

West Michigan Veterans Coalition



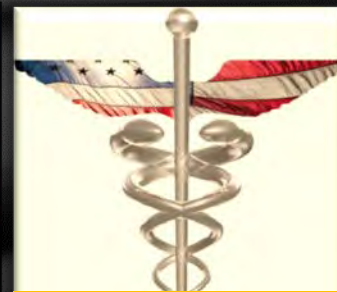
April 4, 2014



Education



Employment



Healthcare



Quality of Life

MISSION: The West Michigan Veterans Coalition is a collaboration between local military friendly organizations that provide support, information, and resources to veterans and their families, employers, and other organization throughout West Michigan. We meet quarterly to highlight military friendly organizations and businesses, network with one another, and to help promote and enhance services to our heroes.

From humble beginnings...



319 South Division Street,
Grand Rapids

- *The Grand Rapids Veterans Forum*
- Year 2010—
 - Goodwill Industries of Greater Grand Rapids*
 - Goodwill Industries - Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program*
 - Grand Valley State University*
 - Grand Rapids Housing Urban Development*
 - Health Care for Homeless Veterans*
 - Kent County Department of Veterans Affairs*
 - Michigan Rehabilitation Services*
 - VA- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment*
 - VetCenter*
- 2011 - Veterans Cooperative Committee
- 2012 - Greater Grand Rapids Veterans Services Forum



The next step...

2014 –

West Michigan Veterans Coalition

- Education, Employment, Healthcare, Quality of Life
- Advisory Board
- Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency & Altarum Institute



Veteran Community Action Team - VCAT

- ▲ Implement the **No-Wrong-Door** approach
- ▲ VCAT establishes system of care for Veterans, characterized by a comprehensive network of service providers, empowered with knowledge, information, and tools to ensure all Veterans and family members are connected to the appropriate service providers in a timely manner and are fully served.
- ▲ Develop a repeatable assessment and gap analysis process on veterans' services including employment, education, healthcare and quality of life.
- ▲ Create a sustainable service delivery model and identify comprehensive communications plan regarding available veterans services.

Community Pilots

- Kent County - West Michigan Veterans Coalition
- Wayne County – Detroit Metro VCAT

What to expect...

Subcommittee Objectives:

To identify resources, find solutions for key issues, and communicate to the collective group.

- Areas of concentration: **Education,** **Employment,** **Healthcare,** **Quality of Life**
- *Subcommittees meet in between quarterly meetings via phone conferencing, email, in person.*



**West Michigan
Veterans Coalition**

*West Michigan's Veteran Resources
and Services Network*



Education

- *Education Benefits*
- *Financial Aid*
- *Military Friendly Schools*
- *Support Resources*
- *From Military Service to Academia*
- *Outreach/Marketing*



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Employment

- *Challenges transitioning to civilian employment*
- *Transfer of skills*
- *Job searching skills*
- *Disabilities*
- *Resources*
- *Military Friendly Employers*
- *Outreach/Marketing*



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Healthcare

- *Reintegration Counseling*
- *Utilizing the VA*
- *Health Benefits*
- *Mental Health*
- *Support Resources*
- *Outreach/Research*



Quality of Life

- *Housing*
- *Homelessness*
- *Substance Abuse*
- *Transportation*
- *Sources of Support*
- *Family Support*
- *Other Insurance*
- *Veterans Justice*



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Next Steps

- *Create West Michigan Resource Portal*
- *Long-term: Create not-for-profit and obtain 501-c-3 status*
- *Short-term: Identify agency to serve as fiduciary during fund-raising*
- *Cultivate sources for support*
- *Outreach/Marketing*



What: WMVC Quarterly Meeting
When: Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 9AM-Noon
Where: Dr. Mary Edwards Walker
Army Reserve Center
Gymnasium
3870 Three Mile Road NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
POC: Elena Bridges,
elena.bridges@altarum.org
616-401-2026



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Thank You