



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 4th Quarter, October 30, 2018 Wells Fargo Building 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Warner, Chairman
Tony Stimatz (by phone)
Patricia Harris (by phone)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Daniels
Bill Hatcher
Sonny Roberts
Matthew Scott

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools
Jamie Livengood, Wayne County Schools
Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools
Jamie Norment, ACT
Doug Taggart, DPI
Susan Barbitta, Community College
Bryan Ayers, NCCC and MIC-East (by phone)
John Bigger, Camp Fear Valley (by phone)
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

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. He reminded the committee about the video clip that we watched at the end of the last NCMAC meeting, As the Secretary of the Air Force said, education is a priority for Airmen and their families.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Warner said that we did not have a quorum, so the minutes could not be approved.

DOROTHEA DIX CARE UNIT FOR ADOLESCENTS AT BETSY JOHNSON HOSPITAL: DR. JOHN BIGGER

Dr. John Bigger, Administrative Director of Clinical Services/Sleep Center, Cape Fear Valley Behavioral Health Care presented on the Dorothea Dix Unit at the Betsy Johnson Hospital. Dr. Bigger said he wanted to give this committee an update. They continue to move forward on the construction/renovation of the facility. They plan to be open around June 2020. They are working on getting contractors and plan for that construction to start in March – April 2019. They are working on the operational cost for this unit. They plan on the nurse to patient ratio to be 1 nurse to 5 patients. That will be the same ratio for the Mental health technicians They have done an analysis on the daily cost to run the unit and that is \$850-\$875 per day. That is what they will be changing the insurance company.

They are currently short \$1 million to complete the project. They are requesting any level of support for the unit. Individuals can also go through Cape Fear Valley Foundation's 501 C (3) to donate and designate that they want the donation to go to this unit. They continue to work the effort on larger donors. Some options to spread the word about this project is at the Governor's Working Group, NC Best and NC Serves. Kirk Warner also mentioned the USO and the Cannon Endowment in Charlotte, NC and the Fred Eschelmann Endowment in Wilmington, NC. Patricia Harris mentioned the Legion.org and

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their Child Welfare Foundation. Dr. John Bigger said that he was looking forward to the Grand Opening of this wonderful unit.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION (MCAS) CHERRY POINT:

Jamie Norment commented on MCAS, Cherry Point. Cherry Point was impacted by Hurricane Florence but no significant flood damage. They did experience wind and tree damage to buildings and homes. They did have damage to some of the duplexes and have issues with the tenants that were on month to month leases. In the units that significant damage their leases were terminated. They tried to do that in a way that did not impact the families, but someone is always inconvenient. These decisions were made by the private company that owns the duplexes. There was some damage to the Air Station structures. There was damage to one of the older hangers and an administration building. There was damage out at Range Control on some of the older facilities. In the Havelock community, the City of Havelock has worked very hard to ensure that the morale and quality of life for their Marine Corps residence are taken care of. There was significant damage in the City itself. The Governor will be in Havelock today and visiting the Disaster Recovery Center and an Elementary school. He will also go to City Hall to thank the First Responder. The General Assembly will be coming back into session at the end of November and the number one item on their agenda will be the allocation and appropriation of the Rainy-Day Fund for assistance to those impacted by Hurricane Florence. I would ask this Committee and the NCMAC to talk to the Legislators and remind them that the Military needs a specific attention. The changes that we have seen since the hurricane has been very positive.

Bryan Ayers commented on Camp Lejeune. We had a lot of damage across the base from Hurricane Florence and then wind from Michael. The impact ranged from the work space, Public – Private Venture (PPV) housing and out to our Onslow beach operations both recreational and operational. The erosion along the beach line. The beach operations are currently closed, and we don't anticipate the recreation area opening until next calendar year. Some of our employees have had to relocate to other offices. There was a lot of roof damage to PPV housing on and off base. Atlantic Marine Corp Communities (AMCC) is the company that is active pursuing option for the housing issues. They are trying to free up housing for the Active Duty (AD) components however it is at the misfortune of the Veterans or Retirees. They are evicting anyone that is not AD from the on base housing. There are repairs being done daily and the initial estimates are still be calculated. The Public Affairs Office will release that information after the Command has been briefed. We have a housing crisis at this time due to the number of homes that were affected.

Jamie Livengood commented on Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and they had minimal damage.

Tony Stimatz commented on Elizabeth City and said that it was a non-event for them. No further discussion.

K-12 UPDATES/ISSUES: JAMIE LIVENGGOOD AND VALERIE NASSER

Jamie Livengood and Valerie Nasser presented on the K-12 Military Child Matrix that they had developed. They reviewed the handout and the handouts will be sent to all the QOL members. There were 5 handouts titled Supporting Education for Military Connected Students, Clarifying Document:

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State Level Position Allotment for K-12 Military Child Education, NC Military Child Education Act, K-12 Military Child Education Report to NCMAC Quality of Life Committee, Purple Star Program. Valerie Nasser said that after the Superintendents meeting, they requested a comparison of what the top 10 states as far as military population regarding certain issues. The issues that we looked on the handout Supporting Education for Military Connected Students: State Level Position allotment focused on K-12 Military Child Education, K-12 Military Child Act/Plan, Purple Star/Military Friendly Schools Program, Active MIC3 Commission/Strong State Council, Remote Registration, Calendar Flexibility, School Zone Flexibility and No Letter Grad on School Report Cards. The top military states are looked at were CA, TX, VA, NC, FL, GA, WA, SC, NY, CO and HI. We added HI due to the military dependents that they have. The states are listed in rank order of the number of military personnel serving. VA does a fabulous job and when we go to Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) or attend other meetings, VA is always leading the way for military K-12 students and what they need. Kirk Warner asked what are they doing different than NC? Valerie Nasser said that they have a great State Level person, Dan Dunham. He has a good relationship with the school districts and communications lines. Valerie Nasser said that we are doing great things in NC, but we do not have that State Level person in NC to market and communicate all the good things that we do in NC for education. They also have funding for professional development in VA. Doug Taggart said that the Military Liaison Counselors (MLC's) were not depicted on the matrix and do other states have MLC's? Valerie Nasser said that some states do but they may be called something different. What is unique in NC, is that the MLC's are funded by state and the bases also have School Liaison Officers that they fund. We both know our worlds and with that synergy we can get so much accomplished and that needs to be marketed. Jamie Livengood said that in VA had done a lot of work with their State Level person but also their State Council, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) and they have been very active in the past 5 years. The state of GA just passed legislation to hire MLC's. Jamie Livengood said that when you get this handout you can link to clarifying documents and access those documents. The documents can be very helpful. Kirk Warner asked if they could get Dan Dunham, VA to send us his job description? Jamie Livengood said that she would ask Dan Durham for that information.

Doug Taggart said that we have been calling that position the State Liaison Counselor. He also said that he got an email this morning that the Department was going to do a budget request for 2 additional MLC's for Camp Lejeune and Fort Bragg and the State Liaison Counselor in the next budget cycle. If the Quality of Life Committee could support that budget request that would be helpful. Kirk Warner said that we need the details on the budget request and maybe the we can do a letter of support for this budget request from the NCMAC. Doug Taggart said that he thought the MLC's should be listed under the State Level Position since they are funded by the State. Valerie Nasser said that they may be funded by the state, but they do not work at the state level. Rollie Sampson said that if you put the MLC's under the State Level Position, people will think that that need is being met and they don't need to hire that State Level Position. Kirk Warner said that maybe we put an asterisk and not a check with a footnote. Kirk Warner asked if we can have this information printed and distributed for the NCMAC meeting in November? He also said that this information would be very helpful if we had another Superintendents meeting and hopefully we can have that meeting annually. He asked if the MIC3 State meeting had been rescheduled? Doug Taggart said that it had not been rescheduled. Kirk Warner said that he thought having the Superintendents meeting in conjunction with the State's MIC3 meeting could

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be beneficial and productive. We can talk this information to the Governor, General Assembly and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and say look at this information and why don't we have more checks on this matrix? Some if this is easy to accomplish and other items will take more time.

Jamie Livengood said that the matrix has gone through a lot of changes and that is why we decided to use the clarifying documents. Valerie Nasser said that they felt that this painted the picture of where we are at as a state. The Military Liaison Counselors and School Liaison Officers from the installation met at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (AFB) last week about the Purple Star Program. We looked at VA Purple Star program and modified the language for NC for our Purple Star program. A handout of the Purple Star program was given to the members. Kirk Warner said that he wanted the MLC's to present the matrix with the supporting documents to the Full NCMAC in November. Also support of the DPI budget request for the 3 additional positions. He will take these items to the Executive Steering Group (ESG) meeting. Tony Stimatz said that we need to have actionable items to take to the Full NCMAC meeting. Kirk Warner asked what the actionable items from the matrix are. Valerie Nasser said that they had a sheet of actionable items and that is the NC Military Child Education Act. Some of these items are easy to accomplish and others will take time and funding. Tony Stimatz asked if there was proposed legislation that they could propose and forward to the Secretary to provide to the legislature? Kirk Warner said they we could have a drafted letter prepared to support the DPI's budget request. The second action item could be that we recommend or sponsor the Purple Star program. I am looking at the list and the State's Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) could be a legislative item. In the legislative for the State MIC3 it says that the Governor shall appoint as compact commissioner a licensed North Carolina attorney who represents at least one local board of education with a high concentration of military children or an attorney familiar with military issues. We may want to remove the attorney requirement from the legislation. This limits the effectiveness of the compact and finding a qualified commissioner. Jamie Norment said that he had tried to find out the reason for that requirement and was not able to find out the reason for that requirement. Kirk Warner said that we need to get that clarified and then changed if needed.

Jamie Livengood talked about the Military Spouse Licensure. There was legislation that was introduced that was in committee. There is one thing to have a policy and another to have it on the books. I know that Chairman Martin at the last NCMAC meeting said that he thought that Military Spouse Licensure had been handled. There is something in place, but we could not find the legislation. The only thing I have is the policy manual from the State Board. Kirk Warner said that a lot of that would come from the professions. The State Bar Association has adopted its rules for this topic. Rollie Sampson said that there was a State that just adopted legislation for Spousal Licensure. Doug Taggart said that teaching is one of those regulated things that is very codified in law about what options for how licensures are presented. There is some flexibility for the state to decide the details of that. So, if you want flexibility it will have to be legislated. Jamie Livengood said that was a draft, but it is still in committee. Kirk Warner said that we need to do more research on this item. Rollie Sampson said that this was an issue at the Superintendents meeting and still an issue for them in hiring teachers. Doug Taggart said that there is supposed to be a priority processing, but no one can tell him if they have seen anything of this. I am not sure how well this is being implemented. Kirk Warner said that we need to continue to research this item.

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Valerie Nasser said that their wishes list was from the items discussed at the Superintendents meeting. The only other items would be the professional development funding. This has been talked about by Keith Martin from Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC). That we need a budget for professional development and the Military Liaison program. Kirk Warner asked where would this funding come from? Doug Taggart said that the General Assembly would likely to put it through DPI but there is not much of an operational budget to do things. One of the items that you would expect the person in the State Level position would be to conduct training across the state and that would require a significant amount of operational funding. Even locally they do not have much of a budget to conduct training. Kirk Warner said that this document was very helpful, but we need to highlight our action items.

Valerie Nasser said that the items on the bottom of the will not cost anything but provide flexibilities for highly military-connected districts. Kirk Warner asked what is School Zone? Valerie Nasser said that if she was going to be living on the Cherry Point installation and did not want her child to attend the school outside of the base, then she could select anything school in that community if space was available. Other states such as Georgia have that policy and that information is on the matrix. Kirk Warner asked about the K-3 Class Size? Valerie Nasser said that in our military schools that have over 50% of Active Duty personnel dependents, we have other dependents PCS during the school year and that puts you over the class size. Then you must divide that class into 2 classes and making another move for that military child. It adds transitions for our military families. Kirk Warner said that the action item would be to have the flexibility to allow and increase a K-3 Class size to accommodate incoming and hopefully that would be offset by outgoing during that school year. This would give the school system an option to increase the size of that classroom. There was a reprieve on this last year, so this will be for the next school year (2019-2020). Rollie Sampson said that this is an unfunded mandate. So, when we do this to a school system there is no funding to accommodate this. We had a school increase by 50 students by the end of the school year and we can't predict those changes. That affects many grade levels. Kirk Warner asked if there was an option to partition a quick approval process from DPI? Doug Taggart said no but how to solve that is a local decision. The class size is state mandated. You must comply with the state mandate, but it is a local decision on how to solve the issue. Valerie Nasser said that Camp Lejeune is struggling with this topic due to our growth. Kirk Warner said that his recommendation to the ESG, that we need to request 15 minutes to the NCMAC for the matrix and the action items. We need to select 3 action items to work on. Jamie Livengood said that if we get the State Level position then they can develop the military plan and do the Purple Star program and have a strong State MIC3 council. Kirk Warner said that the letter of support for the DPI budget request is very important. Rollie Sampson said that include the funding part these items. It is great to support the Purple Star program and have the legislation, but you have no way to fund the program. The program may not happen. Kirk Warner said that if we want legislation for an item we need to know and include the costs associated with that item. Tony Stimatz said that I would not spend a lot of time on the matrix but send it out to the members early and ask them to review the document. The matrix is the bases for the action plan. The members want to know what we are going to do. Doug Taggart said that he would get the information for the DPI budget request to Kirk Warner, so we could draft a letter of support. Rollie Sampson said that her Superintendent was a former Superintendent in VA. He is well versed in how things are funded in VA and why things work so well in the VA schools. He might be a good resource for that also. He is also on the Board of Directors for MCEC. Kirk Warner said that we continue to look at having Superintendents brief at the Full NCMAC meetings.

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Valerie Nasser talked about the catastrophic loss of homes at Camp Lejeune. They had 50 homes lost and 200 active duty personnel on the waiting list for housing. We were without power for almost weeks which has resulted in a lot of mold in the schools. Kirk Warner asked if there is anything that the NCMAC can do to assist. Valerie Nasser said that there was a lot of preplanning which helped significantly. The housing shortage for everyone is the problem. We are busing students a great distance and hopefully to their home districts. That information and cost has been compiled at the installation level. Doug Taggart said that the State Superintendent is very involved with the funding around the schools. He will check with Chole Gossage to see if there is anything that the NCMAC can help with housing and schools that pertains to quality of life.

Rollie Sampson said that when we talk about funding for MLC's from the state, there might need to be some parameters on what the eligibility for a school district looks like for those positions. She is not paid for by the state but by her school system. Our Impact Aid funding pays for my position. There have been benefits for having this position funded. My school district is as impacted as Jamie Livengood's school district but the state does not see my county as being military impacted. Jamie Livengood said that position that were funded were positions that were home to military installations. Doug Taggart said that in his opinion they should use a 2000:1 ratio but the climate is not right to support that many new positions. Jamie Livengood said that you need to be careful with only have the ratio. It should be home to an installation and the ratio. No further comments or discussion.

SENATE BILL 761 UPDATE: SUSAN BARBITTA

Susan Barbitta, Executive Director, NC Student Success Center, Community College System presented on Senate Bill 761. Susan Barbitta had a handout for the committee. She works with the NC Student Success Center to provide support for all 58 colleges to advance, scale, and sustain student success and completion efforts. We work with colleges to align policies and practices with our mission and values to ensure access, equity, significant learning, and completion of credentials. We also represent the collective voice of North Carolina community college practitioners in state-level and national policy discussions. The staff is Subject Matter Experts (SME) and they are focusing a series of workshops on faculty teaching and learning. A big topic is equity in the classroom and at all colleges. Reinforced Instruction for Student Excellence (RISE) is the state effort to complete revamp developmental education.

Her presentation was Military Credit for Prior Learning (Senate Bill 761). She talked about the number of US military personnel and at the end of 2017 we had a total of 2,110,100 military personnel. Senate Bill 761 is a joint project for the Community College System and the University of North Carolina (UNC) System and it is unfunded. You get the credits for Prior Learning 4 ways; American Council on Education (ACE); SACSOCOC; Joint Services Transcript (JST) and Faculty Panels. We created the Faculty Panels to assist in understanding the information and be able to make good recommendations and awarding of credits. The Faculty Panels consists of teaching faculty and department chairs. There have been over 100 skill levels and courses evaluated and faculty members have recommended the awarding of approximately 4,000 semester credit hours. The next steps that they are working on is a website (joint UNC & Community College System); consistent transcribing and additional faculty panel evaluations.

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The Military Credit for Prior Learning Committee meets once a year for 2 days. This is a funding issues as this effort is unfunded. We prepare approximately 50-100 MOS's and courses that we want the faculty to evaluate military work, but they were funded to accomplish this effort. Each panel will get approximately 30 MOS's. The State of Virginia has done a great job on evaluating. Between the meetings we ask the committee to continue meeting and evaluating the MOS's they were given. The next meeting will be held in February 2019 and we hope that the University System will be funding the cost for the meeting. UNC is working on the database and the information from the past 18 months is being put into the database system. The Point of Contact for UNC is Michelle Soler and Susan Barbitta for the Community College System.

We have 2 challenges. One of the challenges is how the Registrars are recording information and transcribing that information. The second is adding new panels. Five years ago, we didn't have drone pilots and ACE has not evaluated this occupation yet. It will be difficulty for any panel to evaluate anything that ACE has not evaluated. Kirk Warner asked how the meetings get funded? Susan Barbitta said that they try to centralize the meetings. The meeting is held during the week and there are approximately 120 attendees. The attendees do received travel and per diem reimbursements. They have working lunches and dinners. The cost for a meeting is approximately \$20K. They must find funds for this since the members are volunteers. Rollie Sampson said that this effort needs to be funding like they do in Virginia. This is important and help our military members and we want to keep these resources in North Carolina. Kirk Warner said that he would talk to Representative Cleveland ESG about this topic. He said that this presentation was very informative and will recommend to the Executive Steering Group that she make a presentation at the next NCMAC meeting on November 27. Then we can look at how the NCMAC can assist in this effort. No further discussion.

LAMP/NCBA CLE PRESENTATION: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner and Doug Taggart will be making a presentation to the NC Bar Association about Legal Assistance to Military Personnel on November 13.

DEPARMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SUPPORT TO MILITARY FAMILIES: DOUG TAGGART

Doug Taggart said that DPI provides the Recruiters a report which includes the Student Directory Information for the state. This includes their name, address and phone number of the students that did not opt out of the program. DPI just renewed the agreement with the Services. DPI has and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DPI that allows us to release that information directly to Branches that are part of the agreement. This was done so that DPI did not get requests from each branch separately.

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) at the state level has not been rescheduled.

Military Child Identifier: No update.

Budget items for the Long Session. Doug will check with Chloe to get the budget information. The QOL Committee will need to draft a letter of support for those budget items. This needs to go to the ESG.

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OTHER BUSINESS: KIRK WARNER

Kirk Warner asked for

NCMAC agenda items planned from QOL

- K-12 Military Child Analysis – 20 minutes
- Senate Bill 761 – 15 minutes
- Dan Dunham, VA- 15 minutes

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:

No Legislative initiatives currently.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Warner said that this information and conversation is very important and valuable. Thank you for all participating and the work that you all do. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.