



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 1st Quarter, January 23, 2020
Wells Fargo Building, 23rd Floor, 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Warner, Chairman
Julie Daniels
Gerald "Rudy" Rudisill
Patricia Harris
Edward Reeder
Bill Hatcher (by phone)

NCMAC MEMBERS:

Rep George Cleveland

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Alice Dean, NCNG, Children and Youth Programs
Doug Taggart, DPI
Kevin Bruch, DoD State Liaison Office (by phone)
Jamie Livengood, Wayne County Schools
Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools
Cristy Barnes-Williams, Seymour Johnson AFB
Julie Fulton, MCI-East
Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools (by phone)
Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg
Donna Grady, Camp Lejeune
Bryan Ayers, Camp Lejeune/NCCC (by phone)
LTC David Baker, NC National Guard
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:10 and welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Warner said that the committee had a quorum and would approve the 4th Quarter draft Quality of Life minutes from the October 17, 2019. Patricia Harris made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Gerald Rudisill Jr and passed by unanimous vote.

K-12 AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (DPI) UPDATES/ISSUES:

Doug Taggart gave an update from DPI on the Purple Star program. On December 13, Dr Mullinex sent out the applications for the program to the Superintendents directly. He checked in with her yesterday and there is not much to report. Dr. Mullinex told Doug Taggart that she had a lot of schools in the process of completing the applications and the applications are due February 28. The award ceremony will be the end of April. Rollie Sampson said that she was informed that the date was April 30, 2020 and in Wayne County.

Chairman Warner said that the Purple Star program is recognition of military friendly activities and you have to check the blocks to ensure that you have programs in place. This is for transferring military students in your schools. Then you are recognized as a Purple Star school and that is put on your school website and also on the School Report Card. Edward Reeder asked if this was a NC initiative? Doug Taggart said it started in Ohio. Julie Fulton said that we are the 7th State to do this. Valerie Nasser said

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that Craven County Schools have been working towards this for a couple of years. Chairman Warner said that we will get more of an update on this program during this meeting.

Jamie Livengood and Valerie Nasser gave a presentation on the Military Child: K-12 Education

Military Child: K-12 Education (NC Military Liaison Counselors)

Purple Star Award:

- ❖ Schools that demonstrate military-friendly practices and commitment to military students & families.
- ❖ Purple Star recognition to display on school premises & icon on NC Report Card.
- ❖ Complete all required activities, plus on optional activity.
- ❖ Note that all activities must have been completed in 2019-20 school year.
- ❖ Complete application with required/suggested artifacts and documentation.
- ❖ DPI reviews all applications submitted for the award.
- ❖ February 28 – FINAL Application due to DPI by 11:59 PM EST on February 28, 2020.
- ❖ Purple Star POC – Angie Mullennix@dpi.nc.gov

Required School – Based Activities:

- ❖ POC/Designee
- ❖ Central Office Staff Member
- ❖ Professional Development
- ❖ Resources Website
- ❖ Transitions
- ❖ Military Awareness and Interstate Compact Law Required Questions.

Optional School – Based Activities: (Choose one)

- ❖ Recognition Event
- ❖ Military Child of the Year Nomination
- ❖ Support Project
- ❖ Staff Common Read Book
- ❖ School Welcome Video or Photo Slideshow

Alice Dean had a question about the program. She had been contacted by a parent from Columbus County. The parent is the spouse of a service member that is deployment and also a teacher. She was asking Alice Dean to help her fill out the application for her school. Alice Dean said that she is concerned about the training and information that should be going out with the application. She was not aware that the application had been sent out. She is concern about the rollout of the application and the schools that do not have Military Liaison Officers to help them with the application. So, where is the guidance for this schools? Valerie Nasser said that Dr. Mullinex had conducted a webinar and there was a list of resources for professional development on this topic. There are a few online options. Doug Taggart said that he would take these questions back to Dr. Mullinex since she is the Point of Contact at DPI. Rollie Sampson said that all of the Superintendents were included in the webinar information.

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- Reading 480 composition score for Evidenced Based Reading and Writing 22
- Mathematics 530 22 4 or 5

Several AP, IB, or Cambridge International English and Math courses with appropriate scores will also exempt students from the requirement.

CCRGAP Courses:

- The CCRG English IV course meets the fourth level English requirement for high school graduation and enrollment at a UNC system college or University.
- The CCRG Math course meets the requirement for a fourth math course for high school graduation; however, it does not fulfill the fourth level math course requirement for admission into a UNC System institution.

State Graduation Requirements – approved 1/9/2020

Four Social Studies credits which shall be:

- American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics
 - This course must follow the North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS) in its entirety and may not be satisfied by an Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge International Examination (CIE) courses, dual enrollment or any other course that does not fully address the NCSCOS.
- American History I
- American History II
- World History

American History: Founding Principles, Civics and Economics – Standard Course of Study Excerpt

FM.C&C.3 Analyze the legal system within the United States in terms of the development, execution and protection of citizenship rights at all levels of government.

FP.C&G.3.5 Compare jurisdictions and methods of law enforcement applied at each level of government, the consequences of noncompliance to laws at each level and how each reflects equal protection under the law (e.g., Department of Justice, regulatory commissions, FBI, SBI, Homeland Security, magistrate, state troopers, Sheriff, city police, ordinance, statue regulation, fines, arrest, etc.).

Section 2. (3a) “ excerpts or portions of writings, documents, and records that reflect the history of the United States, including, but not limited to, i. the preamble to the North Carolina Constitution, ii. the Declaration of Independence, iii. the United States Constitution, iv. the Mayflower Compact, v. the national motto, vi. the National Anthem,....

Jamie Livengood said that NC has the 4th largest military population in the Country. So, looking at issues through the military lens is very important. When it comes to K-12 education and policies, laws and other things are done, having someone at that table and a part of the conversation that is looking

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through that military lens can be very important. Valerie Nasser said that this is an example of a policy that was put in at the State level that could have used assistance from someone looking through that military lens. There is not a Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) waiver for this situation. There could be an issue with this for military students coming to NC or leaving NC. Rep Cleveland asked if that course was a requirement for graduation? Jamie Livengood said that it was not in the graduation requirements but if a student does not meet the cut offs, then by law you have to sign me up for those courses, even though it is not part of the graduation requirements. Rep Cleveland asked if they fail the class, do they not graduate? Jamie Livengood said no, as long as you enrolled in the course. Rep Cleveland said that it will not stop anyone from graduating. Jamie Livengood said that it should not stop them from graduating. Valerie Nasser said that if they have to be signed up for the class, that will preclude them from signing up for a class that they may need. Jamie Livengood said that we need to go back to the military lens. We want to ensure that as the 4th largest state for military population, that we are thinking about policies and laws and how that affects military children or how it could affect military children. Also, that we are ready when you bring your child in and not trying to fix this as we go. This is being implemented this year. Julie Fulton said that having a full time person in DPI, who could review policies that are being proposed would be helpful.

Jamie Livengood said that it could affect a child that enrolls in the Community College. Rep Cleveland said that this was part of the plan to cut down on remedial classes at the Community College. Valerie Nasser said that it is a good plan except that we are not acknowledging that our military students, according to the NC Military Interstate Compact, can waive some of these things, but this is not in that language. It would be nice to have language in the compact to address this. Rollie Sampson asked if it was weighted or unweighted. This could be an issue for students taking Honors classes. Jamie Livengood said that it was unweighted. Doug Taggart said that at this time, this is a concern but could be an issue down the road. Has there been any conversation about this with DPI? Jamie Livengood said they had had conversations in their districts about this. This will not affect every military child if they meet the criteria but if they don't, it will be an issue. This needs to be part of the conversation. Doug Taggart will take this issue back to DPI.

Jamie Livengood talked about the new State Graduation requirements. There will be 4 different Social Study credits. We have changed out some of them. We just want to highlight some of the language. In the language of the new graduation policy it states that the founding principles of the United States of America and North Carolina civic literacy which is new course work. It states that the following, these courses must follow the NC standard course of study in its entirety and may not be satisfied by any other courses. For our military students there is no reference in the graduation requirements to the Compact at all. The Compact is supposed to supersede other things for our students. So, if we have a statement that such as that no other course other than the NC standard course of study in its entirety, and that no other course can meet this requirement, we are going to have major problems. Rep Cleveland said that if you read all of the State Constitutions you would be surprised how many have Preambles that are basically the same. Valerie Nasser said that what the language says is that the objective has to match exactly and that will not be true. Jamie Livengood said that we are trying to make sure that from a State standpoint that we are meeting the tenants of the Compact for our military students, but our State graduation requirements never refer to the Compact. We can remind folks who aren't in our district that there are the tenants of this Compact and we have to follow them for our

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students. From the State Council, MIC3 that looks at issues related to military students, it has almost always been transcript issues. So, that military lens part is very important, and this is going to be an issues in those districts that don't have Military Liaison Counselors to help them.

Jamie Livengood said that maybe a reference to the Compact could be helpful. Chairman Warner asked if this was a DPI or Legislation issues? Jamie Livengood said that it was the State Board that sets policies. But the Compact would technically supersede this but then you go back to the schools not knowing that information. Doug Taggart said that what comes to mind when we are talking about these things is that DPI needs to have the people that are involved in policy have a working group for military connected children. If the \$350,000 funding gets passed and the military person gets hired, that could help with these issues. What needs to happen is that these issues are sent to DPI personnel. Rollie Sampson said that in reference to what Doug Taggart said, her Superintendent, Dr. Grimesey asked her to bring this up. The Fort Bragg Garrison Commander had a meeting with the Superintendents in the surrounding area. The Garrison Commander COL Sounia asked Dr. Grimesey if the Superintendents would come to a NCMAC meeting when all of the Commanders are there so they could address this issue. So, the Superintendents and the Commanders are addressing these issues at a higher level. Maybe that would get DPI to take a look at these major issues.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS (DPI) SUPPORT TO MILITARY FAMILIES: DOUG TAGGART

Doug Taggart said that he had an Elementary education hiring event with Troops to Teachers.

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) meeting date should be around the end of March. They are working on that meeting.

NON-CUSTODIAL ENROLLMENT: REPRESENTATIVE CLEVELAND

Chairman Warner said that this topic has been discussed many times. It has been pushed by Mike Archer from his Onslow County role. Rep Cleveland has also been very involved to find out what the issues are and what the solutions are. The Legislative Affairs Committee discussed it on Tuesday at their meeting and he is here today to update us on this topic. Rep Cleveland went over the draft copy of the legislative He said that on the line nine of the document the language was going to change to read the signed letter that the parent or legal guardian's military orders prevent the parent or legal guardian from physically residing with the student. This was changed so that a commander can't tell the parent that the child can go with the parent. On the last page, line 25 will read parent/guardian or legal custodian. So, the language will conform to the affidavit. He thinks that these changes will resolve the 2 issues that were brought to his attention and the Committee's attention. He plans to add this to a Bill during the Short Session. They will go back into the Short Session on April 28. He is going to attempt to get this into the Short Session. He has to find a Bill to add it to.

Doug Taggart has a couple of questions. He asked Julie Fulton how this would work for her for a family with a Non-Custodial Enrollment issue? Julie Fulton said that she felt it would work for the cases that she has worked with. She had talked to Mike Archer and she asked him if he would be willing to create a form for the base to use. Then the School district could use that form also. All they would have to do is get the form. Doug Taggart said about a situation where the Commanding Officer would not sign the letter? Julie Fulton said that she did not anticipate that happening unless the Service member was

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trying to get out of something and the Commander would know that information. We have never had that situation happens. We usually get from the Unit, what do you need from us to solve this issue. Tell us what you need. Her only concern is what if the Commander is not available to sign the letter, but the Units normally has a designee to sign documents for the Commander. Doug Taggart said that what if someone arrives at Fort Bragg and they don't have a specific assignment yet, who is their Commanding Officer? Julie Fulton said they always have a command that is responsible for them. Doug Taggart asked if there was a case where an Active Duty servicemember has training for less than 30 days and has to take a child to be cared for by someone else. Julie Fulton said that she had asked Mike Archer about the 30 day comment that is in here. His understanding was that it is only referring to a servicemember on Active Military Duty is not the reason that they are going away 30 days for less. Are they a Guard and Reserve member who is only on duty for 2 days of this month and they don't qualify for this? They would have to be on Active Duty service member regardless of the length of the training.

Doug Taggart said that here is a scenario. You have a single parent from NC that is sent to another State for training for a couple of weeks. They have to leave that child with someone in NC for 3 weeks. If they stay in the same school district it is not an issue but if they have to send them to another school district and have to do a different enrollment, does the child just stay out of school for those 3 weeks. Julie Fulton said that in this scenario, the service member is Active Duty and they are covered. The 30 days has to do if they are Active Duty or not. LTC David Baker asked if the pay status made a difference. He said that he thinks that Julie Fulton is talking about Title 10 status, Active Duty. Julie Fulton said that if you are a Reservist and conducting your 2 week annual training, you would not qualify to have someone else enroll your child in school. That is Julie Fulton's understanding from talking to Mike Archer. Doug Taggart asked what is that section meant to prevent? Rep Cleveland said that it is there to prevent people from playing games. For a National Guard service member who is on Active Duty for 3 weeks training and decides to move their child to a better school for that short period of time. There can be those situations that we need to prevent. Kelly Jackson said that military families that are dual military families or single parent families are required to have a family care plan. We can't have legislation to resolve every situation. Chairman Warner said that the military is doing better to work on staggering training to meet the families need when needed. He thinks that this is a major emphasis.

Julie Fulton said that she has just received an update on the case of the 2 Fort Bragg soldiers/dual members that were going to Warrant officer training. They are doing great and the children are with the Grandmother in Onslow County attending school. The parents are looking forward to completing their training and getting the children back home. Both parents are Active Duty and on training for over 30 days.

SENATE BILL (SB) 761 UPDATE: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner said that he did not have any update on SB 761. He had heard that the new system was being completed and that was based on the presentation that we had been given. Doug Taggart said that he had talked to Siobhan Norris and asked when the tool would be available, and he thinks that she said in June or July 2020. He thinks that the staff is already using that tool. He said that was a good video on that topic and he would share it with this committee.

DOROTHEA DIX CARE UNIT FOR ADOLSCENTS: CHAIRMAN WARNER:

Chairman Warner does not have any update on that project. They have secured the \$4 million from Department of Health and Human Service (DHHS) and have finalized the plans to build the unit at Cape Fear Valley—this was the biggest step in that we repeatedly went back and forth on location, size, etc., but we have now been able to secure the space! In addition, this will be a brand new building built adjacent to the adult psychiatric unit. This will allow for the perfect setting yet also allows the patients to be housed in a separate building from the hospital as well as separately from the adult psychiatric patients. The new building has also allowed us to design it with state of the art space and we already have a child/adolescent psychiatrist on board who will develop expertise in clinical programming.

IN-STATE TUITION: REP CLEVELAND

Kelly Jackson said that she had shared some information about this topic with the committee members. Rep Cleveland said that the information that was sent out said what had been talked about at prior meetings. That if you are on Active Duty and your dependents have enrolled in a NC university, as long as they continued their enrollment with no breaks they stay at in-state tuition rates. Kelly Jackson said that the key word is enrolled. Rep Cleveland said that there is some discussion about admission and enrolled. He is bouncing that around to see if we need to do anything about that. Some have been accepted to a school, but not enrolled and their parent get transferred. They are looking into that to see if that needs to be changed. That is being discussed. Edward Reeder asked the question about a service school that a service member could be sent to and then return to NC. Their child would continue to get in-state tuition as long as the dependent continues to be enrolled. That is different than it was before. Jamie Livengood said that if you timed it so that your child was going to graduate here and then your new assignment and the child was not enrolled yet, that is when they would not get in-state tuition? Rep Cleveland said that presently there is discussion about if my child has been accepted and after he/she has been accepted the service member gets order to move. The child has not enrolled yet, does he still get in-state tuition? Rep Cleveland said that he thinks that they should. Jamie Livengood said that she agreed. Rep Cleveland said that others say the child is not enrolled and should not get the in-state tuition. So, this topic is being discussed but he has not had any specific cases pointed out to him.

Rollie Sampson said that they just had a case like that in her school district. She has a service member that is very senior and Permanent Change of Station (PCS's) and the student remained in NC to finish high school. They went through the residency and initially was termed in-state and then they came back and said no because the service member is now in New York. The way the law reads, it says that service members that are assigned to NC, so the minute he PCS's, even though his family choose stabilization which the Army authorizes, the student is no longer considered in-state for in-station tuition even though they will graduate from a NC high school. Rep Cleveland asked Doug Taggart to work with his counterparts in the University system to see what they think about coming up with a solution. Doug Taggart said that was outside of his scope and didn't have the right contacts for this. He said that thought Siobhan Norris would be the person to contact about this. Valerie Nasser said that they had a case in Craven County where we had a retirement and the daughter was already accepted to UNC-W. The father was a Naval physician retired but their residency on their earning statement was Florida. They were denied residency and the daughter went to college in SC. Rep Cleveland said that upon retirement you pick your residency. Edward Reeder said that you fill out that paperwork before you retire. He also said that he thinks what happened on this one was that he had it on his Leave and

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Earning Statement (LES) and he is getting ready to retire. His daughter applied to a school and was accepted and now he is retired, and he has to pick a Home of Residency (HOR). So, he picks something other than NC. I don't think that he would qualify for in-state tuition. Valerie Nasser said that the wife is a teacher in their school system. Edward Reeder said that he thinks that he decided to leave his residency as Florida, so he did not have to pay state tax on his retirement pay.

Doug Taggart said that he would try to find someone to help him with this matter. Chairman Warner said that all of these are examples are important and helpful information.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Warner said that the National Guard had asked the QOL committee to look into if and how we could get free parking at NC airports and tolls for Veterans. Other states have these programs for their veterans. He said that all of these groups have difference governance and not sure how we do that universally. LTC Baker said that when BG (P) Todd Hunt met with Senior House members and a couple Senators and he talked about the toll roads that we have in NC. The current National Guard license plate is already exempt on toll roads. So, could we get a DoD license plate that would authorize all military that benefit. Edward Reeder said that doing that might not be smart security wise. The airport fees are the other talking point. He said that would be by individual companies. Chairman Warner said that in Louisiana the free airport parking is for disabled veterans. LTC Baker said that a couple other items for The Adjutant General (TAG) is there Tuition Assistance Program. Since there was not an approved budget this year, and their asks was for \$900,000. The TAG did bring that up to the General Assembly members that he spoke to. The last time was the tax relief for federal retirement pay. Chairman Warner said that the Economic Development committee is working that issue. Edward Reeder said that he did not understand why NC does not already do that. LTC Baker talked about the Bailey Settlement. If you had so many years of Active Duty service prior to 1989, you qualified. Edward Reeder said that they needed to look at the Florida or Texas model. If we want servicemembers to retire in NC then we need to do this. LTC Baker said that South Carolina had done this recently and it is a phased in approach. Chairman Warner asked Rep Cleveland to comment on this matter. Rep Cleveland said that as it stands right now there is a Bill in the Senate that gives military retirees and Active duty military a tax free status. There are 2 Bills in the House, one gives military retirees tax free status and the other one gives all government retirees tax free status to conform with the Bailey settlement and based over 10 years. He does not know why the legislature has not taken this up. This is something that should have been done a long time ago. His feeling is, and he has gotten a lot of static over this, is if we do it for the military, we do it for everyone. We make it equal in the State and we don't have 2 classes of retirees that are treated differently. The National Guard has said that they only care about our people, the Veterans Council has said that they only care about their people. Well their people have the same people in it that are working for the State and the municipalities. He thinks they are being very parochial on this matter. He is going to continue going down his path. Do you think that the major log jam is the appetite by the leadership? Rep Cleveland said that you have to get Senator Berger on board, or this is not going to go. Gerald Rudisill said that when he was the TAG in the mid-ninety's that Bill went before the Legislature. He had some momentum going for it and he was called to speak to a couple of Legislators. They said that they were getting a lot of pressure from other groups like the volunteer fire departments and other groups that it was a bridge too far. They were Legislators from Mecklenburg County. Rep Cleveland said that involved in this is that we can include first

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responders with the military to make it more palatable. That could become a total mess. Chairman Warner asked if there are any studies out there? The only difference that he can see is that if you are a State or Local employee and are retired and lived here for 30-40 years. Whereas the military issue is if you keep them here after they retire. There is some difference but lumping them together could be more appetizing. Rep Cleveland asked if they had heard of the 4th Branch. They are a group that won the Bailey settlement and had money left over after they paid everything out. Then they set up the group the 4th Branch. They have been fighting this issues ever since. They have done 2 studies, the first study showed that it would be a 1:8 to 1 return on retirees coming into the State. They updated that study 4 or 5 years later and is showed a 2-1 return on retirees coming into the State. Even with that we could not get movement on this topic. He said that last study was about 5 years ago. Edward Reeder said that we want retirees to stay in the State and we want their children to go to our State schools. He also said that some make the argument that when they retire many get a second job. What we see at Fort Bragg is that when they retire they get another job and once they retire from that job they retire in Florida or Texas where they don't have to pay the State income tax. We don't want that; we want them to stay in NC. He said that we just don't do enough to get them to stay in NC. We need to look at the Texas and Florida model on this topic. Doug Taggart said that 85% of his hires in the Troops to Teachers program, my program is not large. He had 38 hires last year but 10% of conversations end over that topic. We do have a pay incentive in NC for veterans that become teachers in NC which is a great recruitment and retention tool.

Gerald Rudisill said that he knew that his topic was being discussed at the Economic Development Committee meeting. He wanted Larry Coleman, Executive Director for the National Guard Association to be part of that conversation. Kelly Jackson said that the Economic Development Committee had meet on January 14 and discussed this topic. That Rep Cleveland, Larry Coleman and Evan Thompson the President of the Veterans Council were all part of that discussion. This will continue to be an ongoing topic at that meeting. Rep Cleveland said that the problem with the NCMAC is going to be which one we are going to back. He said that he is not going with just one group. He said that if you get one group, you will never get the other groups. That is his personal opinion. Edward Reeder asked if the Texas or Florida did something with first responders? Rep Cleveland said he did not know about that. Chairman Warner said that he assumed that researcher for the General Assembly had looked at that and pulled together that information from other states. Rep Cleveland said that he and others have seen the data. He thinks that there are 31 State that do military stuff and it is done in different ways. Chairman Warner said that things are different now than they were in the 90's and maybe there is more support for a variety of reasons. It seems like the leadership of the General Assembly and pressure on them from whatever sources you can get. Rep Cleveland said that it isn't just the 2 leaders that you have to convince, you have to find out who is advising them and get their support. He will continue to work this topic.

Chairman Warner said that he did not know the way ahead for the matter of tolls and airport parking. LTC Baker said that he did not know the scope of what the TAG was looking at or have any points of contact for this. There is more to follow. Rep Cleveland said that for the airports, they all have their own airport authorities. Chairman Warner said that in Florida the airport parking is for disabled veterans and that is a different issues than what we have been talking about. He will pass this on to the Economic Development committee.

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Chairman Warner said that he attended the NC Reserve Component Commander's Council (NC RCCC) on January 10. They had some good briefings at the meeting. One briefing was from Atrium Health which does Vet Carolina's and presented by Aaron Harper. The next briefing was by Ilario Pantano for NC Serves. Either or both of those presentations would be worth briefing at an NCMAC meeting. He asked that the presentations from the NC RCCC be sent to the QOL members.

Julie Fulton said that she is working with the home school families and she is seeing an increase in the number of home school families for all of the installations. The one thing that she is working aggressively on is to see a military child identifier on the intent to home school registration forms. Then we could get information for each installation or my zip code how many children are being homed schooled in that district. She is working with UNC-W and they have a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) grant opportunity. We are talking about getting them involved but we need data. In order to better serve that Community of students, we need to be able to collect some data on our military connected home schoolers. The Home schoolers are not part of DPI. They fall under the Department of Administration, Non-Public Instruction. Kelly Jackson said that she had gone to see them after the last QOL meeting. They have a small staff and they didn't seem to be able to collect any data on the home schoolers. Kelly Jackson had talked to Ms. Isenhour and she emailed her to see if she could attend this meeting or someone from their office but did not hear back from her. Julie Fulton said that she was having the same problem. They had talked to a gentlemen and she knows that Dr. Flood is the director of the department. She is not able to get her emails or phone calls returned. Kelly Jackson said that Ms. Isenhour directed her to reach out to North Carolinians for Home Education (NCHE). Julie Fulton said that they already work with that organization. Julie Fulton said that they can't give her information on who is registering in the state. The only place as a home schooler that their family has to go to is the Department of Non-Public Instruction and file an Intent to home school registration form. About 5 years ago they were able to get just the home school data by zip code and that was helpful information. But when they tried to get that information this time, they said that they were not collecting that data by zip code. She has used the Installation Commander's name when trying to gather this information but still has not gotten any response.

The second thing that the home schoolers are interested is the Tim Tebow law. Where home schooler would be able to participate in middle and high school sports which is currently prohibited. Those are the 2 home school quality of life issues. Valerie Nasser said that in their County you can enroll in 2 classes and participate in sports. Julie Fulton said that was correct, but you have to enroll in 2 classes to be eligible to participate. Julie Fulton said that all of that is controlled by the NC High School Athletics Association. The Tim Tebow law allows you to go to the school you are districted in if you were enrolled in school and sign up to play a sport with that team. You don't get to pick a school and the best team for that sport. Rep Cleveland asked if the home schoolers were playing with the local teams? Julie Fulton said that was correct. Rep Cleveland said that he tried to get that changed but they would not do that. He said that there are school districts that do allow that. If you can get your local school district to agree to that. Julie Fulton said that if the NC High School Athletic Association rules says that it is against the rules and your own district decides to go against the association's rules, then that means that any game that they play against a team that agrees to the association rules has to be forfeited. So, if you have one home school student on your team, they will have to forfeit that game.

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Chairman Warner asked how we tackle these home school issues? Rep Cleveland said that Julie Fulton should email himself and Kelly Jackson information on the home school identifier for him to review. Julie Fulton said that it seems like it could be easy to do because the forms you fill out for the home school program is online so you would just need a Webmaster to add a box and one extra column in the database. Chairman Warner said that you would need that data for any leverage with the NC High School Athletic Association. There could be 10% of military children that are home schooled for a variety of reasons. There are some that are good athletes and we need to get them involved in sports in NC. Shevelle Godwin said that we have not even begun to talk about the Impact Aid funding that is being lost due to our home school population for both the State and the school districts. Doug Taggart said he wondered what kind of push back we will get about the student identifier on that form. Julie Fulton said that she has a Home School Advisory Team and she asked them that question. They are fine with it as long as they are not being identified under a list of military families by name and home of record. They are ok with collecting data that they are a military family.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:47 pm.