

State of Tennessee Department of Veterans Services

TriStars and Stripes: Governor's Council on Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

Meeting of October 22, 2024, at 11:00 am
Nashville, TN-Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor, Nashville Room

Members:

Charlotte "Charlie" Trussell – Family Member of Currently Serving Tennessee Citizen
Scott Brower – Higher Education
Marilyn Childress – Veteran Service Organizations or Coalitions
Blake Hogan – Veteran Service Organizations or Coalitions
Ralph Schulz – Business Interests
Joey Hale – Business Interests
Wes Golden – County/City Mayor

Ex-officio Members

Commissioner of Veterans Services – Tommy Baker
TN Adjutant General of TN Dept. of Military – TAG BG Warner Ross, II

- Designee Lt. Col. John Rigdon

Commissioner of TN Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services - Marie Williams

- Designee Sejal West

Commissioner of TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development – Deniece Thomas

- Designee Jeff Dent

TN State Senator – Rusty Crowe
TN State Representative – Jay Reedy

Guests

- Chelsea Anderson
- Deanna Day
- Stephen Bell
- Travis Murphy
- Kathryn Held
- Sherry Pickering
- Jennifer Allen

Welcome: Chris Lancia welcomed everyone, reviewed the meeting's agenda.

Call to Order & Roll Call: Deanna Day

Members:

- Charlotte "Charlie" Trussell – In Person
- Scott Brower – Not Present
- Marilyn Childress – In Person
- Blake Hogan – In Person
- Ralph Schulz – In Person

- Joey Hale – Not Present
- Wes Golden – In Person

EX- Officio Members:

- Commissioner Baker – In Person
- TAG BG Warner Ross, II – Not Present
 - Designee Lt. Col. John Rigdon – Not Present
 - Designee Col. Steven Todd – Present
- Commissioner Deniece Thomas – Not Present
 - Designee Jeffrey Dent – In Person
- Commissioner Marie Williams – In Person
 - Designee Sejal West – In Person
- TN State Senator Rusty Crow – In Person
- TN State Representative Jay Reedy – In Person

Pledge of Allegiance: Nick Atwood

Welcome

- **Opening Remarks**
 - Commissioner Baker gave opening remarks.
- **Administrative Notes**
 - Nick Atwood was introduced to the Council. He will be taking over as Chief of Staff for the Tri-Stars and Stripes Council.

Old Business:

- **Approval of Minutes**
 - Motion was made and seconded
 - Vote – Approved Unanimously
 - Motion to move into New Business made and seconded

New Business:

Committee Reports/Updates –

- **Employment and Entrepreneurship Committee (Blake Hogan and Ralph Schultz)**
 - Aligned Council Outcome: SMVF employment recruitment and retention numbers rise.
 - Desired Outcomes: Increased retention percentage of transitioning SMVF in TN
 - Desired Outputs: Increase number of TN companies hiring TN-based SMVF members (Ft. Campbell, Millington, etc.)
 - Potential Legislative and Budget Impacts: TN Veteran Ready Program
 - Proposed Council Outcome: Number of SMVF-led startups rise.
 - Desired Outcomes: Increased percentage of SMVF starting companies in TN.
 - Desired Outputs: Increase support and coordination with Launch TN and statewide entrepreneur centers to support SMVF start-ups
 - Potential Legislative and Budget Impacts: TBD
 - Proposed Council Outcome: Number of SMVF acquiring TN-based companies rises
 - Desired Outcomes: Increased percentage of SMVF acquiring companies from TN-based retiring business owners.

- Coordinate information sharing between TDOC and local boards to standardize care for incarcerated veterans across the state
 - Potential Legislative and Budget Impacts: TBD
- **SMVF Suicide Prevention Committee (Travis Murphy)**
 - Aligned Council Outcome: SMVF recruitment and retention numbers rise.
 - Increase in SMVF resource and program availability and access.
 - Desired Outcomes: Objective 1 - Share Timely, Valid & Actional Data to Drive Impactful Strategies
 - Objective 2 – Foster, Engage and Support Communities (SMVF Coalitions, Health Councils, Faith Based Communities, etc.)
 - Objective 3 - Coordinate, Collaborate, & Synchronize with Partners & Stakeholders to Create and Enduring SMVF Suicide Prevention Framework
 - Desired Outputs: Objective 1 – VA Suicide Prevention Program Community Opinion Survey
 - Objective 2 – Engagement/Education/Action w/ Faith Based Community
 - Objective 3 – Establish Veteran Endorsement for Certified Peer Recovery Specialist Program
 - Increase % of Veterans Enrolled and Accessing Veterans Health Administration Care
 - Potential Legislative and Budget Impacts: Bifurcated Approach
 - Low Cost/No Cost/Within Existing Authority
 - Policy Recommendations w/ Budgetary Impact
- **SMVF Outreach Committee (Joey Hale and LTC John Rigdon)**
 - Aligned Council Outcome: Information sharing platform to promote resources and create partnerships to improve resource offerings and availability.
 - Desired Outcomes: Existence of a single brand to drive state-wide SMVF communications and marketing.
 - Desired Outputs: Hire a marketing agency to develop a brand, messaging and communications strategy, and marketing materials.
 - Potential Legislative and Budget Impacts: TBD
- **Presentation by Judge Ken Goble**
 - Discussed the Montgomery County Veteran Treatment Court

Announcements:

- **TDVS Announcements (Steve Bell)**
 - Governor’s Veterans Day Program
 - November 7, 2024 at 11:00am
 - Tennessee Tower Plaza
 - Inclement Weather Location: National Guard Armory Hall of Flags
 - ‘Moving America’s Soul on Suicide’ Film Screening and Panel Discussion
 - November 19, 2024 at 6:30pm
 - Wilma Rudolph Center (Clarksville)
 - Discussed TN Veteran Ready Business Recognition Program
 - Follow TDVS on Social Media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter)
- **Upcoming Meeting Date Proposed:** January 14, 2025 from 11:00am – 2:00pm

- An alternate date will be determined for inclement weather.

- **Floor Opened to Audience:**

- N/A

Adjourn meeting -