 months; seeking volunteers, community resources to share w/residents;

D. Sirek-Foster Grandparent Program-all programs looking for volunteers; participants go to schools in Joliet, Valley View, Headstart Sites, Afterschool, YMCA; 65+, receive stipend requires at/below 200% Fed. poverty line; volunteers tutor/mentor children; classroom aids; events 2x yearly for recognition of volunteers; provides socialization for seniors;

Blue-can volunteers not meet income eligibility?

-Sirek-yes, there is a waitlist for non-income eligibles

B. Williams-Senior Companion Program Kankakee, Will, Grundy, Iroqouis; volunteers visit w/seniors, tax-free stipend to volunteers; companions are 55+, socialization, transportation, respite for caregivers;

K. Schweikert-Money Management Program; 60+ and disability, sponsored by Dept. on Aging, matches volunteers to organize, pay bills, intervening w/creditors; clients referred by protective services, disabled, etc.;

Mylnek-are clients in facilities or homebound?

-yes, in Senior building/independent living, not in facilities

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting 14 Dec @ 7:00 AM (A)

Special Meeting 20 Dec @ 7:00 AM (B)

* 1. Motion: Blue, Barry-

Roll Call Vote- Barry Aye

Koch Aye

Mylnek Aye

Blue Aye

Benicke Aye

Williams Aye

Passed, Unanimous

* 1. Motion: Barry, Benicke

Roll Call Vote- Barry Aye

Koch Aye

Mylnek Aye

Blue Aye

Benicke Aye

Williams Aye

Passed, Unanimous

1. Superintendents Report:

McNichol-

* 1. Award Log: Line Graph added to Governors Report, visual depiction of report, see progress throughout year
  2. Project 150 Report: ESG balance, J. Solum tracking the grant, $75k left to spend on emergency shelter, at current spending is 2 ½ months;

Solum-most recent is most expensive due to Holidays/Winter;

-Rep. Manley advised she is leaving meeting; McNichol asked Manley to please advise WCVAC if there is any further housing funding coming from State; Manley will advise

-Picciolo asked when funding ends; McNichol-ESG monies to be spent by Jan. 2023;

-Blue asked about other funding; McNichol- being sought

-McNichol advised avg. length of stay is 43 days

Motion-Blue, Mylnek

Roll Call Vote- Barry Aye

Koch Aye

Mylnek Aye

Blue Aye

Benicke Aye

Williams Aye

Passed, Unanimous

1. New Business
   1. Marketing Campaign Wrap-Up

-G. Weisbook, Hey G! Consulting-(powerpoint attached below)-Phase 1 updated social media, daily outreach, organize information in public domains of State, local resources, branded to WCVAC outreach/content; strategic cross-referenced to other agencies;

-Williams-is there a breakout of FB vs Instagram demographics?

-Weisbrook-due to FB owning Instagram, not able to differentiate, in general Instagram is 35-44 yr old demographic heavy

Phase 2-added radio, media, advertising direct costs breakdown;

-Williams-Do we need a motion to accept report?

-Wise-yes

-Blue-request to table to next meeting as it is a lot of information

Motion to Table to 2/8/2022-Blue, Benicke

Roll Call Vote- Barry Aye

Koch Aye

Mylnek Aye

Blue Aye

Benicke Aye

Williams Aye

Passed, Unanimous

* 1. IDVA Lottery Scratch Off Grant

-McNichol-advised grant exists, WCVAC can/will apply, primarily to supplement housing

* 1. VAC Post Notifications sent 12/23/2021

-McNichol advised only response so far is Romeoville, reminded minimum 15 paid members per Bylaws to be eligible for Exec. Board

-Blue volunteered to contact Posts, VSO’s

1. Old Business
   1. DCEO Appropriation $41,172.29-

-McNichold advised due to Covid outbreak, grant was accepted, awaiting award letter

-McNichol advised contacted Sen. Duckworths office re:veteran deportations, no response as of yet

-Picciolo-1/13 9:00am, ALNC Committal Shelter C, unattended veterans burial; DAR official sponsor to allow for

-Benicke-Romeoville Post Habitat for Humanity veteran build on hold, seeking location

-Mylnek- Plainfield AL 13 Queen of Hearts is over $53k

-McNichol advised Orland Park Vet Center, sections of VA are remote for next 2 weeks

* 1. -Every Tuesday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – G. Wiza
  2. Every Monday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center – A. Georgakopoulos
  3. Every Thursday – Together We Stand, Peer Support Group @ VAC Office
  4. Third Thursday – VAC at Peotone American Legion
  5. Second Monday - VAC at Manhattan American Legion Breakfast
  6. February 8, 2022 – Listen & Learn, Plainfield American Legion

1. Motion to Adjourn: Mylnek, Benicke

Roll Call Vote- Barry Aye

Koch Aye

Mylnek Aye

Blue Aye

Benicke Aye

Williams Aye

Passed, Unanimous

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting**

**02/08/2022 @ 7AM**

**VIA Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Williams

Secretary VACWC Board