



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, January 22, 2019**  
**Wells Fargo Building 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kirk Warner, Chairman  
Tony Stimatz (by phone)  
Patricia Harris (by phone)  
Matthew Scott  
Bill Hatcher (by phone)  
Julie Daniels (by phone)  
Rep Cleveland, NCMAC member

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sonny Roberts

### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools  
Jamie Livengood, Wayne County Schools  
Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools (by phone)  
Whitney Campbell Christenson, Ward and Smith (ACT)  
Doug Taggart, DPI  
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville (by phone)  
Bryan Ayers, NCCC and MIC-East (by phone)  
Kevin Bruch, DoD State Liaison Office (by phone)  
Vicki Vitiello, NC Arts Council  
Paul Berry, NCServes  
Matt Cannon, DPI  
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

### **OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees. He said that he was pleased with what the QOL team was doing especially in the K-12 Education area. We have had positive movement with the Dorothea Dix Care unit at the Betsy Johnson Hospital in Dunn. They still need the additional \$1 million of funding. They still plan to be operational in March 2020. I thought that Susan Barbitta did a good job of presenting on Senate Bill (SB) 761. There are still gaps that we need to fill but the implementation of SB 761 is underway. I think they are making progress, but it is a slow process. We will continue to work with Susan Barbitta on this item. The NCMAC signed a Resolution of support for the Department of Public instruction (DPI). This resolution needs to be sent to the Senators and Representatives for their visibility.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Warner requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 4th quarter meeting of the committee on Oct 30, 2018. Bill Hatcher made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Tony Stimatz and passed by unanimous vote.

### **NC SERVES: PAUL BERRY (CENTRAL CAROLINA) USO**

Paul Berry presented for NCServes and gave the members a couple of handouts. There are 4 networks in the state and they function as a community-based coordinated network of services and care for our nation's Military-Connected members and their families. We are adding more staff so that when we are working with organizations across the state we have one entry point. Our bread and butter are working with local non-profit and now to partner with much larger organizations whether they are regional or

**Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Quality of Life (QOL) Committee**

**January 22, 2019**

**Page 2**

state-wide. America Serves started several years ago. Then NCServes started in Charlotte and then grew to Raleigh and now there are 4 networks covering the state. We do the central navigation for the Veteran. We work with the County/State Veteran Service Officers that touch Veterans every day. The greatest needs are Employment, and Housing and Shelter. The Central Carolina network service requests are Employment 26% and Housing and Shelter 20% and 30% of that is a coexisting event. We have community coordinators across the state. We do the intake and get the Veteran's story once and connect them to appropriate service that they need or multiple services. This is for the all services and Active Duty/Guard/Reserve. They need someone to be their champion, navigating for them and with them. We don't want them to become dependent, we want them to thrive. We have a good success rate. We are having greater success each year. Kirk Warner asked if and how NCServes works with Resiliency training in the USO? Paul Berry said they work hand in hand in all the networks. Doug Taggart said that he had just checked Unitus the software platform which is amazing because it combines all these organizations, so they can refer to each other very easily. Tony Stimatz said that he noticed that there is not a Northeast network and his question is why? Do they go to Norfolk, VA or do they just not ask for help? Paul Berry said that if he had the funding he would put an NCserve person in Elizabeth City. The demand is there but the resources that I must get into that area. The United Way of South Hampton Way is coming along and is an America Serves provider. We are working on that item, but I don't have a timeline to give you. Tony Stimatz said what can NCMAC do to facilitate that in the future and down the road? Paul Berry said that the demand signal coming from the NCMAC and others organization through America Serves is the way and he can be the point person for that. Representative Cleveland said that you go into an area and you look for people that are already working on these problems and bring them together and make an umbrella organization out of it. Paul Berry said that was correct. We have really expanded north of Raleigh, Granville, Franklin and Warren Counties where it is very rural. It took time to get where we needed to be, but we got there. With the software that Doug Taggart mentioned it connects everyone locally, regionally and nationally with resources. Tony Stimatz said that working on the At-Risk Families in my area there seems to be no central clearing house. At one point we talked about 211 which I understand the USO has taken over. The 211 program is like 911 but non-emergency support questions. The issue was how do you create the data base of resources and keep them current. We talked about creating an APP for this. Maybe that is something you can think about using an APP? Paul Berry said that he had good news on that front. It is not the USO, but the software owner Unitus with an initiative called NC Cares 360 that you may have seen on social media. I have a call scheduled later this week about NC Cares 360 and NC 211, to bring this together. We need to make this seamless. Kirk Warner said the he would like to have USO give a 10-15 minute presentation the NCMAC on Resiliency and NCServes. He will bring this request to the Executive Steering Group in February.

**K-12 UPDATES/ISSUES: JAMIE LIVENGOOD AND VALERIE NASSER**

Kirk Warner asked if there was any update on a meeting of a Military Host Communities Superintendents meeting? Doug Taggart said that he had not have an opportunity to coordinate a meeting but with Matt Cannon on board he would give that task to him. He asked Jamie Livengood if they would be willing to host the meeting in Wayne County again this year and Jamie Livengood said yes, they would. Kirk Warner asked about the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) meeting? Doug Taggart said that they had a tentative schedule of March 18 and 3 VIP's (Rep Szoka, Donnie Loftis and Chole Gossage) had responded positively to that date. They have not heard

**Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Quality of Life (QOL) Committee**

**January 22, 2019**

**Page 3**

back from Alex Irwin the MIC3 Commissioner yet. Doug Taggart said that Rick Stroud, Superintendent from Onslow County has retired so we will need to replace him on the MIC3 board and there has been some interest from Craven County to be on the MIC3 board. Valarie Nassar said that the Regional Superintendents are meeting in Craven County this week on January 24.

Kirk Warner said that the presentation from Jamie Livengood and Valarie Nassar last quarter at the NCMAC meeting was great. He appreciated all the work that they had done. Do you have any thoughts about the presentation and any action items? Jamie Livengood said that she has talked to Dan Dunham, VA DPI and had received some documents from him. She will share those documents with Kirk Warner and Doug Taggart. It may be helpful to get him on a conference call to talk about issues. Doug Taggart said that DPI was requesting additional funding in the budget for 3 additional positions. One Additional Military Liaison Counselor for Cumberland County; One Additional Military Liaison Counselor for Onslow County, One New State Level Military Liaison Counselor/Coordinator and associated operating funding for training and program implementation for a cost of \$350,000. Jamie Livengood said that the State Level Military Liaison Counselor/Coordinator could handle many of the items that we talk about since Doug Taggart is limited in the time he can devote to be the military liaison counsel at the State level. Valarie Nassar said that the Purple Star program is something that we could still accomplish and implement. Chairman Warner said he would like to get this program implemented and develop the criteria for this program. We need the criteria and an oversight committee. Valarie Nassar said that this could be put on the school report card and an emblem put on the school's website. A low-cost program and very effective. Chairman Warner said how do we get this started, through DPI? Doug Taggart said that he would check with Chloe Gossage, DPI. Rollie Sampson said that on Monday, Jan 28 the Fort Bragg Garrison Commander is tentatively hosting his annual Superintendent meeting. The meeting will be held at 11 am at Pope Air Force Base (AFB) Family Readiness Center. Doug Taggart said that he would try to attend the meeting. Chairman Warner said that we need to have NCMAC representation at this meeting.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SUPPORT TO MILITARY FAMILIES: DOUG TAGGART**

Doug Taggart presented for DPI on a variety of topics. Troops to Teachers is about outreach to different places across the state where there are military installations, high veteran numbers and low performing schools. I am also working with NC workforce development to conduct teaching and 2<sup>nd</sup> career seminars out in the area away from the installations. I have 2 upcoming events in Halifax and Tyrrell counties. We have done 2 events in Raleigh and Charlotte, but the attendance was not that good. We need to work on how to get the word out on these events. We have much better attendance if the locations are near a military installation. The seminars are about pathway options. The program itself can offer up to a \$10,000 bonus for individuals to work in a high needs school and many of our school meeting that criteria. We do the seminars and then they register for the program they can do the shadowing program. The shadowing program can be a very positive experience. Chairman Warner said that this topic should be talk about at the Superintendents meetings.

There is no update on the Military Child Identifier. We have completed a Student Directory for the second year as a state report for military recruiters. It is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the US Army Recruiting Battalion and they send the directory to each military branch. The directory contains information on juniors and seniors. This is an opt out program.

**Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Quality of Life (QOL) Committee**  
**January 22, 2019**  
**Page 4**

Military Interstate Children's Compact Council (MIC3). There is a tentative date of March 18 and the location is still not decided but most likely in Raleigh. Doug Taggart had reached out to Leanne Winner, NC State Board of Education Association, Governmental Relations Director and asked her about the requirement that the MIC3 Commission be an attorney. Leanne Winner responded to Doug Taggart with the explanation for that requirement. "The reason was to make sure that the Commission did not recommend anything that was in conflict with State or Federal laws governing schools. I believe there was also an attorney on the national commission and this would mirror that." Doug Taggart said that was the response from Leanne Winners to the fact that the Commission for the MIC3 must to be an attorney that serves a Board of Education in NC. Chairman Warner said that it does not sound like there is a great reason to require Council other than to ensure that Council is keeping them straight. Doug Taggart said that no other state has that requirement. Changing the legislation will give us more flexibility. Chairman Warner said that he would reach out to Chairman Martin to see how he would like to move forward with this item. He may want to introduce the amendment since he was part of the original legislation. Doug Taggart said that at the last Commission meeting they had decided to have 2 meetings annually, March and September.

Rollie Sampson asked if Doug Taggart was doing any Job Shadowing in Moore County and if he was not to let her know and she would help him facilitate that program there. We have a lot of veterans that are teachers now and they would welcome helping other veterans become teachers. Moore County Schools has revised how they conduct the military child identifier program. We combined it with our Impact Aid survey and we track every veteran commitment in a family. We also track the difference between retired and veteran. We have had a good response by doing it on one form verses two forms. The Impact Aid staff approved the form that we use.

**LAMP/NCBA CLE PRESENTATION: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

Kirk Warner and Doug Taggart made a presentation to the NC Bar Association about Legal Assistance to Military Personnel. This was to engage lawyers in a variety of ways. The presentation gave a good insight to the needs of military personnel and their families. The presentation was well received.

**SENATE BILL (SB) 761 UPDATE: SUSAN BARBITTA**

Chairman Warner talked about SB 761. He said that after the presentation at the NCMAC he feels like we are moving forward but maybe they could use some assistance in meeting twice a year and that was about a \$20,000 ask. I don't know if that falls within our grant guidelines or not. I need to get with Frank Bottorff and talk to him about this request. Representative Cleveland said that he thought he had the meeting and then continued to work on the issues throughout the year on the items determined at the meeting. He also inquired as to whether they were in fact giving these credits in the schools and he was given a somewhat answer of yes but a little concerned as to whether that was really happening. Chairman Warner said that he sensed that the Community Colleges were further along than the Universities with the uniformity of the process. Doug Taggart suggested we reach out to Dr. Lipfact, UNC-G Nursing Program to make a presentation to the QOL committee on how she has made positive moving in this program. Representative Cleveland said that if you look at the list, the credits that they gave to the services for medics vary greatly. I don't understand that, and I have asked the questions but not gotten a good answer. Doug Taggart mentioned the centralize platform that was developed in

**Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Quality of Life (QOL) Committee**  
**January 22, 2019**  
**Page 5**

Texas and that would be helpful for NC and make it more consistent. Chairman Warner will continue to reach out to Susan Barbitta and Michelle Sellers.

**DOROTHEA DIX CARE UNIT: KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Warner said that there was not update but the project continues to move forward. He will reach out to Duke Energy and Blue Cross Blue Shield about support to this project.

**USO of NC RESILENCY PROGRAMS: KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Warner said that this had already been talked about and he would request time at the NCMAC meeting for the USO to present.

**OTHER BUSINESS: KIRK WARNER**

Kirk Warner said that he attended the NC Reserve Component Commander's Council (NC RCCC) on January 11. There were no QOL of life issues that were mentioned at the meeting, but they did mention the upcoming deployments for the NC National Guard. This is a good meeting for us to attend if possible. Valarie Nasser said that the information of deployments would be helpful for them as military liaison officers to help those families if needed. Doug Taggart said that if he has some of that information he could share that with DPI.

Kelly Jackson mentioned the Tri-Care for Life for Reserve Component that the NC National Guard is supporting. Chairman Warner said that he would contact Tom Bowlin, NC National Guard about this initiative.

Chairman Warner talked about requesting Dan Dunham, VA DPI to brief at the NCMAC. He decided to ask Dan to call into the next QOL meeting and brief the QOL members.

Whitney Campbell Christiansen said that the Governor and his Cabinet was meeting in New Bern today. The meeting was about the Hurricane relief and other items. She said that the Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT) Government Relations Report for January 2019 had just been sent out.

Chairman Warner talked about the Strategic Planning event and the work that has been done on that event. We have great candidates for a facilitator. This will go out in the next couple of weeks, so the entire process will be moved to the right.

Tony Stimatz said that related to the Strategic Planning we have had several data calls going on the BRAC lobbying, the Purple Star and other things. The question is how are we going to collect the data? With the BRAC one, we need to keep it going continuously because that relates to Economic Development. We don't want to be just taking snapshots and putting them on the shelf. Chairman Warner asked what is the current data collection method? Tony Stimatz said he had no idea what we collect and who has it. We have done the Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) every 2 years and our former lobbyist has that information. Chairman Warner said that hopefully the Cluster Analysis will be a great tool for maintaining that information. We may need to ask how they are planning to store that information. Tony Stimatz also said that the Shutdown is a QOL issue for the Coast Guard and other communities. Chairman Warner said that he will check with the USO about the

**Minutes for 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Quality of Life (QOL) Committee**

**January 22, 2019**

**Page 6**

impact of the shutdown. He is on the USO Board and will see what they can do to help with the shutdown. The shutdown could be affecting 20,000 in the Elizabeth City area.

Vicki Vitiello, Director of Operations for the NC Arts Council introduced herself to the QOL committee. She works with the Military and Veterans Arts Program. A couple of years ago the General Assembly gave the Arts Council funding to assist with the military and veterans. Their very first partnership was with the USO and the provided grant funding to the USO for 2 purposes. They had built a curriculum for training for Arts organizations and we help to sponsor artists from the Reset program. The NC Arts Council works mainly with our Veteran Administration hospitals and military installations. The NC Arts Council works with the local Arts Councils in our 100 Counties. The funding that the Arts Council was given can be given to the local Arts Council for programs that have been developed for military personnel, military families and veterans. There are also grants that can be given out through the NC Arts Council and the deadline is March 1, 2019. <https://www.ncarts.org/resources/grants/grants-organizations>. Military and Veteran Healing Arts Grants. They also have Arts and Education Grants that could be used in the school system. Vicki Vitiello appreciated the opportunity to attend this meeting and learn more about how she can help our military and veterans.

Rollie Sampson asked about the Legislation and the Bailey Act. Are we planning on doing any lobbying about Eliminating Income Tax on Military Retirement? Representative Cleveland said that the Bill had been drafted and would be introduced in the first month of Session. Chairman Warner asked if the NCMAC had taken a position on this matter? Representative Cleveland said that they had not taken an official position, but they support it. Doug Taggart asked if the Sponsors of the Bill are known at this time? Representative Cleveland said you know one of them. There has been discussion with the Finance Chairman.

NCMAC agenda items planned from QOL

- USO Resiliency and NCServes – 15 minutes

**LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:**

No Legislative initiatives currently.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Warner said that this information and conversation was great. Thank you for all participating and the work that you all do. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.