

Palm Beach County Veterans Coalition

Meeting Minutes March 10, 2015

Present: Claudia Tuck, Greg Dover, Cindy Sjogren, Andy Reese, Jose Capellan, Beverly Hudson, Jill Benson, Chymayne Woods, Stacy McWinnie, Sue Smith, Frank J. Policastri, Alejandro Hernandez, Tequesta Alston, Kimberly Severance, Deena Hoagland, Greg Rydman, Roy J. Foster, Angela Choice, John Foster, Wendi Lipsich, Robert Gavel, G. Cassandra SappNorro, Angel Luis Pabon, and Congressman Ted Deutch.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Call to Order and Introductions</p>	<p>Greg Dover, County Veteran Service Officer, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Also in attendance: Claudia Tuck, Director Human and Veteran Services, and VSOs Andy Reese, Cindy Sjogren, and Jose Capellan.</p> <p>All present introduced themselves and the organization they represent.</p>	
<p>Agenda/Minutes</p>	<p>Minutes of January 2015 meeting were reviewed. Agenda was reviewed.</p>	<p>Minutes approved as presented. Agenda approved as presented.</p>
<p>Congressional Briefings:</p> <p>Jill Benson</p> <p>Charity Lewis</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Kimberly Severance Deena Hoagland Island Dolphin Care</p>	<p>*Congressman Deutch continues to work on Veteran issues locally and in D.C.</p> <p>*Congresswoman Frankel is working to reduce VA backlog *Congresswoman Frankel is working on Veteran Education Empowerment Act</p> <p>* In 2009, Island Dolphin Care created a therapeutic experience for men and women that have been wounded while serving in the military. Through the IDC Veteran Program, our therapy staff helps those that have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars to have the opportunity to relax and play with our special dolphins in a safe and supportive environment. The groups come from all over the country, including Texas, Kentucky and Florida.</p> <p>* Island Dolphin Care is changing the lives of our Veterans in an amazing and profound way. Especially veterans with PTSD are being helped.</p> <p>*The Island Dolphin Care is located in Key Largo, FL</p>	<p>Contact Information: Jill Benson Phone: 561-470-5440 E-mail: jill.benson@mail.house.gov</p> <p>Contact Information: Charity Lewis Phone: 561-998-9045 E-mail: Charity.Lewis@mail.house.gov</p> <p>Contact Information: Kimberly Severance or Deena Hoagland Phone: 305-451-5884 E-mail: fonzie@islanddolphinscare.org</p>

<p>Guest Speaker: Congressman Ted Deutch</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Thanked everyone for the hard work and improving lives of veterans. He was honored to be with us and wanted to hear from us any concerns or issues to take back to D.C. * Informed us that the Veteran Suicide Bill Passed. *Later this month, more hearings on whistle blower protection & security enhancements. *On a recent trip to Israel, two minutes of silence was observed across the entire country. *209 Million dollars passed for veterans. *Hunt bill passed into Law in February 2015 *Pension Poacher legislation continues to be pursued. *Mental Health Care improvements continue. *Working hard on ending Homelessness. * Appreciated his father and all WWII veterans. *Open forum for any issues. Issues on Montgomery GI Bill & 9/11 GI Bill, Audit Letters and backlog of dependency claims were voiced by several VSO representatives 	<p>Contact Information: Jill Benson Phone: 561-470-5440 E-mail: jill.benson@mail.house.gov</p>
<p>Roundtable Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Several issues were brought up and the Congressman immediately took action with personal staff to resolve and get adequate answer to veterans concerns. 	
<p>Meeting Adjourned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Greg Dover thanked everyone for coming and motion to end meeting at 10:36 AM. 	
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>May 12th, 2015 @ 9:00am / Location: Conference Room, Basement, 810 Datura Street.</p>	<p>http://www.pbcgov.org/community/services/programs/humanservices/veterans/</p>