



MAINE MILITARY & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Wednesday October 16th, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm

**Room 1042, Camp Chamberlin
23 Blue Star Ave, Augusta, ME 04330**

1000 – Introductions/ Operational Update

Commissioner of DVEM Scott A. Young: Welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:00am.

Roll call around the room was conducted

Maine National Guard Development Cycle Support Andy Gibson: Provided a History on the value and need of Maine Military & Community Network.

Interim Recording Specialist Andrew Parker: Updated Maine Military & Community Leadership Council Organization Roster

Maine Military Community Network Amy Line: Talked about the combining of CVEB and MMCN

- There was decision prior about changing the name from MMCN to CVEB
- There was no name change and MMCN filled the role of CVEB
- This gives MMCN more access to VA funding
- Each Regional MMCN sets their own priorities

US Department of Veterans Affairs Jim Doherty: Spoke about how they have changed their Annual Town Halls to Engagement Sessions

- It was found that the Engagement Sessions are more productive
- They are also trying this out in new locations such as Farmington, Rangeley, Etc.
- Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down Day – October 19th
- Vendors to include Primary Care, Mental Health, Internal Revenue Service, and Pine Tree Legal
- Volunteer Support is 2 to 1 supplying Vets with new clothes and a plethora of other services

- Also spoke to the Portland Out Patient Care Clinic
- Saco/Portland are consolidating
- The Project will be complete in the next two years
- Address is 255 West Commercial St, Portland, ME
- Rumford/Caribou should be out of the Contracting phase by February
- All of this will better help identify homeless vets

- The Fisher House will be completing a 16 Unit project in the next two weeks
- The Fisher House helps with families of hospitalized vets
- Grand Opening will be on Veterans Day
- The intended move in date will be Thanksgiving Day
- Ribbon cutting will be next spring

- The Mission Act:
 - Drive time 30 minutes for out of network
 - Drive time 60 minutes for specialized care

Representative for Congressman Jared Golden Emily Manter: Mentioned 9 Academy Nominations

- **H3298** – Homeless Vet Action Community

619th United States Army Reserves 2LT Ryan Graffam: The 619th is currently doing monthly community events

- Working with the American Legions and Veterans of Foreign Wars on Outreach
- Working with Doctor Goodwin to fix veterans homes
- Is requesting more volunteer opportunities for the 619th

Practicing Physicians Representative Charles M Belisle: Maine Medical Center to the VA made good contacts

- 11th Year of Maine Track Program – Helps students subsidize tuition
- Starting recruiting now
- 7 spots for next year with 700 interested applications

Commissioner of Labor Auta Main: 14 Vet Reps at Career Centers Fully Staffed

- 1.7% Veteran unemployment rate across the state
- Asked more inclusion in Yellow Ribbon Events
- Hire A Vet Campaign August 29th – September 11th
- 221 total employers with a goal of 100 Days, 100 employers, 100 veterans
- Currently 775 job seekers
- Project 22 – Veterans struggles with suicide
- Also participating in the Suicide Awareness stand down
- Working closely with Beth Mazzaro and Joe Tatem
- And Deb Kelly with USAR cases
- Dennis Wellman new Director of ESGR

Representative for Senator King Teague Morris: National Defense Authorization Act still pending

- SBPTIC – Widows Pension Still Pending
- Continuing Resolution – Scheduled to expire November 21st

United States Navy LCDR Carl Netzler: Expressed appreciation for MMCN support

Maine National Guard Medical Command Major Joel Dunn: Gearing up for November – March for PHA's

Maine Bureau of Veterans Services Dave Richmond: New Director Ken Russo

- Current looking to hire an Accountant
- Fully staffed for Veteran Service Officers
- Also participating in Suicide Awareness month
- Mentioned great group collaboration

- Public Coining Ceremony at the State House in the Hall of Flags
- November 8th 9:00am – 11:00am

- Partnering with the Maine Arts Commission
- Cultural Awareness Training in December
- Last week met with Regional Directors for clinical training
- Working with Maine National Guard and DHHS in IFS training
- Over the last six months helped add value to Vet Center and National Guard relationships

MMCN Lewiston Nancy Dubord:

- Since both former AND current service members and their families have benefitted from the input and involvement of “non-veteran” individuals (such as myself), please note that part of yesterday's discussion underscored the fundamental difference between MMCN and some other organizations whose sole focus and membership are veterans. Public access to MMCN meetings, events and pertinent information regarding military and veteran issues has been key to successful community engagement, raising awareness and interest in providing needed support for our veterans, our current military, and their families. Any future consideration of blending MMCN with another organization needs to keep this critical difference in mind.
- Also indicated by me is the recurrent need to periodically define (roughly) what a veteran is not only because we collaborate with many individuals and agencies who don't know, but many who serve(d) don't know either! The distinction should also be noted that many resources for veterans often use criteria that is more lax than government standards for use of their services.

1130 – 2019 MMCN Conference Recap

Maine Military Community Network Amy Line: Spoke to the outcome of the 2019 MMCN Conference

- Over it was a great event with the attendance that has been seen since the event has been held at the Augusta Civic Center
- It was the 4th Year at the Augusta Civic Center
- The Vet Talk X was a success

- The Distance Learning Team from the Maine National Guard and University of Maine were very helpful
- The Augusta Civic Center has offered to host the MMCN Conference for 2020
- 293 attended 326 registered

1155 – Future Agenda/Next Meeting

Commissioner of DVEM Scott A. Young: Overall intent to help steer legislation instead of just reacting.

- Next meeting date: January 22nd 2020
- Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
- Location: Room 1042, Camp Chamberlin, Augusta, ME

1200 - Adjournment