



Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 12:00 PM via Zoom

Commission Attendees: Adler Archer, Councilman Zach Blanchard, Adobolia Buford, KeSean Johnson, Major Scott Swenson, Jeromie Williams

Staff and Guests: Chief Jill Muth (OECD), Trudy Conley (MD's Commitment to Veterans)

Approval of December Minutes

The commission reviewed the December meeting minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented, and the minutes were approved with all members in favor.

Veterans Commission Updates and Events

Jill provided updates on several initiatives and events. She discussed the quarterly chiefs and chairs meeting for boards and commissions under the Office of Equity and Civil Rights, highlighting the overlap in work related to veterans. Jill shared details about the Snow Corps program to assist residents with shoveling and other needs during snowstorms. She also mentioned the NAVETS banquet, where the Commission has secured a table and will have an ad in the program. Jill noted that she had sent a follow-up message regarding signage for PTSD and fireworks, and planned to discuss this further with Ms. Conley from MD's Commitment to Veterans. Finally, she confirmed that the Veterans Commission has secured a spot in the Black History Month parade, requesting a vehicle.

Veterans Initiatives and Staff Updates

Jill discussed several updates and initiatives, including the availability of historic vehicles for parades, a \$4,000 outreach budget, and efforts to improve the condolence letter process for veterans. She mentioned collaborations with local veterans commissions, a potential dance therapy program, and ongoing work on email accounts and chair appointments. Jill also introduced Aracely Stafford as the new interim deputy director and highlighted plans for Civil Rights Week. She suggested considering extending future meetings to 90 minutes to accommodate the agenda.

Maryland Veterans Support Services Overview

Trudy, the Communications and Central Maryland Regional Resource Coordinator for Maryland's Commitment to Veterans, presented an overview of the organization's services. She explained that MCV assists service members, veterans, and their families regardless of discharge status, offering 24/7 referral assistance, behavioral health support, and peer support. Trudy highlighted the organization's team structure, training programs, and the Sheila E. Hickson Behavioral Health Services matching grant program. She also discussed the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among service members, veterans, and their families, and the TMAP program for training providers on military culture. Trudy encouraged attendees to follow MCV on social media and reach out for more information.

Veterans Services Commission Meeting Updates

The meeting focused on several key topics related to veterans' services and the commission's priorities. Jill discussed the development of a brochure to educate the public about veterans' benefits and resources, and the commission agreed to include information on priority areas and upcoming events. Trudy provided insights on crisis intercept mapping and veterans' benefits assistance. The commission decided to rotate meeting facilitation among members and discussed potential changes to veterans' benefits by September 30th. They also agreed to explore options for meeting frequency and duration.