



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, February 13, 2018  
Wells Fargo Building 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Warner, Chairman  
Julie Daniels  
Bill Hatcher  
Matthew Scott  
Tony Stimatz (by phone)  
Sonny Roberts (by phone)  
Patricia Harris (by phone)

### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Doug Taggart, Military Liaison DPI  
Jamie Livengood, Wayne Cty Schools  
Valerie Nasser, Craven Cty Schools  
Julie Fulton, USMC K-12 School Liaison (by phone)  
Bryan Ayers, MIC-East (by phone)  
Erin Adams, MIC-East (by phone)  
Jamie Norment, ACT (by phone)  
Caroline Outten, ACT (by phone)  
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

### OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Chairman Warner welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Warner requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 4th quarter meeting of the committee on Oct 26, 2017. Bill Hatcher made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Tony Stimatz and passed by unanimous vote with no discussion.

### CHILDREN'S CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT STATUS: KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner stated that he had written a letter with the desires for Quality of Life to get funding and/support from the State for an additional Crisis Stabilization Unit in Fayetteville at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center which is a worthy need and has slipped through the crack. NC Military Affairs Commission (MAC) former Chairman George Breece had hand delivered the letter of support to Senate and NCMAC member Wesley Meredith. He has asked Chairman Grier Martin to contact Senator Meredith to find out the status of the letter. We have no new update on the Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit.

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI): DOUG TAGGART

Doug Taggart presented for DPI. DPI is coordinating a Military Impacted Superintendents meeting in March. We are inviting the top 10 military connected school systems Superintendents, that have the most military connected children to attend this meeting. The meeting will be hosted by the Wayne County Superintendent, Dr. Dunsmore. The purpose of the meeting is to elicit needs of military impacted school systems and elicitation of practices worthy of attention by military impacted school systems in support of military connected students. Our desired outcomes are to produce a list of prioritized need to drive state change for support of military connected students with organizations that

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can impact change such as NC Military Affairs Commission, State Board of Education, and NC General Assembly. Also, to produce and disseminate a document of practices worthy of attention to share across the state for consideration in implementing operational changes in support of military connected students and present findings to NC Military Affairs Commission Quality of Life Committee specific to the Commission's priority on K-12 education. The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) may be helping to facilitate the meeting. The invitation to the Superintendents will be going out shortly and we hope to have 5-6 Superintendents in attendance at this meeting. We want to have a proposal put together by April 2<sup>nd</sup> to forward to Chloe Gossage (DPI) for consideration for inclusion on the Legislative agenda for the short session. Chairman Kirk Warner asked what type of items do you think will come out this meeting that are legislative items? Doug responded that he thought it could be along the lines of the Military Comprehensive Support Plan. If it is like the Military Comprehensive Support Plan, I am not sure if this would be done through Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) or if we would get funds to do something like what MCEC does. The MCEC mission is to ensure inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military and veteran-connected children affected by mobility, family separation, and transition. They are a nonprofit organization based out of Texas. BG (R) Keith Martin from MCEC will be briefing at the NCMAC on Feb 20. The top ten military impacted counties are Cumberland, Onslow, Wake, Harnett, Carven, Hoke, Guilford, Wayne, Moore, Carteret and Pasquotank (Coast Guard Representation). This information was gathered through the military student identifier and the county information. Tony Stimatz asked if the school districts had completed the survey of information that DPI was requesting? Doug Taggart commented that the information he was talking about would be collected at this meeting. We will gather this information at this meeting and then a follow up survey to get information that they didn't share during the March meeting. This meeting includes the branches of service. Doug Taggart anticipates having a completed document early April but not sure when the information will be made public. Doug Taggart will share this information with the QOL committee as soon as possible.

Doug Taggart attend an American Council of Education held a meeting in Winston-Salem. The meeting was attended by 80 educators from various Universities and Community Colleges. They were working on the military experience credit piece, Senate Bill 761, Session Law 2014-67, approved July 10, 2014. George Millsap, Education Officer for the National Guard was in attendance and part of the discussion. The discussion was broken up into Adult Education and K-12 Education. There were approximately 20 different career centers represented. All the branches have a different training program. It would be good to have an analysis conducted on the military instructor program for each branch of service. We could start with the Army to see if there is anything in there that we could take and use to shorten up the teacher education program for K-12. This could be a first step in how could we evaluate this. There is a lot of leg work related to selecting 2 Universities and their education programs and doing a crosswalk of the Army instructor program. Is there enough information there to even model one of the classes to say, this is close enough? This was the initial conversation and how do we make these things happen. What are the challenges that we face and how complicated could this be? It is complicated when you have 5 military branches all doing instructor programs differently. Doug will continue to consider this to see how to move forward and work with a couple universities. One of the universities will be Fayetteville State. Chairman Warner asked if DPI was in contact with TRADOC? Doug Taggart commented that he has been in contact with the Army University to get instructor documents. He has

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also, been in contact with Dr. J. Vanderworf from Army University. This is the beginning of a process and will take time but we need to start the process.

Military Student Identifier update: The schools were required to submit their updated by the end of January. It takes approximately a month after the schools submit the data and then a report can be run.

Troops to Teachers: The grant was submitted at the end of January. We have a partnership program with Cumberland County Schools to conduct a Shadow program. There have been 6 individuals that have done the Shadow program. There are 5 more individuals that have requested to complete the Shadow program. This program consists of an individual getting out of the military and shadowing a teacher in the Cumberland County school system for 2 days. The individual goes through a background check with the school system. I have a process that I follow and that information goes to the Human Resource office at the Cumberland County school system. The candidate spends 2 days with a teacher watching, learning and observing. This program accomplished two results. The candidate decides that want to be a teacher or they don't want to be a teacher. This program is only for service members. If a military spouse calls and wants information and assistance, we help them out but there is not incentive money for spouses. We do continue to have licensing issues between states that affect the military spouses. Matthew Scott asked what is the next step after the shadow program? Doug Taggart commented that his office will counsel them on the next steps. There are some incentives for military personnel and they will counsel candidates on the different options. Matthew Scott asked if the Shadow program can be implemented to other Counties? Doug Taggart commented that currently that they do not have the staff to implement the program to other Counties. There is a Volunteer Mentor Program and we currently have 50 individuals in that program. There are planning to expand the grant and Onslow County would be the next grant if approved.

### MILITARY CHILD EDUCATION COALITION (MCEC): CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner commented that BG (Ret) Keith Martin will give a presentation to the Full NC Military Affairs Commission on Feb 20. Keith Martin will focus on best practices.

### REMOTE ENROLLMENT LEGISLATION: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner updated the committee on the draft legislation that has been crafted about Remote Enrollment. This draft legislation is a result of the good work of the QOL committee and that information was handed off to the Legislative Committee. The NCMAC recommended that this topic be a tasker to the Legislative Affairs Committee. The exact language of the draft legislation has not yet been released. That legislation allowed an Active Duty (AD) military member who had valid Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders, which allowed that AD member's juvenile dependent(s) to remotely enroll in school prior to physically moving to that state. This draft legislation is modeled after California Senate Bill 455. Once they get a PCS order, that is all that a family will need. We need to work with the military and encourage them not to sit on PCS orders. This is a win for NC. Senator Brown may be prepared to run this in the Short Session. They have been speaking with staff on the House side and hopeful that this may result in a companion bill on the House side. They would like to move this forward in the Short Session and get it adopted. Tony Stimatz commented that once this has a bill number and more information it needs to be shared with the Commission members so they can share this information. Jamie Livengood commented that there would be a possible add-on cost for the

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PowerSchool software/website to implement this initiative. She will share this information with Chairman Warner so he can give this information to the Legislative Committee. The School Liaison Officers will talk about the other implications to this legislation and share that information with Doug Taggart and Chairman Warner. Tony Stimatz commented that in a prior presentation from MCEC it was recommended that NC needs a full-time position at DPI champion and advocate for military children. We don't want that need to get lost. Doug Taggart will inform DPI leadership about this draft legislation.

### FEDERAL HOMELESS VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES ACT (S1072): CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner briefed that there a couple of interesting Homeless Veterans Legal Services Acts that are being proposed. Senator Burr and someone on the House side are making these proposes. This federal legislation will help those who are homeless for legal assistance. Working to make this at the VA medical centers and other locations. This is a funding source to provision legal services to these individual to keep them from becoming homeless or be informed of the benefits that they have. This legislation is directed to Veterans but still a quality of life issue. Senate Bill 1072 has been introduced recently. Sonny Roberts commented that he has been working with Religious Community Services (RCS) and the New Bern Military Alliance. They are getting ready to build 10 Homeless Veteran apartments in New Bern. We have raised over \$100,000 and this is one of our big projects. We are also working with our Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber of Commerce in New Bern is a big supporter of the military. We need to work more with our Chamber of Commerce, they are a great resource. It could be a good idea to have Chamber of Commerce members attend NCMAC meetings. Sonny Roberts agreed to work on this issue. Chairman Warner also commented on the Veterans Life Center (VLC) in Butner, NC. They have recently broken ground on the Veterans Life Center.

### NCMAC PRIORITIES 6, 9, and 10: CHAIRMAN WARNER:

Chairman Warner leads the discussion. He talked about priority #6 which is Integrate transitioning military members, veterans, Guard and Reserve, and military dependents into the NC workforce. The wording is fine but what committee should be the lead? The recommendation is that the QOL should be the lead on this priority. Both the QOL and Economic Development committees have responsibility for this priority. Tony Stimatz asked the question, what is the goal of this priority? This priority has 2 issues. Getting them to come to NC is a QOL issues and keeping them in NC is an Economic Development issue. Is the Recommended Revision too broad? The Recommended Revision is Improve the Quality of Life for Uniformed Service members, Veterans, and their families. Sonny Roberts commented that we have a large problem in NC with a qualified workforce. We are losing industry each day due to this. Tony Stimatz commented that in the Recommended Revision what are goals and what are objectives. This goes back to having a Strategic Planning meeting. We need to work on this as a full NCMAC. Chairman Warner commented that he will pass on to the NCMAC the recommendation for a Strategic Planning meeting to be scheduled at least every other year. Doug Taggart commented about a low wealth formula for funding schools. If a school system has a certain social economic level, they receive additional funding from the state. Should there be a low wealth formula around military installations? Do we need a low wealth formula and a military community formula as a separate line for funding schools? Jamie Livengood recommended that this topic be discussed at the Superintendents meeting in March. The Wayne and Onslow County School Superintendents represent the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA). This topic has been discussed before. Chairman Warner commented that priority #6 Recommended Revision is very broad and needs more discussion. We will keep priority #9 which is

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Research and coordinate on Military Child in Crisis procedures and availability of care facilities for behavioral and psychological problems. We will keep priority #10 which is Support Department of Public Instruction (DPI) initiatives to improve state support for military students. They will keep #10. Doug Taggart recommended a change to the priority to read "military-and veteran-connected students." Valarie Nasser commented that the Military Interstate Child's Compact Commission (MIC3) only covers students after one year their parent separates from the military. That one year time limit may not be enough time to completely support the student's needs. Doug Taggart commented that he made a presentation at the NCMAC about the number of military connected children in the communities around military and where we had military liaison counselors. I used Wayne County as a model of 1-1 which was 2000 students to 1 counselor. Then you look at Cumberland County which has 16,000 students which would mean they would need 8 military liaison counselors and they have 1 military liaison counselor. The state does support 4 military liaison counselors currently in the following counties; Cumberland, Wayne, Onslow and Craven. Moore County has funded a 1/2 position with local funding because they saw the need for a military liaison counselor. There are many other counties such as Carteret that would benefit from a military liaison counselor. This is a topic that needs to continue to be discussed. Jamie Livengood commented that we also need a full- time position at the state level (DPI), Military Liaison Counselor State Consultant. Chairman Warner asked about the Priority #10 status and action Align school calendars. Jamie Livengood commented that we may need to change the wording. Maybe it needs to say School calendar flexibility and Credit flexibility. Also, add the State level, Military Liaison Counselor State Consultant to the status and action block. Changes need to be made to the Status and Actions block. Chairman Warner stated that the discussion on the priorities will continue and the recommendation for a strategic planning meeting will be taken to the NCMAC.

QUALITY OF LIFE WEBSITE DESCRIPTION: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner asked the committee to review the QOL Website description and send him any recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Warner asked for a motion to adjourn. Bill Hatcher motioned to adjourn and Julie Daniels seconded the motion. Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:36 pm.