

**Minutes of the Quality of Life (QOL) Committee Meeting, 4th Quarter, October 17, 2019**

**Wells Fargo Building, 23rd Floor, 150 Fayetteville Street Raleigh, NC**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES**

Kirk Warner, Chairman Alice Dean, NCNG, Children and Youth Programs

Julie Daniels (by phone) Doug Taggart, DPI

Gerald “Rudy” Rudisill Kevin Bruch, DoD State Liaison Office (by phone)

  Jamie Livengood, Wayne County Schools

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Valerie Nasser, Craven County Schools

Patricia Harris Leafa Palmer, MCAS Cherry Point

Edward Reeder Julie Fulton, MCI-East

Bill Hatcher Rollie Sampson, Moore County Schools

 Joseph Peek, Cumberland County Schools

**NCMAC MEMBERS:** Brittany Norman, Onslow County Schools

Rep George Cleveland (NCMAC member) Kelly Jackson, DMVA

**OPENING REMARKS: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Kirk Warner called the meeting to order at 10:03 and 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. He talked about the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) meeting that was going on in Washington, DC. There was a panel that consisted of the Secretary of the Army, Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Sergeant Major of the Army. We are tracking on all of these items discussed at the forum.

Family Forum Town Hall: (Five Top Priorities)

1. Housing

2. Health Care

3. Child Development Centers and Child Youth Services

4. Spouse Employment

5. Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Warner said that the committee did not have a quorum and would approve the Quality of Life draft minutes from the July 16, 2019 meeting at the NCMAC meeting on November 19, 2019.

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

Jamie Livengood and Valerie Nasser gave a presentation on the Purple Star program.

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NC Purple Star program Proposal:

Overview: North Carolina will award the Purple Star designation to those schools who demonstrate military-friendly practices and a commitment to military students and families. Schools will submit an application packet for review by the NC Purple Star Advisory Team. The State Council on the Interstate Compact/Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) will have final approval on Purple Star awards. Approved schools will receive Purple Star recognition on the NC School Report Card and an award for the school premises.

Calendar/Timeline: January 2020-April 2021

January Logo design

February/March Designate NC Purple Star Advisory Team

April Program info & application packet: [www.ncpuclicschools.org/militarysupport](http://www.ncpuclicschools.org/militarysupport)

 DPI memo to LEAs

July Send LEA communication: superintendents, principals, student services

September/February 1 Application period

September State superintendent message via PowerSchool

November Counselor conference and NCPAPA conference presentations

January Application deadline reminder to LEAs

February 15 Application shared with committee members for review

March Advisory Team will meet to review applications & determine awardees

April Purple Star announcement

Purple Star Designation:

* Complete all the required activities, plus one optional activity.
* Submit full application packet by February 1.

Required Activities:

POC/Designee School designates a staff member as the point of contact (POC) for military child education.

Military Awareness POC completes military awareness training. MIC3, needs of military students and families.

Professional Development The school provides professional development annually.

Resources Website School has a dedicated page on its website for military family resources.

Student Transition Program The school has a student-led transition program, with program advisor.

District/LEA Liaison District office staff member serves as the liaison.

Optional School Activities:

Recognition: The school hosts an annual military recognition event, i.e. Moth of the Military Child, Month of the Military Family, Veteran’s Day, Memorial Day

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School Tour Video: The school posts a school tour video on its website, as a way to help new students transition to the area.

Support Project: The school participates in a support project connecting the school with the military community, i.e. adopt-a school, letters/care package for troops.

Military Child of the Year Nomination: Nominate student(s) for Military Child of the Year.

Application: Applications will be available at the NC Department of Public Instruction Military Support page: [www.ncpublicschools.org/miltiarysupport](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/miltiarysupport).

**Budgetary Needs:**

* Logo Design
* Collateral Design: Application forms, web content, etc.
* Individual School Awards
* Annual Travel Fees for stakeholder presentations
* Annual Travel Fees for reviewers

**Program Facilitation:**

* DPI – ownership of program
* NC Purple Star Advisory Team – evaluation of application packets
* State Council/MIC3 – final vote on awardees

Recommendations:

* Program Facilitator – within DPI
* Legislation needed
* Show of military support & state-level effort
* To require Purple Star designation on NC School Report Card

Discussion:

Rudy Rudisill asked if this program currently existence in NC. Valerie Nasser said no it was not in NC but was an approved program in Ohio where it started. Rollie Sampson said that Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is tracking this and looking at it from a national level. It has become a priority for them to see if they want to step in to have a standardized program. Rep Cleveland asked if we planned to publish guidelines for the Child of the Year program? Jamie Livengood said that was a national program. We have put that into this program as an optional school activity. Valerie Nasser said that not all of the high schools participate in the Child of the Year program. Chairman Warner asked what is the criteria for that program? Julie Fulton said that it is extensive and the ones who win, typically have a challenging home life story such as medical issues or death in the family. Rep Cleveland also asked about the military awareness training and is there going to be guidelines for that training? Valerie Nasser said yes and that they had been doing research on what training is available. A group of them conduct training and that is standardized so we are working to standardize this training. Rep Cleveland

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Asked will the training be specific to military child education or will there be other items added to the training? Valerie Nasser said the training would be about military K-12 transitions. Rep Cleveland asked who locally would be getting the training? Jamie Livengood said that in her district she would be the one to distribute the training. The school liaisons would also be helping with this process in their surrounding areas and Local Education Agencies (LEA) they have connections with. Valeria Nasser said that in Craven County they have piloted the Purple Star program with a military friendly school program that was sponsored by a local hospital. They get a feather banner outside the school when they meet a more extensive checklist of items than the one we have. Our program has become a competition since our Superintendent endorses this program. I get a lot of calls on how do they get the check for this program. Jamie Livengood said so for Valerie Nasser, she has people calling to get this information.

Chairman Warner asked how do we roll this program out in the Western part of the State? Jamie Livengood said that they are the ones we want to get as part of this program. Doug Taggart said that the communications that would go out on this would be a report on how many connected children are in the school systems. We could make that a link to a site on the DPI military support page that has that information. Then each school system can see the number of military connected students they have. Chairman Warner said that he thought that Doug Taggart had mentioned that DPI does host Superintendent meetings annually. Rollie Sampson said that there is a group of 10 Superintendents that connect on these issues. This would be a program that would be run through the Student Support Services and then feed out from there. If the Superintendents see this, they will share that information and push it forward. Jamie Livengood said that she was contacted by someone from Harnett County who is the Director of Innovative Programs and she had read an article on the Purple Star program. She is interested in finding out what she can do to get this program started in Harnett County. We have people interested in the program before we have rolled it out. Rollie Sampson said that there could be problems down the road getting this program information out to all of the Counties in the State.

Rep Cleveland asked if we have enough concentration in some school districts, Guard and Reserve people that the schools will be interested in this program? Rudy Rudisill said especially when the Guard and Reserve start mobilizing in certain areas. Chairman Warner said that we had the maps a couple of years ago with the information of where all of the military connected children are throughout the State by County. Rep Cleveland said that there are some school districts that will not look at this unless they are pushed and who is going to push them? Valerie Nasser said that goes back to the budget request. In the budget request there is the request for the other 2 Military Liaison Officers (MLO) who would travel and do training and professional development in those outlying counties. Rep Cleveland said that will not happen for a couple of years. Chairman Warner said that another way to push it out with the Brigade deployed, this is a prime opportunity to say look around the room in these counties. I think there is about a person from each county deployed with the Brigade. Doug Taggart said that Secretary Johnson could be helpful to just say even if you don’t have very many military connected students, these are the impacts that these children have. Chairman Warner said that if this is part of the School Report Card that is an incentive.

Doug Taggart said that they have a Veteran graphic designer at DPI, and he could work on the Logo design for this program. Valerie Nasser said that the Advisory Team should be determined by the State level MLO. Jamie Livengood said that the Legislation request is legislation to have this on the School

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Report Card. Valerie Nasser said that it would be to put the logo on the School Report Card if that school received the Purple Star. Our military families look at that Report Card when they come in and that would start the ball rolling. Chairman Warner asked if the other items on the Report Card are mandated by legislation and Jamie Livengood said yes that was what she thought. Rep Cleveland said that this needed to go to the Legislative Committee for review and they could work on it from there. Valerie Nasser said that what you are saying is a request for the State Level MLO? Jamie Livengood said that Rep Cleveland is talking about a request for the legislation for the Purple Star. Valerie Nasser said that she was talking about the State Level MLO request. Rep Cleveland said that in the last budget they gave a State Level position and one in Onslow and Cumberland Counties and that request is still in the budget. Doug Taggart said that with those positions there was some funding that would be used to support this program. Jamie Livengood said that what Rep Cleveland needs is a request for the Purple Star logo to be required on the NC School Report Card. Doug Taggart said that he would also take the Recommendations slide to Chloe Gossage, DPI for her review. Rep Cleveland said that we had talked about some possible legislation at the last meeting and he has not received anything. Doug Taggart said that the topic was coming up on the agenda soon. The topic was enrollment with non- custodial care givers. Rep Cleveland said that there is a problem between MCI-East and what we are doing. Chairman Warner said that was on the agenda.

Valerie Nasser showed a slide that said that NC is the 4th largest state as far as military child education. We know that we want to be competitive amongst the other states. Valerie Nasser said that another MLO was reading in a forum that NC is known as a very difficult state to work with. We feel like the Purple Star program would help make strides in changing that perception. This program is a start with low costs and great benefits. These schools would get some type of professional development on military child transitions. Doug Taggart asked what did they think the professional development would look like? The annual requirement for professional development? Jamie Livengood said that they had a listing of topics for the professional development. Rollie Sampson said that they are working on developing some standardize presentations. We are looking at the Advance Placement (AP) person, School Counselor or military teacher who is senior on that campus. Doug Taggart asked if they were developing that slide deck? Rollie Sampson said that MCEC had some great training and we didn’t need to re-invent the wheel. This should be a face to face staff development and not a link and review the information yourself. The training should be delivered annually, and we would give them some tools to work with. Chairman Warner asked what lose ends do we have now to ensure that we are moving forward? January is the logo design timeframe. Jamie Livengood said that Rep Cleveland wants the request for the Report card. Doug Taggart said the he would talk to Chole Gossage about a graphic design request. Jamie Livengood said that the other due out is that they come back with a listing for the professional development part that has been a hot button topic. We have that, but it was not in the slides.

Doug Taggart said that in January the student identifier information needed to be finalized. He will have new data and a report for the schools the first couple of weeks after January. He will get that information in a report that is postable on a website for the purposes of the memos. Rollie Sampson said that DPI’s military report still leaves out multiple fields. If you pull your data for that report, you lose your Active Guard and Reserve (AGR), veterans and all of the new categories. So, as a school district if you want to accurately pull your data we have to manually pull our military data. The report

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for the past few years has not been expanded to include all of the fields. Jamie Livengood said that when that last 4-5 fields were added, the report is only pulling the initial data. Rollie Sampson said that they always pull their data manually to include all of the data. She is going to email Doug Taggart on this matter.

School Enrollment Issue:

Chairman Warner said that an issue had been brought to his attention about school enrollment. He received some information from Mike Archer, retired COL from the JAG corps. He has done a lot of work with legal assistance and now is the Legal Assistance Director at Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Installation-East (MCI-East). He is also very active with the State Bar Association and the Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) committee. Mike Archer raised an issue about school enrollment and non-custodial enrollment. The examples are longer than 30 day deployments, pre-deployment type transition such as the National Training Center (NTC) training. There were a variety of issues. Mike Archer thought that the MIC3 recommended standard was a broader application would work well because it constricts NC to applicable NC law which had a separate affidavit for enrollment and things like that. It is more restrictive. So, the thought was can we broaden it out and adopt the MIC3 standard.

Doug Taggart said that our Compact Statue in NC leaves out part of the model that is critical to this idea. I don’t know if that would be enough but that is one part of the fix. This is what Hawaii says on this matter. Special power of attorney relating to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law shall be sufficient for the purpose of enrollment and all other actions required parental participation and consent. He likes that terminology because it does state what type of conditions that the military family is under and it doesn’t use the word or like the Compact does with the special power of attorney, custody order or anything else. So, adding that language could force the special power of attorney to be sufficient. Doug Taggart said from his perspective, this is more of a problem in school districts around Military Installations. Historically around Cumberland County, Wake County , Onslow County and Carteret County. These counties go strictly by the State Law. That piece is left out of our Compact Statue. What we have is basically that same section of our Compact refers to the State law and the State law has a lot of very specific language of deploying and more restrictive in terms of that piece. Valerie Nasser said that it requires legal custody.

Rollie Sampson said that the short version is that if a service member has to go to Intermediate Level Education (ILE) for 6 months for training and that is not a deployment, the Cumberland and Onslow Counties are saying that a service member must give up custody of your child to someone else. Then the child will lose all of their medical benefits and other things associated with being a dependent of a service member. Doug Taggart said that there are also legal fees associated with the custody change. He also said that he had another example from a single parent Navy officer who was making a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move from California to Virginia. She would be on the ship for months at a time during her first year in Virginia, so she decided to leave the child with a grandparent who lived in Wake Forest, NC. Wake County Schools refused the enrollment. The Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3) exists to ensure that this does not happen. But the way this is being interpreted in NC, the grandparent needed to have custody of that child. Representative Cleveland said that 2 things came to mind when he read this. The first is that the Secretary for the

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Department of Public Instruction could resolve this issue by just saying that these children will be

Enrolled. The second is that I think you will still have ambiguity in the language you are providing, so just remove the reference about the State law from our MIC3 compact that we passed. Doug Taggart said that the Hawaii reference that he read was from that same section. Julie Fulton said that if you just removed the reference to the State law, you would have to replace it with something.

Doug Taggart said that he had a conversation with their attorney from DPI and he recommended that they do training on this matter for the school systems that have an issues with this. Jamie Livengood said that what we are trying to do is remove the barriers. Julie Fulton said that the State Law says X, but we are giving you permission to do Y. Then how long does that last and they are no longer in that position and someone else is there and says that they are only going to follow the law. Rep Cleveland said that it depends on how it is promulgated within the organization. It can continue on if it is put forth properly. Jamie Livengood said that the promulgated rules within the MIC3 state that the power of attorney for guardianship is sufficient. Doug Taggart said it did not say that. Jamie Livengood said it was in Chapter 600 – ELIGIBILITY SEC. 6.101 Eligibility for Enrollment (a) A custody order, special power of attorney, or other applicable document relative to the guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under the applicable law of each member State shall be sufficient for the purposes of enrollment and all other actions requiring parental participation and consent. A special power of attorney form, which is acceptable in some jurisdictions, can be obtained through the JAG offices pursuant to Military Family Care Plan regulations.

Doug Taggart said that because of the word or, it is being interpreted by some school systems that they can choose which of those 3 rules apply. Rollie Sampson said that they are ruling on the side of caution and not the child. They feel that you are asking them to take on the liability by not following the law.

Rep Cleveland asked if the Secretary of DPI could put out a memorandum on how this will be interpreted in NC? That would be simpler than getting the Legislature involved. Chairman Warner said that he could develop a letter of instruction. Doug Taggart said that he had only talked to their board attorney and he would escalate this to Chole Gossage. Jamie Livengood asked Rep Cleveland if he knew why the MIC3 language was not used by NC? Rep Cleveland said that he did not remember why it was not used. Doug Taggart said that he would take this matter back to Chole Gossage to remedy this by requiring school systems to interpret that in a specific way. Then put out a document to support that. Chairman Warner said that it would be Secretary guidance.

Julie Fulton discussed her case study about this issue. The study is about 2 sergeants in the Army, stationed at Fort Bragg and both selected for Warrant officer school. They both needed to attend the Warrant Officer Candidate (WOC) school and then the basic school for a total of 9 months each. Their schools were staggered, and the mom went first. When she gets to the school she is informed that she can only miss 24 hours of the class and they have 3 children. You know with having 3 children the parent is going to have to take time to take them to appointments and stay home when they are sick. So, they decide to let the children stay with the grandmother in Onslow County. The grandmother is happy to take care of the children while their parents are in training, but Onslow County school system informs the grandmother that she does not have custody of the children. Then the mother has no option but to bring them to Georgia while she is in training. The mom comes to Brittany Norman and Julie Fulton for help and they file a second request and it is denied because the orders are PCS orders

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and not deployment orders. The orders say that the dependents are authorize which would have been great if they had extended family in the area or 2 parents that were not in training. It did not work for this military family. The best solution was for the children to be with their grandmother. In the end Julie Fulton said that she had to write a letter to the Superintendent, supported by Deputy Commander for the Marine Corps Installations East (MCI-E) accompanied by a letter from the mom’s parent command stating that this was too difficult for the mother to care for these 3 children during her training. The Superintendent agreed to look at this situation as a deployment, which is the only legal means that Onslow County has to accept the power of attorney vice custody. The children were enrolled on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 and are in Onslow County Schools today. This is the 3rd school for 2 elementary children in the 2nd semester of a school year. They attempted enrollment on September 20, 2019 and enrolled on October 15, 2019. Rollie Sampson said that we need to think about the level of intervention that was required in this case. Julie Fulton said that she was not trying to make Onslow County the bad guy because they are following the law. As people who deal with the military all the time, there are orders that you have to follow and that is what they are doing. Doug Taggart asked how the Compact Rule was received by Onslow County and your conversations. Julie Fulton said that the Compact Rule does not allow for enrollment with power of attorney. It refers back to the State Statue which specifically says that a parent or legal guardian can enroll a child if the military duty is a deployment. Doug Taggart said or training for more than 30 days. Julie Fulton said that was not in the language in the State Statue. It can’t be for less than 30 days. Onslow County goes by State law. Doug Taggart said that bottom line, there is too much ambiguity. Julie Fulton said that the impact is huge. It is financial, emotional, social and more.

Rep Cleveland said that he recommends that this matter goes to the Legislative Affairs Committee. Julie Fulton said that it was going to be presented to the NCMAC in November. The NC Commander Council (NCCC) will get the brief and then Mike Archer will prepare the letter to forward to the NCMAC. Chairman Warner said that he recommended that we get it to the Legislative Affairs Committee prior to the NCMAC meeting. Then Sally-Ann Gupta can get the information out to the Legislative Affairs Committee. Jamie Livengood said that she remembered a letter about enrollment from DPI 2014. The memo is about enrollment practices, and basically you enroll the student and deal with the paperwork afterwards. That memo was from the previous administration. Chairman Warner said that maybe Chole Gossage could update this memo and reissue it. Doug Taggart read some legislation. If a parent or legal guardian is one of the following: on active military duty and deployed out of the local school administrative unit which the student resides. That can be interpreted many ways. For purposes of sub, subdivision and the term active duty does not include periods of active duty for training for less than 30 days. So, the assumption is that it does for training for over 30 days. That can be interpreted differently by each school system. Julie Fulton said that the problem is at the beginning of what you read, parent or legal guardian and that is what they are referring back to. The only way that you can be the legal guardian in this State is to have a legal custody order. So, everything that falls after that does not matter. Chairman Warner said that we have identified the problem and have identified a couple ways to solve it. One way is to do the NCMAC presentation and work the legislative side and the other way is to check with Chole Gossage, DPI and have them put out guidance. Valerie Nasser said that the bottom line is that you can’t deny enrollment. Julie Fulton said that her concern is that if you enroll them and figure out the paperwork later, and then they don’t qualify, you now have to tell them that they can’t stay at this school. Julie Fulton asked Doug Taggart if he had gone to the MIC3 about a legal review.

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Doug Taggart said that he had requested the legal review but had not received anything back. Julie

Fulton said that was another option that if the MIC3 staff says that our Compact does not meet the legal requirements, then we would be required to change our Compact.

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

Chairman Warner asked Doug Taggart to address the DPI issues.

Military Student Identifier: Doug Taggart said that a memo went out on September 6, to all of the school systems about the Military Student Identifier requirement. The collection for that is due at the end of January within Power School and then the reports can be run the end of January. Chairman Warner asked if there were any issues or gates that need to be run that we are seeing or people pushing back that they don’t want to send in the data? Doug Taggart said that he was not aware of any issues since they had changed the 2 fields, pay grade and installation optional.

Troops to Teachers: There just got a new director for the program. We have finished our first grant year in May of a 5 year grant with 38 hires.

Military Interstate Children’s Compact Commission (MIC3): There was a state meeting held in September. Alex Irwin, NC MIC3 Commission will be attending the National MIC3 meeting in Colorado. The MIC3 is part of the Council of State Governments that coordinates and manages the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children. That is a compact of 50 states that have agreed to abide by these rules around military transitions for kids. MIC3 is that body that and a national organization for the compact.

Jamie Livengood informed Doug Taggart that there are some updates that need to be done on the DPI website. Doug Taggart said that DPI had a new website that would be rolling out and if there was information that needed to be added or corrected to let him know that information. He has the access to update the military information directly. Chairman Warner said that we need to put the Purple Star information on the military page on the website.

Military Liaison Officer (MLO) Coordinator positions: Waiting on the budget. Rep Cleveland said that we are waiting to see if the Senate can override the budget. If the Senate cannot override the budget then as you know we have published mini budgets. There is another coming out for the education people next week and maybe 2 more. We are having trouble coming to an agreement on teacher salaries. There is also a catch all and that is just to keep the government going and give things to people that are in the budget. There is a lot in the budget that is not going to happen. So, if the Senate does not override the budget we will continue to march down the road on the old budget and additions that were made through mini-budgets. Next May, when we are still in session we will just update the second year of the budget that didn’t get approved. Valerie Nasser asked if the MLO request could be put in a mini-budget? Rep Cleveland said that would not happen because it was not essential.

**MILITARY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY POLICY: KEVIN BRUCH, STATE LIAISON OFFICE**

Kevin Bruch said that one issue that would be working this year is In-state tuition continuity for those

that get excepted to a university. We started this last year. We had an individual that was excepted last

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year to attend the university and the parents moved in the middle of the summer. The student was not

enrolled but had been accepted at the time the parents moved. This will be a change to the Statue to say that once they are accepted, they can draw in-state tuition rates as long as they stay continually enrolled. Valerie Nasser said that was not correct. She said that she and Leafa Palmer attended a College Foundation of NC workshop yesterday. They said that if you were Active Duty in NC and your child gets accepted into NC State for 2 years and the parents PCS to Pennsylvania, the child no longer qualifies for in-state tuition. This information is according to what was stated at the workshop yesterday. Rep Cleveland said that his interpretation was that as long as that person stayed enrolled they could receive in-state tuition. Rollie Sampson said that they will make the exception if the student is using the GI bill. Leafa Palmer said that she has been doing a lot of research on this topic and was told to go to a face book page called Going, Going, Gone. If you search NC it states that NC is very difficult to deal with as far as residence and how information differs. Valerie Nasser said that Leafa Palmer attended the workshop with her that heard the same information about the in-state tuition. Leafa Palmer said they were talking about Residence Determination Service (RDS) which is something you have to go on to and say who you are and all of that information. The lady that was the expert for Residency said that after a parent PCS’s or moves there will be no more in-state tuition for that family.

Rep Cleveland said to send this to the Legislative Affairs Committee for their review also. Kevin Bruch said that he would send us the Statue for the committee to review. More research needs to be done.

Doug Taggart said that he wanted to throw another scenario into the discussion. This is about the spouse of a Veteran. The Spouse lives in South Carolina, just across the border from North Carolina. She got hired to teach in a school in NC. Because she is a resident of SC and she wants to go through the NC teacher education program she has to pay out of state rates. She is trying to get a house in NC but then she would still have to live here for a year first. Doug Taggart thought there was a law that allowed for them to pay in-state tuition rates for teacher programs but that was changed at some point a few years ago. Is that something that should be considered as an issue? This is about a Veterans family and not an Active Duty family. Rep Cleveland said not to tie this issue with the first issue. Chairman Warner asked if we know of a percentage of how many are GI bill verses not the GI bill? Rollie Sampson said to also think about Chapter 35 and other benefits that children are using.

Doug Taggart said that maybe we need this individual from the NC College Foundation to come and present at the Quality of Life Committee meeting. Rep Cleveland said that this individual has a couple of years in school as a resident of the State and because a military parent moves they are no longer a resident? Rollie Sampson said that they are not residents when they are on Active Duty (AD). We are out of state residents with in-state tuition. Valerie Nasser said that a family does not quality for any state scholarships but can get military scholarship benefits. This is another part of what they talked about. Julie Fulton said that they also heard the issue with the military students being out of state with in-state tuition that the colleges accept a higher percentage of in-state students and there out of state poll is much smaller. So, they are competing for fewer spots. Rollie Sampson said they are not being treated like North Carolina graduates. Valerie Nasser said that they did have a contact person that they can reach out to. Rep Cleveland said that we can only take a percentage of out of state students. Chairman Warner asked if an AD servicemember has 2 residence states? The one that they are paying taxes in the and the one they are PCS to? So, they qualify to in-state tuition in 2 states? Valerie Nasser said yes, and it is what is on the Leave and Earning Statement (LES). Rep Cleveland said that our concern

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is after the student is in school or accepted into the school. Rollie Sampson said that PCS’s are in the

Summer. Rep Cleveland asked what they mean by accepted. Rollie Sampson said that she has students that will graduate from NC and will apply to college and get accepted to North Carolina State University (NCSU). The parent receives PCS orders and moves before the student has started college. Rep Cleveland said that you get accepted 3 months before you start college. Rollie Sampson said that college decisions are made by May 1st and the student starts college in August. Rep Cleveland said that the parents should know months before that time. Julie Fulton said that even if they know that they will make a PCS move, that child can’t apply to the new State as an in-state resident before the parent will PCS there. Then the student will have to sit out an entire year to receive the in-state tuition.

Rep Cleveland said that he did not have a problem with the student being in school and continuing in school. It is the acceptance that I have a problem with. Chairman Warner said that if the parents have been here serving in NC for 3-4 years and have been part of the economic engineer. The state is getting an economic benefit from them being here. Rep Cleveland said that he understands the argument. Chairman Warner said that this is another issue we need to work on and is low hanging fruit.

**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

**SENATE BILL (SB) 761 UPDATE: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

Chairman Warner said that at the August NCMAC meeting we had a great presentation from the UNC system by Kevin Nathanson. Rep Cleveland asked if they said they were mandated to do this without additional funding? Chairman Warner said yes they did. They received funding through a grant. We may want to invite Siobhan Norris to brief at the NCMAC meeting about other military programs going on at the universities.

**DOROTHEA DIX CARE UNIT FOR ADOLESCENTS UPDATE: DR. JOHN BIGGER**

Dorothea Dix Care Unit for Adolescents at Cape Fear Valley Update:

1. We 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 clinical programming.

2. We have contracted with an architect and have the basic design of the building developed. The building will house up to 16 patients from the ages of 12-17. The plan calls for six “double” rooms and four private rooms. This is for security and privacy depending on the psychiatric needs of the patient.

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3. There will be 2 group therapy rooms, a day room/dining room, recreational therapy space, and medical/therapy offices.

4. Occupation is scheduled for September 2020!

Needs:

1. We still need additional funding for the completion of a second floor of this building. We focused on clinical space for the treatment of adolescents and have developed the plans to meet these needs. However, while maximizing space for adolescents we are limited in space for therapy offices, administrative staff, residency space and so on. Construction of a second floor would alleviate this issue. (Estimated cost: $1.5 million.)

2. The residency program through our affiliation with Campbell University needs space—also on the second floor. One of the key factors in this is the possibility of developing a child/adolescent fellowship program as part of our psychiatric residency program. This would ensure the best of the best getting training here at Cape Fear Valley!

3. Having the fellowship program will also allow for increased levels of clinical attention—not only from the attending psychiatrist, but from residents as well. We plan to develop psychotherapy internships as well to not only have this be a state of the art treatment program, but also a teaching program.

All in all, these are exciting developments and we are excited to push forward. We are willing to explore creative ways to fund these areas through naming of specific rooms, floors, etc. as well as recognition and so on. We can accept multiple donations this way to help fund the additional $1.5 million needed through a variety of sources.

If we can work to secure funding through your group, I will gladly have our Foundation Director, Sabrina Brooks get connected with you to explore ways to make this happen.

**REVIEW PRIORITIES: CHAIRMAN KIRK WARNER**

**2019 Priorities:**

1. K-12 Education – Advocate, promote and coordinate with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop initiatives that improve state and local support for military children (e.g., military liaison officers and state military child coordinators, MIC3, Purple Star Program, special needs programs, early/distant school registration, etc.); proactively encourage and support state efforts to enhance technology and publicly available internet connectivity in and around military installations (e.g., Last Mile).

2. Adequate Housing – Promote and ensure adequate and affordable housing both on and off base.

3. Spousal, Dependent, Servicemember Opportunities and Challenges – Create and enhance meaningful employment and advancement for military spouses and dependents (e.g., ease and transferability of licensure and certifications, in-state tuition, transition education, etc.); drive recognition of military experience via awarding academic credits for higher education; augment installation capabilities to support “Forced single parent” initiatives.

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4. Resiliency – Promote and enhance resiliency programs for military servicemembers, their dependents and families (e.g., art programs, etc,); research and coordinate services and availability of care facilities for military children in crisis experiencing behavioral and psychological problems (e.g., Dorothea Dix and Betsy Johnson Behavioral Unit).

5. Transitioning Support – Encourage the North Carolina Commander’s Council (NCCC) to address the need for peak transition impact and moving support (e.g., explore availability of approved/validated moving companies to assist prior to relocation).

Chairman Warner said that the QOL committee reviewed these priorities at the strategic planning event. I want to check to see if they are in the right order and then see if there are actions that we can take for these priorities or are they on-going. The priorities are listed 1-5. The priorities are K-12, Housing, Spousal, Dependent, Servicemember Opportunities and Challenges, Resiliency, and Transitioning Support

Chairman Warner said that he is not sure what action items we can be doing for housing but certainly troubleshooting and those types of things. I don’t know if there are any taskers related to housing. We have to be mindful and that is a priority of the Services and PCS issues. Rep Cleveland said that there are discussions across the Services with the problems with housing. We should probably address this but how? Chairman Warner said that we can work with the Commanders as they are well aware of this issue and discussion. If you hear of housing issues in your areas that we need to address, please bring it forward. Rep Cleveland said that he thought Mike Archer had a housing issue and was not sure if that had been resolved. Chairman Warner said he would check into that. Rudy Rudisill asked if the Commission members attend the NC Commander’s Council (NCCC) meeting? Chairman Warner said that only a couple may attend the NCCC.

Chairman Warner said that the third priority is Spousal, Dependent, Servicemember Opportunities and Challenges. That has 4-5 priorities rolled into one. This one is about taking caring care of families. This is also about streamlining the licensure process. Rollie Sampson said that this is like Behavior Health where licensure becomes a huge challenge. Doug Taggart said that he was attending a meeting today with the Program Evaluation Division that has a study on the bill that was supposed to make it easier for license to transfer. Chairman Warner asked Doug Taggart to send out the status on spousal licensure. I think NC is doing ok on this topic. There are concerns and we need to listen to see if there are issues.

The next priority is Resiliency which is something a lot of non-governmental agencies and installation deal with. The programs like the Dorothea Dix at Betsy Johnson Hospital is one of the action items on this priority. The NC Art programs is another program that we use for resiliency. There is a lot of room to improve on Resiliency. The Commanders are the ones who hear it from their folks. These resiliency programs are great, and we need more of them. These programs have expanded to the National Guard. We need to look for opportunities when it comes to resiliency programs.

Chairman Warner said that these are our 5 priorities and are there any actions items or thoughts to accomplishing any of these or something we haven’t discussed? Does anyone have anything to add or comments on anything that is listed? This will all be a part of the strategic report that will be developed.

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We sometimes forget the Veterans when we are talking. There is a NC Veterans Affairs Commission. It would be helpful to have some type of liaison with that Commission to know what they are doing. I think that we should reach out to the NC Veterans Affairs Commission and see if they can give a briefing at the NCMAC meeting. Rep Cleveland recommended that they give an informational briefing at a NCMAC meeting.

Chairman Warner asked if there is anything else that we need to look at reference the priorities? I think that all of the committees will see their priorities as being ongoing. The last page is on Strategic priorities and that belongs to all of the committees. If there are things that we need to get out such as the Purple Star program, Month of the Military Child and the MIC3. How can we get that information out and disseminate it?. I don’t think that we need to discuss those priorities, but they do pertain to all of the Committees. There was a lot of input on these priorities from the initial committee. This will be the foundation for the Strategic Plan that is due next year.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Warner asked if there are any other issues that need to be addressed by this committee. We are all the eyes and ears for issues that need to be elevated. Julie Fulton said that they had been working with their home schooled families. We would like to see a military identifier for home schooled families. Not for an individual family but for the meta data to figure out how many military connected families home school their children. The Commander’s ask us this questions a lot. We don’t know that information and the data is collected by zip code. Rollie Sampson said that the application to set up a home school is very easy. So, part of that application process could be are you an active duty service member family. You have to say if you are a parochial school or secular school. There are a couple of boxes that need to be checked. You could just add military to that, we could collect the data. Doug Taggart said that was part of the Non-Public Instruction and there are just a couple of people that work there. Julie Fulton said she was not sure about how to get this information. Doug Taggart said that maybe you just contact someone from the Division of Non-public Instruction and have a conversation. Chairman Warner said if that could dovetail that information into the military student identifier information or is that different. Doug Taggert said that would be part of the conversation but there may not be much receptiveness to that because it is 2 separate systems. Chairman Warner said that information could be important. How do we reach them? Doug Taggart said he would get that information. Chairman Warner said where do we get the information about the 44,000 military students? Rollie Sampson said that is from Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting (DEER) and covers all of the students. Julie Fulton said that we are seeing an increase of military students that are being home schooled and a higher percentage than civilian children. It gives the parents a lot more flexibility.

Joseph Peek commented that Senator Till had visited Fort Bragg about the on base housing issue. The housing issue is getting better and Senator Till and his office is very involved in this discussion. The Commander’s no longer have control over base housing. Rep Cleveland said that changed several years ago. Chairman Warner asked who owns the on base housing? Jamie Livengood said it was privately owned. Rep Cleveland said that across the services they have discovered huge problems with housing. What Joseph Peek’s is talking about is the mold, leaks and other issues and they have not been able to get satisfaction. Julie Fulton said that they have 300 empty housing units and the public/private partner is out of money. They have used up all of the insurance money they received from the hurricane, so

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they are not repairing them and sitting empty. Chairman Warner asked what type of action can we be doing to facilitate or push something? Joseph Peek said that he didn’t know what we could do but he wanted to make this group aware of this issue. Chairman Warner said that in the end these contracts are with Installation Management Command (IMCOM) and something can be done. Rep Cleveland said that the contracts were signed in Washington and the local folks have no say in this. Chairman Warner said that he would think that IMCOM would be governing all of the installations. He wonders if it was through them or DoD. Rudy Rudisill said there had been a lot of media coverage on this topic. Chairman Warner said that we should check to see if there is anything we can do to help. Rudy Rudisill said that he recommended that we talk to the Commander’s at the NCCC. Chairman Warner said that we also have our lobbying company and what are they hearing about this topic. Jamie Livengood said that she had read many articles on this topic and how the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Corvias is living compared verses the homes that he is building on a military base.

Chairman Warner asked if there were any legislative issues? We have come up with a couple potential issues that we are going to send to the Legislative Affairs Committee to look at and present to the NCMAC (Purple Star program, non-custodial custody and college in-state tuition). Doug Taggart said that the Care Collation that supports Special Operations Wounded Soldiers signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Cumberland County Schools. These soldiers have the opportunity to do career exploration in K-12 related occupations and not just teaching. This program got started through a conversation with LTC Anthony Quinn who wanted who wanted to go and do a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (Jr ROTC). This is similar idea to the Career Skill program and Skill Bridge but for the Special Operations Community. If they are a HVAC mechanic, they could work in the school system doing that or do a fellowship with the Cumberland County schools and they get paid by the military for the last part of their service. Rollie Sampson said that this if for Special Operations Wounded Soldiers transferring out of the service. Doug Taggart said that LTC Quinn will be the first to take advantage of this new program. This program is for any career opportunity in the school system. He is pursuing something like this that is broad for all service members with the career skills program. Julie Fulton asked Doug Taggart to share the information with the group on the Special Operations Wounded Soldiers program. She said that the Marine Special Operations Command West is moving to Camp Lejeune which is now located at Camp Pendleton. They are consolidating to one location. We are expecting 700 additional service members. They are consolidating the East and West groups.

NCMAC agenda items planned from QOL

* Purple Star Program – 10 minutes
* Veterans Affairs Commission Briefing – 10 minutes
* Siobhan Norris – UNC system (Optional) – 10 minutes
* Dr Biggers – Care Center (Optional) – 10 minutes

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Warner asked if there were any public comments. Rep Cleveland asked who the approved committee minutes were sent to? Kelly Jackson said that they were only sent to the Committee members and other attendees. They were also put the on the DMVA website for the public. Rep Cleveland asked if all of the approved minutes could be sent to all of the NCMAC members for

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information. Kelly Jackson said that she will start sending out all approved NCMAC meeting minutes to the NCMAC members.

Rudy Rudisill said that this was the first Quality of Life meeting that he had attending in person and he has been impressed by the passion of this group. Also, the integration of people with the educators, base representatives and legislators. Kirk Warner said that his committee has never lacked passion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Warner adjourned the meeting at 12:02 pm.