



SARATOGA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY
152 WEST HIGH ST., BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

SC-VSA

May 18th, 2013

Executive Summary, Saratoga County, Veterans' Service Agency (VSA)

Subject: Events and Activities Summary for May 12th through May 18th, 2013.

Executive Summary Intent: The purpose of this document is to provide situational awareness and understanding to subordinate and adjacent leaders and staff of the Veterans' Service Agency (VSA). This document does not by itself dictate official policy or decision.

Summary:

1. On May 13th, 2013, I met with Jim Murphy, District Attorney for Saratoga County, Steven Bayle, Director of Saratoga County Probation and Courtney Slade, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO). We discussed ways to develop a partnership to better serve our Veterans. Jim embraced the mission and agreed to reach out to local judge that would be amiable in establishing a "Veterans' Court." Jim also agreed to allot some time during his annual course for Courtney to give a class regarding the VJO mission and intent. Jim is going to set up a follow up meeting to discuss protocols on how "we" can identify a person as a Veteran as soon as possible. This was the first meeting of the week and it was awesome!
2. On May 13th, 2013, The Saratoga County Veterans Employment Task Force had a great meeting that finalized who our target audience is and hammered out our survey.
 - a. Lisa Scaccia, Saratoga County Employment and Training, and Amy Amoroso, Veterans Business Advisor, Small Business Development Center, are going to develop the survey with the questions that the group came up with.
 - b. No Later Than (NLT): June 1st, 2013 – Dan Perkins will either e-mail or snail mail the survey out. Lisa and Ryan helped problem solve a "saratogacountyny" e-mail for the purpose of Veterans Initiatives.
 - c. NLT: June 28th 2013 – Will be the suspense to have returned the survey from the 770 folks.
 - d. On July 1st, 2013 – We are all going to gather to read, analyze and digest the survey in order to decide on our "action steps." This is getting exciting!
3. On May 13th, 2013, I was given the honor and pleasure to visit and meet the folks from the Town of Saratoga. Supervisor Tom Wood was a great host and showed me how the town has become innovative in the way there are utilizing their refurbished high school. I was given the opportunity to share our teams' efforts that will improve how we serve the County's Veterans.
4. On May 14th, 2013, I met with the Patriot Guard Riders and "Leatherstocking" Honor Flight Coordinator. The intent of the meeting was to establish a partnership in coordinating future events with both organizations.

- a. Bill Schaaf from the Patriot Guard and I discussed the RSVP list for 7 Jun 2013 Ceremony and the upcoming ceremony for LCPL Anthony Denier.
- a. Liz Reinhart from the "Leatherstocking" Honor flight discussed the transportation request to support one Saratoga County WWII Veteran for today's (May 18th 2013) event. Our team was able to coordinate with Warren County to assist and the event went well. We had several motorcycle clubs support the event from pick up to drop off at Albany International Airport. There were over 115 Motorcyclist from Schoharie County alone. Liz will stop this coming week and visit with Josie to go over the step by step plan for these events.
5. Peer to Peer. On May 14th, 2013, our Program Coordinator, Amy Hughes partnered with Amy Malloy, the Program Lead for Rensselaer County, and Glen Read, Director of the Peer to Peer Program with the Albany Housing Coalition/Stratton Medical Center, to sit on a panel to discuss their program and efforts. This was the first time that the three program leaders came together as a team. The event was hosted by the Stratton VA Medical Center, focusing on recovery and Veterans peer support.
 - a. On Thursday, June 13th, 2013 at 6:00-9:00pm, we will be hosted our Peer to Peer Mentoring Program Kickoff Event. This event has been in the works for several weeks and we are planning to invite the other programs to participate.
 - b. On June 18th, the programs are invited to be the main speakers at United Way's next Family Support Network meeting on June 18, at 10 a.m. at United Way of the Greater Capital Region. The United Way has taken a keen interest in the three programs, their mission and their willingness to work together.
6. 2013 New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame Event. This event was sponsored by Senator Kathy Marchione of the 43rd Senate District.
 - a. It was great to see eight Saratoga County Veterans nominated. This really establishes the fact that our County holds our Veterans in high regard.
 - b. The winner of the event was Marine James A. Haggerty. Over the course of the last two months our paths have crossed in various meetings and function. He actually reached out to me through the Red Cross to introduce himself and genuinely offered immediate support. He has bridged a couple of gaps for me with the State and Capital Region.
7. The Capital Region Services to Armed Forces Military Advisory Council (SAF MAC). On May 15th 2013, I attended the inaugural meeting of a Presidentially mandated effort to established a group that would have as its singular purpose, the support of Veterans, Military members, and families through a network to include governmental/non-governmental, non-profit and community partnerships with a focus on collaboration to fill service and informational gaps. Joining Community Forces expands on First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Biden's "Joining Forces" campaign by focusing attention on community-level efforts to support Service members, Military Families and Veterans. It is with our collaboration of resources that we can build community capacity to better support local military communities through resiliency. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2013. At this point the group is still trying to build its core members. As this group develops more steam I will find areas that the County may want to support the group's efforts.

8. On May 15th, 2013, I met with Don Tallman, Alumni Ambassador, Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). The intent of this meeting was to discuss ways both organizations can support one another. The WWP seeks and coordinates events to provide opportunities for “wounded warriors” (to include those with PTSD) to attend. These events are fully funded by the WWP or by the facilities hosting the events. His next major event is going to be a “Great Escape Family Day.” We hope to partner our Peer to Peer Coordinator with Don to plan and coordinate future events.
9. On May 16th, 2013, I met with Assemblyman “Dan” Stec from the 114 District. His district includes all of Essex and Warren Counties, the Towns of Corinth, Day, Hadley and Edinburgh in Saratoga County. We spoke for an hour and half! We discussed everything from going to college in the “North Country” and serving in certain parts of the Persian Gulf. I believe he has good grasp on Veteran needs and issues. We will maintain a constant dialogue with him and his staff.
10. On May 16th, 2013, I met with three staff members of Congressman Paul Tonko. I believe this was a follow up visit to his visit to the Town of Charlton. The discussion revolved around our latest efforts our team has made with our affiliates and partners. The group made a point to invite me to a meeting with Congressman Tonko and other Veteran support teams on Friday, May 31st, 2013 at 10:00am.
11. On May 17th, 2013, I attended a press conference at the Rural Preservation Company’s (RPC) Guardian House, Female Veterans’ Shelter. This was a very proud moment for Saratoga County. One of our residents shared an idea with his Supervisor and the Supervisor took the ball and ran with it! Simply amazing. This was a planned VIP Visit of Assemblymen Jim Tedisco with MG Peter Lennon, but the highlight was the good action of our Supervisors.
12. Today, May 18th, 2013 My sons and I saw and visited with the several riders for the WWII honor flight, attended the Malta Parade (saw our Saratoga County Veterans Float), and attended the “Double M” Barrel Racing Event!
13. Veterans Outreach.
 - a. May’s 2013 Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony will take place on the 21st at 2:30 in the Board Room. The honoree will be Harold Irving Smith from the Town of Corinth. This ceremony was re-scheduled from March due to weather.
 - b. The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency van transported 30 Veterans to the VA hospital this week. Ridership derived from the following towns:
 - 1) Saratoga Springs – 5
 - 2) Ballston Spa – 8
 - 3) Stillwater – 6
 - 4) Clifton Park – 6
 - 5) Wilton – 1

6) Mechanicville – 1

7) Milton – 1

8) Moreau – 1

9) Edinburg – 1

- c. Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency and Saratoga County Department of Social Services established a referral process for Veterans who apply for services. This referral process allows our team to reach out to every Veteran who requests assistance from Saratoga County Social Services. A quick highlight: Josie created the “Medicaid” referral form over eight years ago and it such a great tool that we are sharing with Albany County DSS who is looking methods to improve their ability to serve the Veterans. Good Job Josie!

14. Veterans Service Officer Actions.

- a. Frank processed 3 new claims at an average of 1.5 hours per claim.
- b. Frank conducted 5 open claims follow up engagements at an average of 1 hours per engagement.
- c. The team scheduled 3 claim appointments at an average of 1.25 hours per scheduling.
- d. The team served 10 walk-in clients at an average of 35 minutes per visit.
- e. The team processed 98 phone call inquiries at an average of 8 minutes per inquiry.
- f. The team received 3 referrals from within from County DSS resulting in 2 scheduled appointments for next week.
- g. A Homeless Veteran was assisted this week. The Veteran came into office after applying for Food Stamps at DSS. Frank discussed possible ways to assist the Veteran who is 40% service-connected disabled and identified priorities of issues. The Veteran was currently staying in a camper on a friend’s property which was suitable for the short-term. He is not a candidate for a shelter or Vet Help as he has a dog which he does not wish to part with. The Veteran was mostly concerned with employment. The Veteran was referred to Dan Perkins , NYS DOL Veterans Counselor and Bill May, Vet Help, for employment assistance. The team reached out to the Leathernecks Veteran Motorcycle Club, as the Veteran is a member, to ensure the Veteran followed back up with this office. We will continue to communicate with the Veteran and work on each of his priorities as appropriate. In the long term, if the Veteran can start work, we can connect with a supportive services grant for assistance with obtaining an apartment. The Veteran had his first job interview this week and others are being lined up.

Upcoming Events:

May 20th, 2013.

- Meeting with Amy Amoroso, Veterans Business Advisor, Small Business Development Center.

May 21st, 2013.

- Honor Deceased Veterans Ceremony for Harold Irving Smith from the Town of Corinth, NY.
- Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Meeting.

May 23rd, 2013.

- Meeting with Erica Choi, US Small Business Administration.

May 24th, 2013.

- Breakfast with Jim Peluso and Roy McDonald
- Pick Up Wreath at Briarwood for Memorial Day Weekend.

Conclusion: Please mark your calendars for Thursday, June 13th, 2013 at 6:00pm, to attend the Peer to Peer Kickoff event to be hosted at the New York State Military Museum and Research Center. Amy has dedicated a great deal of time over several weeks to put this event together. RSVP: Monday, June 10th, 2013 at 1:00pm with Amy at ahughes@saratogacountyny.gov or (518) 884-4999.

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