

State of Maryland

2020 REPORT Chapter 707 of the Acts of 2017

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



October 24, 2019

Veterans' Services Specialists Program Meeting

Melwood Veteran Services/Operation Tohidu

Najemoy, Maryland

Submitted by: The Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

**2020 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.

MEETINGS AND TRAINING

- Meetings were held on June 25, August 22, and October 24
- Formal agendas were prepared for each meeting. For agendas, see Attachment A
- On November 21, the annual training took place in Crownsville. For agenda, see Attachment B

YEAR TWO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Three meetings held with an average attendance of 18 liaisons
- Liaisons toured the 175th Wing of the Maryland Air National Guard and visited with Active Duty Airman stationed at Martin State Airport, in addition liaisons learned about the Airman Care Team and the services they provide to National Guard members
- Liaisons were treated to a Baltimore Orioles Game in the Governor's Suite as a thank you for their service to our veterans
- Multi agency Day to Serve Project held at the MDVA Vietnam Veterans Memorial, volunteers from more than 10 state agencies weeded, mulched, cut trees, repaired flower boxes, and scrubbed the memorial wall
- Liaisons toured Melwood Veteran Services Operation Tohidu Program in Nanjemoy and learned of the services provided there, in addition liaisons were trained on military culture and the combat experience by Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, behavioral health resources were shared with liaisons
- Thank you letters sent to deployed Maryland State Police personnel (troopers and civilians)
- One annual training/information day held with an attendance of 69 VSS liaisons, human resources staff and state government employees who have served in the military
- During the information day, attendees received a refresher briefing on the VSS program, "Five Things You Need To Know" about VA Benefits, VA Healthcare, and Military Credits and State Retirement, upon the conclusion of the formal agenda, attendees visited 11 veteran related resource provider information tables

GOALS FOR CY20

- Survey veteran/currently serving state employees
- Tour Charlotte Hall Veterans Home and a Maryland State Veterans Cemetery
- Invite speakers from military organizations to VSS meetings

- Develop a VSS program success measurement tool
- Host an event to honor WWII Veterans
- Host an agency leadership veteran related resource day

ATTACHMENT A.

Veterans Services Specialist Program

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 25, 2019; 9:30-11:00

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Visitors Center
Annapolis, Maryland

- I. Welcome/Who Is New?
- II. Review November Minutes
- III. Year of the Veteran
 - a. Associated anniversaries
 - i. GI Bill (75 years), Trish Gordon McCown, MHEC
 - ii. American Legion (100 years)
 - iii. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Maryland (5 years)
 - iv. MDVA (20 years)
 - v. Vet Center (40 years)
 - vi. Armistice Day Recognized (100 years)
 - b. D Day (75 years) photos
 - c. Omaha beach sand
 - d. Joint activities... volunteers?
 - i. Purdue/DLLR/Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Employer Training (October 17)
 - ii. Library Summit (November 7)
 - iii. Homeless Veterans Roundtable with The Baltimore Station (TBD)
- IV. Veteran and Military Related Services and Benefits
 - a. Mark Townend, Director of Recruitment and Examination Division
Department of Budget and Management
- V. Annual Training: November resource fair (half day)
- VI. Day of Service: VSS volunteer project
- VII. Agency Updates
- VIII. Take Me Out to the Ball Park...Sunday September 22, 1:05PM, Orioles VS. Seattle
- IX. 2019 Meetings and Annual Training (Locations TBD)
 - a. Thursday August 22, 2019 9:30-11:30
 - b. Thursday October 24, 2019 9:30-11:30
- X. Adjourn

Veterans Services Specialist Program

Meeting Agenda

Thursday August 22, 2019; 9:30-11:30

Maryland Air National Guard at Martin State Airport
Middle River, Maryland

- I. Welcome/Who Is New?
- II. Review June Minutes
- III. Year of the Veteran
 - i. MDVA's 20th Anniversary/October 1
 1. Opening of the new service office at the Glen Burnie MVA
 2. Media event
 3. Partners to help plan?
 - ii. Purdue/DLLR/Salisbury Chamber of Commerce Employer Training (October 17)
 - iii. Library Summit/New Carrollton Library (November 7)
 - iv. The Baltimore Station with Human Services (TBD?)
- IV. Annual Training: November 21, 9:00-12:00, 100 Community Place
 - i. Remarks/VA Ecosystem Briefing (tentative)
 - ii. Resource Fair
 - iii. Speed Dating Design
 - iv. Snacks ?
 - v. Volunteers needed!!!
- V. Day of Service: VSS volunteer project
 - i. Stadium Authority and Lottery partnership
 - ii. Vietnam Veterans Memorial/Hanover Street
 - iii. September 11
- VI. Take Me Out to the Ball Park...Sunday September 22, 1:05PM, Orioles VS. Seattle
 - i. Drawing for parking passes
 - ii. More information coming soon
- VII. 2019 Remaining Meetings
 - i. Thursday October 24, 2019 9:30-11:30
 1. Melwoods' Operation Tohidu, Upper Marlboro
 2. Business meeting and team building activity
- VIII. Agency Updates
- IX. Air National Guard Airman Care Team and Air Base Tour

Veterans Services Specialist Program**Meeting Agenda****Thursday October 24, 2019; 10:00-1:30****Melwood Operation Tohidu****Nanjemoy, Maryland**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Review Minutes
- III. Veteran/Military Benefits/Programs in Maryland (handout)
- IV. VSS Annual Report/Year of the Veteran Event Sharing
- V. Annual Training
November 21, 2019, 9:00-12:30 (program begins at 9:30)
100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD
19 Resource providers registered
25 Attendees registered
- VI. Day of Service Follow Up: Rachelina and Bridgette
- VII. DPSCS Veteran Benefits Staff Briefing: John
- VIII. 2021 Ideas: Meeting locations/speakers/training/projects
- IX. Military Culture/Behavioral Health Briefing/Resources
David Galloway
Maryland's Commitment to Veterans
- X. Melwood Operation Tohidu
Travis Rahill
Veterans Engagement Consultant
- XI. Outdoor Activities and Networking Lunch

ATTACHMENT B.

Veterans Services Specialist Program

Information Day Agenda

Thursday November 21, 2019; 9:00-12:30

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD

****TIME IS ESTIMATED**

- I. Registration & Refreshments
- II. Welcome, Dana Burl, MDVA
- III. Remarks, Robert Finn, Deputy Secretary, MDVA
Remarks, Michael Leahy, Secretary, DoIT
- IV. Veterans Services Specialist Program, Overview
- V. 5 Things You Need to Know
 - a. Veterans Benefits, Phil Munley, MDVA
 - b. Veterans Health Care, Taryn Toman, US Department of Veterans Affairs
 - c. Military Credits and State Retirement, Mark Townend, DBM
- VI. Service Provider Introductions
- VII. How the VSS Can and Could Help State Employees who have served
Best Practices & Completion of Survey
- VIII. Information Fair

CONTACT

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