

State of Maryland

2019 REPORT Chapter 707 of the Acts of 2017

State Government- Department of Veterans Affairs- Veterans' Services Specialists



*November 29, 2018  
Veterans' Services Specialists Program Meeting  
Maryland National Guard 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory  
Baltimore, Maryland*

Submitted by: The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

## Chapter 707 of the Acts of 2017

### 2019 Report to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and The Maryland General Assembly

From: George Owings, Secretary, Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

### Status of the Veterans' Services Specialists in State Government (SB857/HB1275)

Introduced during the 2017 Maryland Legislative Session and signed in to law by Governor Hogan on May 25, 2017, SB857/HB1275 created Veterans' Services Specialists in State Government to coordinate services with the Outreach and Advocacy Program Director in the Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). The Act took effect October 1, 2017.

Specialists, or "liaisons", are required to have posted on their respective Department or Agency websites information on veteran services and a link to the MDVA Outreach and Advocacy Program. The Act also requires the MDVA to coordinate meetings and an annual training, and submit a progress report each January to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly.

#### Meetings and Training

- Meetings were held on February 16, April 13, September 20 and November 29
- Formal agendas were prepared for each meeting. For agendas, see Attachment A
- On June 28, the annual training took place in Crownsville. For agenda, see Attachment B

#### Year One Accomplishments

- Four meetings held with an average attendance of 20 liaisons
- In November, liaisons toured the Military Museum of Maryland at the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory
- One annual training held with an attendance of 38 VSS liaisons and human resources staff
- Thirty-eight VSS liaisons and human resources staff trained on military culture, myths and realities associated with disabled veterans, private sector best practices, veteran benefits and the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Google Drive created for liaisons with the goal to share minutes, resources and best practices
- Saratoga War Horse Foundation briefing to liaisons
- MDVA website post describing the VSS Program created and placed on the Department of Budget and Management's Veterans Page

#### Goals for CY19

The following goals are set for calendar year 2019.

- Continue work on the VSS Program handout for new state employees
- Conduct an information fair/resource day for liaisons
- Provide training on the US Department of Veterans Affairs eBenefits website, briefing on state government benefits for veteran employees, and training on behavioral health
- Conduct multi agency briefings to veteran employees on VA benefits



Attachment A.

<b>Veterans Services Specialist (VSS) Program</b>	
<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	
<b>Friday, February 16, 2018; 9:30-11:00</b>	
<b>100 Community Place, Crownsville</b>	
<b>First Floor Conference Room</b>	
I.	Welcome/Introductions
II.	Updates
III.	VSS Program Report
IV.	Website Post/FAQs Page
V.	Onboarding
VI.	Employee Survey
VII.	Training
VIII.	Meeting Schedule
	Meeting Friday, April 13, 9:30-11:00, 100 Community Place
	Training Tuesday, June 19, 9:00-12:30
	Meeting Thursday, September 20, 9:30-11:00, 100 Community Place
	Meeting Thursday, November 29, 9:30-11:00, 100 Community Place

<b>Veterans Services Specialist (VSS) Program</b>	
<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	
<b>Friday, April 13, 2018; 9:30-11:00</b>	
<b>100 Community Place, Crownsville</b>	
<b>First Floor Conference Room</b>	
I.	Welcome/Introductions
II.	Updates DPSCS Town Hall Presentation, <u>John Kelson</u> , Assistant Warden
III.	Website Post/FAQs Page
IV.	Programs/Benefits Request Form DUE DATE FRIDAY APRIL 20
V.	Onboarding Flier
VI.	Training
VII.	Meeting Schedule
	Training Tuesday, June 19, 9:00-12:30
	Meeting Thursday, September 20, 9:30-11:00, 100 Community Place
	Meeting Thursday, November 29, 9:30-11:00, 100 Community Place

**Veterans Services Specialist (VSS) Program  
Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, September 20, 2018; 9:30-11:00  
100 Community Place, Crownsville  
First Floor Conference Room, Side B**

- I. Welcome/introductions
- II. Review Minutes from April
- III. Training Feedback
- IV. Presentation: Saratoga Warhorse Foundation

Saratoga WarHorse Foundation Video  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/e5kcs82j3e36h5m/ESPN%20Warhorse%20Feature%206%20min%20Mixes%20Matthews%20Rinaldi.mov?dl=0>

Egala Provider EquiTeam Support Services  
<https://www.equiteam.org/>

- V. New Business
  - 1. Program Directory
  - 2. Website Post
  - 3. Onboarding Flier
- VI. Round Robin/Agency Updates
- VII. Next Meeting  
 Thursday, November 29, 9:30-11:30, 29<sup>th</sup> Division Street, MDNG 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory  
 Abbreviated Meeting and Museum Tour

**Veterans Services Specialist Program  
Meeting Agenda  
Thursday, November 29, 2018; 9:30-11:30  
Fifth Regiment Armory  
Baltimore, Maryland**

- I. Welcome/Who is New?
- II. Review September Minutes
- III. New Business
  - a. Agency Directory: FINAL Version
  - b. Website Post: COMING SOON
  - c. Onboarding Flier
- IV. IVMF Report: Improving the Delivery of Services and Care for Veterans
- V. Looking Ahead to 2019
  - a. MDVA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - b. Shared events
  - c. Meetings and annual training- what do you want to know?
- VI. THANK YOU....
- VII. 2019 Meetings and Annual Training (Locations TBD)
  - a. February 21, 2019 9:30-11:30
  - b. May 23, 2019 9:30-11:30
  - c. ANNUAL TRAINING June 11 or June 13, all day
  - d. August 22, 2019 9:30-11:30
  - e. November 21, 2019 9:30-11:30
- VIII. Adjourn/Tour

Attachment B.

Veterans Services Specialist Program Annual Training June 28, 2018; 9:00-3:00 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD Conference room B		
9:00-9:10	Welcome	Dana
9:10-9:15	VSS Overview	Dana
9:15-9:25	Speaker	David Vogt, Delegate, MGA
9:25-10:15	Military Culture/Language	Jonathan Hollands, USVA Kelly Gibson, USVA
10:15-10:45	Myths/Realities- Veterans and Disabilities	Paula Wolff, Vet Center
10:45-11:30	ADA Overview/GCCR	Tara Taylor, MCCR Elizabeth Hall, MDOD
11:30-11:45	Pick up LUNCH/Break	
11:45-12:45	Working Lunch/Panel	Kelley Flanders, Rockwell Collins LT Pat Metzger, MD State Police
12:45-1:30	VA Benefits	Phil <u>Munley</u> , MDVA/Benefits Chris <u>Buser</u> , USVA/Healthcare
1:30-1:50	USERRA/NG and RC	Ray Simmons, ESGR
1:50-2:50	Round Robin	
2:50-3:00	Closing	

Contact



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