

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (MHCAB)
VACT ERRERA COMMUNITY CARE CENTER

August 14, 2013

ATTENDANCE: Stephen Frank, Committee Chairperson

Laurie Harkness	Matt McDonald
Darlene Houston	Ismene Petrakis
Michele Nichols	Morgan Rusk
Pat McDonough	Christina Voonasis
Abdul-Ali Muhammad	Bob Correll
Meaghan Leddy	Joyce Cohen
Howard Sak	Vicki Thomas
James Cunningham	Bill Mason
Nicolas Montini	

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Steve Frank at 2:05 PM at the Errera Community Care Center.

II. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION:

- a. Frank opened the meeting. Guest speaker, Dr. Bob Rosenheck from VA New England MIRECC/Yale Medical School sharing his research on Attitudes towards People with Mental Illness and what leads homelessness: stigma, culture, & recovery.
- b. Dr. Rosenheck asked questions of the AmeriCorps Vistas and their programs which began a discussion on the mission of AmeriCorps Vistas with veterans over the next year.
- c. Dr. Rosenheck spoke about the statistics of homelessness and what can lead to homelessness among veterans. The AmeriCorps Vistas are working in the following areas: Mental Health Outreach & Advocacy, Employment, two with the CT Veterans Legal Services, two with the Habitat for Heroes program, and one VISTA leader from Columbus House overseeing the Veterans Recovery Project and mentoring the VISTA's.
- d. The goal of these VISTA's is to create and run sustainable programs and projects for veteran's that can then be sustained by Veterans in the future.
- e. Dr. Rosenheck spoke about the HUD-VASH VA Voucher program offered here at the Errera CTR that is meant to house Veterans that are homeless and suffering from substance abuse.
- f. He also spoke of the Supported Employment program that is offered at the Errera CTR to help with getting homeless vets housed then employed.
- g. Co-Chairs Report: mentioned suicide prevention month is in September and the upcoming Mental Health Summit will be September 12.
- h. Laurie Harkness informed the group that Farnum Veterans kid camp was a success.
- i. We also had two guests from Purple Heart Homes: Currently the Purple Heart Homes organization is made up of volunteers and professionals from all walks of life that share a common belief and a common desire to give back to those who have given so much for their country.

III. ADJOURNMENT: 3:10PM

IV. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 2:00PM, Errera Community Care Center.

Upon review of the Chairperson, respectfully submitted by the Recording Secretary,

DARLENE HOUSTON
Recorder