

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (MHCAB)  
VACT ERRERA COMMUNITY CARE CENTER  
October 9, 2013

**ATTENDANCE: Stephen Frank, Committee Chairperson**

Darlene Houston	Megan Willis
Christina Voonasis	Nicholas Montini
Abdul-Ali Muhammad	Morgan Rusk
Bob Mantis	Lewis Many
Howard Sak	Barry Braman
James Cunningham	Bruce Maskot
Jack Mondente	

- 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. Steve Frank opened the meeting. We were all reminded of the other councils here in the state of Connecticut and at the Veterans Hospital. Ex. OEF/OIF Council meeting every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the VA hospital.
  - b. The group was reminded of upcoming Family Nights here at the Errera Center, One Wednesday 5:00-7:00 p.m. a month; next two are Nov, 6 and Dec. 4, 2013.
  - c. Southern Connecticut University's Veteran Official, Jack Mondente updated the group about the Mental Health Summit that took place in September.
  - d. Co-Chairs report: 5388 bill passed. This bill designates that each municipality will have a veterans service contact person to find out what benefits the veteran has coming to them. This bill also includes family members of the veterans too.
  - e. AmeriCorps Vista: James Cunningham from Columbus house spoke of what the Vistas are doing for Veterans.
  - f. Habitat Restore & Habitat for Humanities in Bridgeport has Vista: Megan Willis that is working to help veterans get homes and get work on them as well by getting things fixed around their homes. Habitat is sponsored by Home Depot; they provide most of the supplies needed to do the homes.
  - g. Critical home repair or National Service Veterans fund is another fund that helps veterans get repairs done on their homes. No one is sure yet if New Haven Chapter has this up and running yet but Bridgeport, CT does.
  - h. The group was reminded of the qualifications for Veterans to get a home through Habitat for Humanity: Must be a Veteran, 500 hours of community service if selected must be done by the veteran also must be able to pay the mortgage.
  - i. Errera Community Center's own staff member Juliet Taylor is the first Veterans home owner in the area, and her home will be done by 11/9/13.
  - j. Jack Mondente, let everyone know that all or most state run colleges have a Veteran Oasis or Drop in Center to Support Veterans.
  - k. The group discussed Employment outreach: AmeriCorps Vista: Nicholas Montini told the group about his outreach to the local Chamber of Commerce to form an alliance to hire veterans. Nicholas also told the group about a Hiring/Veterans Employment event that is being planned for potential employers to attend to encourage them to Hire Veterans.
- III. **ADJOURNMENT: 3:10PM**
- IV. **NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 2:00PM, Errera Community Care Center.**

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

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**DARLENE HOUSTON**  
Recorder