



## **NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, July 19, 2018  
Wells Fargo Building 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Julie Daniels  
Sonny Roberts

### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Valerie Nasser, Craven Cty Schools  
Jamie Livengood, Wayne Cty Schools  
Cory Bryson, AR Speaker Tim Moore  
Kelli Willoughby  
Jamie Norment, ACT (by phone)  
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville (by phone)  
John Bigger, Cape Fear Valley Behavioral Health  
Care (by phone)

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

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. He welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting and conducted a roll call of the attendees.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Warner asked a motion to approve the minutes from the 2nd Quarter meeting of the committee dated April 25, 2018. Tony Stimatz made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Patricia Harris and passed by unanimous vote with no discussion. Kelly Jackson requested that this committee change how the minutes are completed. That if there is a slide presentation, the slide presentations are posted with the approved minutes. The committee agreed but Kirk Warner requested that an executive summary of 2-3 sentences about the presentation be a part of the minutes.

### **CHILDREN'S CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT STATUS: DR. JOHN BIGGER**

Dr. John Bigger, Administrative Director of Clinical Services/Sleep Center, Cape Fear Valley Behavioral Health Care presented on the Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit. Dr. Bigger said he appreciated being able to talk to this group again since the last time was two years ago. Funding continues to be an issue but working with the State Legislature, they have designated \$4 Million from the Dorothea Dix Fund the unit. The original funding called for the unit to be built at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Cumberland County but due to space constraints we had to ask the State to re-designate the funds. They have given us permission to construct the unit at the Betsy Johnson Hospital in Dunn. It will be a 10-bed crisis stabilization unit for children ages 12-17. On average Womack sends 16-24 children monthly to an inpatient treatment facility anywhere from 70 – 100 miles away from their home. By having this resource in Dunn, they will only have to travel about 30 minutes away.

A challenge is that the architectural design and engineering department review of the proposed Betsy Johnson Hospital space makes the budget requirements \$5 Million which means to make it right would

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be an additional \$1 Million. We are trying to find ways to get that additional \$1 Million. Kirk Warner asked if there were any restrictions with the \$4 Million on going back to the State for any type of grant or other things from the State? John Bigger said that they did not identify anything like that in the Legislative ruling. The only thing that they sent us was a budget template. We must complete that budget and we received an extension for this until March 2019 to identify where the other \$1 Million will come from. We will be signing a contract in the next 2 weeks. Kirk Warner said that a federal or state grant could be perfect for the additional \$1 Million. Tony Stimatz asked if this could be a candidate for an NCMAC grant? Kirk Warner said that it might be a possibility, but we don't have \$1 million to support this. Tony Stimatz said that the NCMAC does have \$225,000 for grants. Kirk Warner said that at one time we were looking at some type of grant program from the State, but we could not do it in Cumberland County because it was not considered Rural. Harnett County might be considered Rural. We need to go back to review that grant program, federal grant programs and the NCMAC grant program. Between these programs maybe we can find the \$1 Million. Dr. Bigger said that they would support any efforts to find the \$1 Million shortfall.

Kirk Warner asked if anyone has reached out to Womack or a Department of Defense (DOD) agency for support? John Bigger said that he was not aware of anyone doing that. When I attend the NCMAC meeting in Aug, I plan to have Dr. John Lesica from Womack Medical Center speak to the needs of this project. I don't believe that Dr. Lesica knows the processes to reach out on the federal side. Kirk Warner asked if they had talked about naming rights to the unit and go to a private company for support? Dr. Bigger said that part of the Dorothea Dix funding is a requirement to name it after Dorothea Dix. It will be called the Dorothea Dix Care Unit for Adolescents. I have talked to my folks about internal signage and recognition. Kirk Warner said that we don't need to forget about the private sector. Tony Stimatz asked if there was a way to engage the military community with a fund-raising event? Also, could the Commands from Fort Bragg have some discretion with their operations funds to support the operating budget. It is worth asking the question. Kirk Warner said that we could ask those questions at the NC Commander Council in Aug. Maybe the USO could also be a part of a fund-raising event.

Kirk Warner asked if the military children had dedicated beds at this unit? Dr. Bigger said that by state law it is open to everyone, but I can assure you that we will try to find space for any military child that is sent to that unit. That is one of the main reasons that we have continued to push this unit to be closer to Fort Bragg. We did not want to leave this area. Kirk Warner said that this information was great and asked the committee if they wanted this topic to be presented at the NCMAC meeting in Aug? The committee members agreed. Kirk Warner asked about getting licensures for this unit. Dr. Bigger said that they would need to get licenses which is an easy process since this is funded by the State. Most of the units have had to develop a Certificate of Need (CON) but that has been waived by the Legislature. The Legislature has funded 6 or 7 projects with this funding across the State and all of them waived the CON requirements. Our focus now is getting it established. The timeline for this unit is to get the contract signed in the next 2 weeks, construction in May 2019, Beds open in June 2020. It will be a 12-13-month renovation project.

Kirk Warner asked what is Plan B if you don't get the additional \$1 Million? Dr. Bigger said that they would not be able to get some of the modern equipment needed. Also, one of the key areas may not be

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available. The unit will be on the second floor and one of the State requirements for inpatient psychiatric treatment is ability to have your patients go outside for at least 1 hour a day. We are planning on building an outdoor recreational area on the second-floor roof. We would lose that without the additional funding. The third item would be the modernization of the elevator. Kirk Warner said that when they briefed in Aug that the metrics information would be very helpful. There were no further questions for Dr. Bigger.

**WARRIOR/FAMILY RESET AND STEAM PROGRAMS: KELLI WILLOUGHBY, USO FOR NORTH CAROLINA**

Kelli Willoughby gave a presentation for the USO and provided the committee with a handout which is attached. The USO started 76 years ago in Jacksonville, NC and continues their effort to connect military service members to family, home and country. Three new programs are: 1) Reset, a program for service members, spouses and families designed to reduce PTS and improve overall health and wellness. 2) Camp Innovation, a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Program for military dependents in 6<sup>th</sup>– 8<sup>th</sup> grade. 3) The Pathfinder transition program which offers best-in-class services to assist those exiting the military. To do this the USO works with NCServes a network of public, private and nonprofit organization serving veterans, service members and their families in NC.

A discussion on the need to promote and advertise these programs both to those served but also to those who could contribute financially to the USO for these programs. It was suggested that we place a link for these on our website.

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

Kirk Warner said that he was glad that the Military Liaisons could attend our meeting. That the invitation for Dr. Doyle to present at the Aug NCMAC meeting was still there. Valerie Nasser said that she and Jamie Livengood would be presenting at the NC School Counselors Association. One session is on Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) and the other session is on transition for our military students. We are hoping to reach the National Guard in the Wake County area that normally don't have that information readily available. We plan to push that information out as the school year starts. We want them to know that there are professional development opportunities for them.

The remote registration did pass into law and it will be effective on January 1, 2019. Kirk Warner said that it was part of Senate Bill 99. He is not sure how it will be funded but it will happen. There is good and solid language in this bill and we appreciate the work from Sally-Ann Gupta, the Legislative Affairs Committee and the General Assembly.

**SECTION 7.18.(d)** G.S. 115C-407.5 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-407.5. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.**

The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children is hereby enacted into law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining therein in the form substantially as follows:

ARTICLE VI.  
ELIGIBILITY.

A. Eligibility for enrollment – Children of military families shall be eligible for enrollment in the public schools of North Carolina pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-366, including the provisions of (i) G.S. 115C-366(a3) that provides for admission, admission without the payment of tuition, tuition of children of military families not domiciled within the local school district, administrative unit and (ii) G.S. 115C-366(a9) that provides for remote enrollment registration of children of military families not domiciled within the local school administrative unit, provided that the affidavits provided for in that section and other specified conditions are met.

...."

**SECTION 7.18.(e)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2019, and applies to enrollment applications received on or after that date.

Jamie Livengood briefed on the spreadsheet that she and Valerie Nasser were in the process of developing. In the last NCMAC meeting, they were asked to develop a matrix to compare NC to other states. They are using the top 10 military populated states and reviewing the topics that were discussed at the Superintendent's meeting. The matrix will have links to website to support the information in the matrix. Kirk Warner said that some of these topics are low hanging fruit that we should be able to accomplish and other topics are more complex. The topic the Purple Star is one of the low hanging fruit. Jamie Livengood said that we need to package this correctly to show the good things that we are doing in NC and we are focused on military child education. Valerie Nasser said that she thought that Calendar Flexibility was also another topic that we could accomplish. Most states have calendar flexibility and even if we only give it those districts that have bases in them, that would be helpful.

Jamie Livengood said that on one of the topics Rep Cleveland had asked a question about how many families are affected by a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) during the school year? We have that information and data for Rep Cleveland. Most of the moving happens during the school year. The data for Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (SJAFOB) in the past 12 months was 2/3 of the PCS happened during the school year. The other military bases have similar data. We will package up this information and get it to Kirk Warner.

There was also a discussion about the Original Senate Bill 8, Ease Occ. Lic. Burdens on Military Families which content was put into House Bill 57, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHYSICAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT TO FACILITATE THE INTERSTATE PRACTICE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND EASING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BURDENS ON MILITARY FAMILIES. Valerie Nasser said that if a military spouse does not have a reciprocal license when they come in then they receive sub pay until they can get licensure and there is a big difference in pay. Jamie Livengood said that even in the bill it was talking about waiving the licensure fee and she wondered if from an operational standpoint was that happening about the State for our military spouses? Valerie Nasser said that this was not just talking about teachers, it was also talking about any types of occupation.

Valerie Nasser said that the spreadsheet has topics that had been discussed at the last NCMAC and how NC compared to other states. Kirk Warner that this was good information and gives us a sense of where we are we are behind. Tony Stimatz said that we need to look at which topics do we need to work on

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and get the check mark. What is the NCMAC's role to work on these topics to get them completed? Valerie Nasser said that they are working on this but there is not a lead person for the Military Liaison Officers (MLO) at Department of Public Instruction (DPI) other than Doug Taggart and this is not part of his job. Kirk Warner said that this is one of the budget items that DPI was asking for in the budget. A State Military Liaison to serve as a champion for military connected student issues within DPI. Virginia has checked many of the blocks and that is a powerful statement. Valerie Nasser said that they package and advertise this information. This information and message can be shared to show that we are focused on military child education.

Kelly Jackson also mentioned that DPI did put a budget request together for the Short Session and it was not approved. How do we find out what that budget request information was so this committee can continue to support that important request? Kirk Warner said that he would reach out to Sally-Ann Gupta, Legislative Committee to ask her to get that information for this committee. Tony Stimatz asked if the NCMAC needed someone to follow the legislation and keep up with that information. Kirk Warner said that K-12 education was an important part of the committee on the NCMAC. Everyone supports K-12 education, but it is also about the funding. The spirit is there but we need to be organized and make sure this is presented correctly and then the funding will come.

Jamie Livengood said that the State MIC3 meeting will be on Sep 26 at 10:00 at DPI. We have had a lag in the meeting schedule since we did not have a Commissioner for a while but now we have a Commissioner and a meeting scheduled. We think that the meeting in Sep will focus on the implementation aspects. There is also a National MIC3 meeting that will be held in October 2018 and our Commissioner for NC will represent us at the this meeting. He will bring back items that are trending and any new rules that are being implemented. Kirk Warner asked what this committee could do to assist in those efforts? Do we need a representative at the state MIC3 meeting? Valerie said that the MIC3 is law for our military K-12 students. We know that if you are not aligned with an installation then many don't know that you are required to serve our military students which includes the National Guard and Reserve in a certain manner. Jamie Livengood said that a New Comer meeting at SJAFB a parent walked up to Jamie Livengood and she realized by the parent's name tag that she had been emailing with this parent. The parent had enrolled their child in a Johnston County school and they informed the parent that they had never heard of MIC3. We must get organized and get this information out to our school districts. Chairman Martin has shown an interest in this effort and we need a good communications plan. Kirk Warner asked if there was an annual Superintendents meeting and if this topic needs to be discussed? Jamie Livengood said that in her district they have a person who is focused on this topic and every school has a designee. If we could use this model it could be simple. Kirk Warner said that if DPI required a designee in their office, then the communications would go to that designee. Valerie Nasser said that they were offering this training through Cynthia Floyd, Consultant for School Counseling, DPI. Cory Bryson asked if anyone had talked to the State Superintendent about these issues? Jamie Livengood and Valerie Nasser said they had not talked to the State Superintendent. Cory Bryson said that he had just talked to Kevin Wilkerson, the State Superintendents Government Liaison. Kevin Wilkerson said that he would be happy to talk to you about these issues. Kirk Warner said that the information that they have shared today and the information from the Superintendents meeting would be good to share with Kevin Wilkerson. Cory Bryson said that information does not always flow from the House side to the Senate side. Kirk Warner said that he

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would like to work with Jamie Livengood, Valerie Nasser, Doug Taggart and anyone else that wanted to get together with Kevin Wilkerson. We need to work to set up this meeting.

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

Kirk Warner told the committee that there was no update. Doug Taggart was not able to attend the meeting. Kirk Warner asked if anyone had any update on the Troops to Teachers or the Military Identifier? Jamie Livengood said that they could pull their district data for the Military Child Identifier and she thought the data was more accurate. It is helping to inform us in our process for application for Impact Aid which is dollars. Kirk Warner will get with Doug and then send out an email to the committee members.

**SENATE BILL 761 UPDATE:**

Kirk Warner told the committee that there was no update due to Charles Gross no longer in this position due to funding issues. Kirk Warner will try to get an update through Aug for the next meeting from Kathie Sidner in the External Relations division.

**OTHER BUSINESS: KIRK WARNER**

Kirk Warner asked if there were any other QOL issues. He said that he knew that Matthew Scott had talked about the Shadowing program that Doug Taggart had developed. Matthew Scott said that he hoped it could be expanded to neighboring counties to Cumberland county. Valerie Nasser said that she thought that program was a focus of Doug Taggart's now.

Kirk Warner said that he thought the Superintendents meeting was very successful and asked if we could have the meeting again. Jamie Livengood said that she would talk to Dr. Dunsmore about have this meeting annually and the best timing for this meeting. Kirk Warner said that we need to continue to include QOL members as part of that meeting. Tony Stimatz said that we need to plan a strategic plan meeting. We need to schedule a meeting and discuss our strategic plan. This meeting needs to be solely about the strategic plan for the NCMAC. Kirk Warner will take this issue to the Executive Steering Group meeting on August 7, 2018.

NCMAC agenda items planned from QOL

- Child Crisis Stabilization Unit – 20 minutes
- Dr. Doyle's presentation – 20 minutes

**LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:**

None at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Warner asked for a motion to adjourn. Tony Stimatz motioned to adjourn and Patricia Harris seconded the motion. Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.