



NORTH CAROLINA MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 3rd Quarter, July 16, 2019
Wells Fargo Building 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kirk Warner, Chairman
Bill Hatcher (by phone)
Gerald "Rudy" Rudisill (by phone)
Patricia Harris (by phone)
Rep George Cleveland (NCMAC member)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sonny Roberts
Julie Daniels

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Alice Dean, NCNG, Children and Youth Programs
Doug Taggart, DPI
Kevin Bruch, DoD State Liaison Office (by phone)
Shevelle Godwin, Fort Bragg School System
Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg School System
LTC David Baker, NC National Guard
Caroline Sullivan, NCBCE
Ron Massey, City of Jacksonville (by phone)
Cory Bryson, Speaker Moore's office (by phone)
Andrea Bryant, UNC Student
Kelly Jackson, DMVA

OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. He welcomed everyone to the Quality of Life meeting. He conducted a roll call of the attendees. He thanked everyone for their dedication to this committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Warner requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 2nd quarter meeting of the committee on April 4, 2019. Rudy Rudisill, Jr made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Bill Hatcher and passed by unanimous vote. No discussion.

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

Chairman Warner talked about the Purple Star Program and asked if there were any updates on the program. Alice Dean said that committee had a draft for the program but were checking on a couple the key points with Texas and Virginia. Chairman Warner said that he had information from the Ohio Department of Education about their Purple Star School Designation. In Ohio, a school will be honored with the Purple Star Award if they complete all the required activities and one optional activity. The school must have a staff point of contact for military students and families who serves as the primary liaison between them and the school. The liaison must complete certain training. They also have a course called Military Children in Ohio's Schools which is something we need to look at. The liaison identifies and informs teachers of the military-connected students in their classes. The school maintains a dedicated page on its website featuring resources for military families. Chairman Warner also shared some Purple Star information from Texas and they have even more activities and details than the Ohio plan. The Texas plan takes effect September 2019.

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The Military Liaison Officers (MLOs) have sent information to Chairman Warner, signed by all 5 of the MLO's, on the military specific statewide professional development that they have been working on. Also, the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) issues including an appeal process for families. Doug Taggart said that there is not so much of an appeals process as you can get an opinion from the MIC3 directly. Chairman Warner said that there is mediation and arbitration available between the school and the student to resolve issues. That is a unique part of the MIC3.

Shevelle Godwin and Iris Pierce, Fort Bragg School Systems talked about a couple of issues that they have encountered. Shevelle Godwin talked about the Mother who spoke at the last Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) meeting and her testimony. This was an issue about a course waiver flexibility. Shevelle Godwin said that we should have not had this issue since we have been a member of the MIC3 for over 10 years. Doug Taggart said that the school Counselor stuck to recommendations on the credits that were coming in and the course placement and the Principle backed that decision by the school Counselor. So that is a core training issue for the school counselors in the state to understand the course flexibility of the Compact. If we get the \$350,000 and can hire that State Military School Liaison person to have the time to train the counselors on the Compact that will be significant.

Iris Pierce talked about concerns with the Military Life Consultants from Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and the Military Liaison Officer in the Cumberland County School System. Some of these positions can cause a strain in the partnerships that they need to have. The Cumberland County Schools rely on those individuals and not on the Fort Bragg resources. They have been pushing us out the door. Other issues that we have in the Cumberland County school system we have a hardship with getting them enrolled with another custodial. They want the parents to give up custody for their children in the court system and let someone else take legal custody. Doug Taggart said that this is not just a Cumberland County issue, but he has had 2 of these issues in Wake County. The state statute has been interpreted to still require non-custodial caregiver custody by some Local Education Agencies (LEAs), even though the compact only requires special power of attorney. There is ambiguity in the rule though which defers to state statute. Our article differs from the compact model specifically on eligibility to enroll. One of the cases that we had was from CA to VA on orders. The mother decided to have the child go to the grandmother in Wake County. Since the transfer had nothing to do with NC the enrollment was denied. So, there is some thought that something may need to happen beyond the Compact. The grandmother did have a special power of attorney but did not have custody of the child. Shevelle Godwin also mention the issues of how long the children are out of school when the school will not allow them to enroll. That can be an issue. Iris Pierce said that she has been trying to work with the Wake County school system and they are not familiar with the MIC3 and how it needs to be applied. Chairman Warner said that DPI and the MIC3 would be a good starting point to start to see what the differences are and what the recommendations are to solve issues and provide clarity if possible. Doug Taggart said that at the last MIC3 meeting, Rep John Szoka requested that we get language to consider for the change to the assignment for a student to a particular school. That needs to be done. Doug said that since this is a legal change he may need assistance to review those requested changes. Kelly Jackson asked Doug Taggart to explain the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3).

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This is the national organization that is related to the State's interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. We were the 11th State to sign on to the MIC3. The MIC3 has very specific rules that have been adopted by the Compact that sit between State Law and Federal Law. There are 4 areas that it effects which are enrollment, records transfer, extracurricular legibility, and on time graduation.

Chairman Warner thanked the General Assembly for adopting Senate Bill 448, which removes the requirement for the Commissioner to be a lawyer. Rep George Cleveland said that if Rep John Szoka is working with you on the language for the legal change, give him the outline of the changes that are needed, and he can go to staff, and have it drafted. Rep George Cleveland said that Doug Taggart does not need to draft the language when they have staff that can do that work. Doug Taggart said that he would send that information to Rep John Szoka and Rep Cleveland. Chairman Warner asked if our Compact had met recently. Doug Taggart said that it had met in March 2019 and will meet in September 2019. Kelly Jackson said that the next Compact meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2019 from 9:30 – 12:30 at DPI.

Chairman Warner talked about the Superintendents meeting that was held over a year ago about issues and concerns for military students. He said that it was a good meeting and hoped that it could be held again soon. Doug Taggart said that DPI has said that that meeting is on hold until further notice. Chairman Warner said that he would like to see it scheduled in the Spring. We also need to expand the Host Counties that are invited.

Doug Taggart talked about the Military Child Identifier. The deadline for collection of that information is the end of January. There is another item that we have been working on and that is the Military Recruiters have access to a State Level Student Directory information. This is the second year that we have provided a report to them through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Army Recruiting Battalion to provide student directory information for military recruitment. There is an interagency Council that gets together and signs a document to protect the data. Once we have the signed document we give them access to the state level student directory information. This is a more efficient way than what we have been doing before. Chairman Warner asked if this was for all the services? Doug Taggart said that yes it was. Chairman Warner asked if they anticipated an increase in the number or are we going to stay around 65,000 for the Military Child Identifier? Doug Taggart said that he has gotten the data from a Defense Manpower Data Center Report (DMDC) that was not very accurate. Doug Taggart got with Kevin Bruch and Bill Hampton and they were able to get him a more accurate report. We now have Defense Enrollment Eligibility Report (DEER) data which is more accurate. He does not remember the exact number but will share that information when he can get to it. Doug Taggart thinks the number was 42,000- 46,000 for military connected kids in NC. This number is both active and reserve. That number is a beach mark against the state's number that is reported by the families. Chairman Warner asked if there was hesitation from families to self-report? Doug Taggart said there was hesitation from families in the Special Operations communities and the National Guard. Alice Dean said that they continue to work on that issue with National Guard families. LTC Baker said that he thought that some of the issues are how the form is worded because it specifies Title 10 and active duty but does not specify National Guard. The form needs to be reworded so the National Guard families will self-report. Doug Taggart said that he would work with LTC Baker on updating the form.

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Doug Taggart talked about Troops to Teachers. He has completed his first year of the grant and had 30 hires. The Grant goal was 40 hires in the first year, so they were a little short of the goal. Chairman Warner asked how do you reach these individuals? Doug Taggart said that he is part of the pre-retirement briefing at Fort Bragg each month and a teacher as a second career at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune every other month. Then available through direct contact. We also advertise at the base education centers. Chairman Warner asked if the program included spouses. Doug Taggart said that it did not include spouses, but we do counsel any spouse that wants to be a teacher, but they can't take advantage of the incentives from the Troops to Teachers program. The shadowing events continue through the Cumberland County School system. The program is a two-day event to go through the HR process. The school HR will assign a teacher to the military member/veteran. They select 3 schools and then are assigned to one of the schools. They will spend 2 days at that school and in the classroom. This is a great program to help someone decide if they want to be a teacher in the classroom or not. One half of the candidates move forward with the process and the other half decide that this career is not for them.

Chairman Warner said that the funding request from DPI for \$350,000 is still alive in the budget process. This was for 3 positions and operating budget and training. Doug Taggart said the positions are for regional military liaison for Cumberland and Onslow Counties and one State level Counselor position. This budget request is still alive.

SENATE BILL (SB) 761 UPDATE: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER

Chairman Warner talked about SB 761. He does not have an update on SB 761 but will request to have Siobhan Norris present at the August NCMAC meeting. He will bring this up at the Executive Steering Group. Siobhan Norris will brief on the UNC System and give an update on the work that has been done for SB 761. Doug Taggart said that he was at the April meeting about military credits. The military credit meetings consist of faculty from across state and UNC institutions, and different subject areas. They talk about the different Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and pertinent training options. They determine what will go into the database that the UNC System has. They were filling the database with information during the April meeting.

NC WORK-BASED LEARNING NAVIGATOR: CAROLINE SULLIVAN

Caroline Sullivan gave a presentation for NC work-based learning navigator.

NCBCE: Invest, Inspire, Innovate

Our Initiatives

Career Awareness: Learning About Work

Career Exploration: Learning Through Work

Career Experience: Learning For Work

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Why is this Important:

The Employer Problem:

- NC is projected to have an average annual job opening of over 550,000 jobs (new and vacancies) between 2017-2026.
- For each new job created each year, there will be more than 12 vacancies due to occupational transfers and exits.
- 40% of companies nationwide already report they cannot find the entry level workforce they need.
- 86% of all classified occupations are expected to grow.

The Employer “Why”:

- Driving value around talent acquisition and training:
- Work-based learning is an underleveraged resource
- Discover talent – hire and grow your own workforce by raising awareness of your career opportunities.
- Raise awareness of your services/products and expand your consumer base.
- Hiring from work-based learning programs can reduce on-boarding costs, control churn, and increase productivity.

The Student Problem:

- 4-year degree costs: Universities = \$74,454, Community Colleges = \$37,924
- NC public institutions 5-year Graduation rate = 68.2%, leaving students in debt and unprepared for work.
- During the recovery, the economy added 8.4 million jobs requiring a bachelors degree, only 80,000 jobs requiring a high school degree or less.
- Less than half of young adults earn a bachelors degree, associates degree, industry-recognized certificate, or post-secondary credential by the age of 30.

The Student “Why”:

- Driving value around marketable, real-world experience:
- Work-based learning adds relevance to classroom learning, and relevance drives rigor.
- Students uncover what they like and what they don’t like.
- Families make wiser investments with educational dollars.
- On the job experiences make job seekers better prepared and therefore more attractive to employers.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:

- Senate Bill 448: Amend Appt for Compact on Education/Military was approved on June 21, 2019
- Senate Bill 230: Excused Absences for Military Children has made crossover and is in the House Rules committee. Rep Cleveland will ask the Rules Chairman to see if they are going to hear it.
- Senate Bill 672: Military Liaison Counselor/Funds

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Kelly Jackson said that she was on a conference call about Workforce Mobility and Occupational Licensing Reform. A couple of state have adopted new legislation on occupational licensing. Arizona approved House Bill 2569 and Pennsylvania approved House Bill 1172.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Warner said that there was a North Carolina Reserve Component Commander's Council (RCCC) on August 2, 2019 from 1-3 pm at the Joint Forces Headquarters. Rudy Rudisill said that he thought this would be a good meeting.

LTC Baker informed the committee that the 30th ACBT would be deploying soon. They are currently at the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin, CA. This training will be prior to their deployment. The National Guard deployments are longer than an active duty unit. The time is spent for train up, lead up and deployment. The contract is for 12 months door to door but that 12 months does not start until they are on Title 10 orders. So, there is a significant impact on their families and employers. Chairman Warner said that the Guard touches all the Counties in NC. That is why it is important to understand that there are military students in counties across the State. LTC Baker said that the Guard are North Carolinians and live in these communities. We are also part of the State's emergency response.

Shevelle Godwin talked about the conference that they are hosting for National Association for Federally Impacted Schools on August 8-9. They have invited the Wake County School System but have not heard back from them. There are federal funds that the Wake County School System is not receiving. The information about this conference was sent to the Superintendents.

Alice Dean talked about 4-H Youth Futures and a 4-H National Mentoring Program.

Chairman Warner asked Doug Taggart and LTC Baker/Alice Dean to get together to see if they can put information out to all the school systems about the 30th ACT deployment for awareness purposes. LTC Baker said that the Family Support Coordinators can be a big player in all of this. The families don't always know what programs are out there for them.

NCMAC agenda items planned from QOL

- UNC System presentation – 15 minutes
- Purple Star Program – 10 minutes

Andrea Bryant introduced herself. She is a student at UNC in Chapel Hill. She is getting her Masters in Speech and Hearing Sciences. In a year I will be a speech therapist. I am doing my clinical fellowship and a large part of the population that I work at Duke Regional Hospital with are Veterans. I am doing a cultural immersion project for my degree. I want to get to know the Veteran population and the military culture.

Kelly Jackson reminded everyone about the next NCMAC meeting on August 20.

Strategic Planning event/9:30 – 12:30

NCMAC Meeting/1:30 – 4:30

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 11:37 am.