

Minutes from MCFTB Council Meeting February 18, 2010

Meeting commenced at 12:45 PM

Those present include:

- SgtMaj Ronald Green, HH Battalion SgtMaj
- Billie Kochara, MCFTB Director, Henderson Hall
- Yasmine Bell, Unit Family Readiness Program Trainer, Henderson Hall
- Trish Sowell, L.I.N.K.S. Trainer, Henderson Hall
- Christianne Witten, LifeSkills/RDST, Henderson Hall
- Ramona Higgins, CBIRF FRO, Indian Head
- MSgt Richard Moore, Cryptological Support Battalion FRO, Ft Meade
- Bea Owens, MARFORRES 4th CEB FRO, Baltimore
- Meghan Duetsch, MCNOSC FRO, Quantico
- Sgt Jeffrey Hoey, NAMARA Deputy FRO, Navy Yard
- Cpl Tony Ragan, NAMARA Deputy FRO, Navy Yard
- Alice Stauffer, Counseling Manager, Henderson Hall
- Diane Waters, New Parent Support Home Visitor, Henderson Hall
- Kelly Williams, FMEAP/CRMC, Henderson Hall
- Stephanie Hechtkopf, CRMC Program Manager, Henderson Hall
- Carol LaVoy, Readiness Program Manager, Henderson Hall
- Jennifer Wong, EFMP Outreach Specialist, Henderson Hall

Topics Covered:

2009 Thanksgiving Food Basket Recap

- 69 families assisted
- \$5135 dispersed
 - \$3000 donated from thrift store, \$2160 from JSOH proceeds, \$25 leftover was given during Christmas

2009 Adopt-a-Family Recap

- 83 families assisted, vs 99 families assisted in 2008
- 62 sponsors, similar to 2008
- 2008 used self-referral, FRO and USO for candidates while 2009 vetted all candidates through FRO

Billie: How did you feel with the 2009 vetting process through the FRO vs 2008 self referral process?

MSgt Moore: It helped us know who needed the help and gave us a chance to have face time with the families, improve perception that FROs are really there to assist, avoids

intimidation that FRO will share info with CO and enables FROs to get the help the families need. 2008, there was a problem with families and Marines submitting for free stuff, not according to need. It also helped to address the issue that there may be a need that extends far beyond the holiday.

Billie: Did the drop in participation stem from families being afraid to ask for assistance this year or was there less playing the system due to FRO involvement?

MSgt Moore: Prevention of waste with FROs involved and also ensured deeper financial issues were addressed and referrals provided to families to get to root of problem.

Bea Owens agreed with MSgt Moore- 2009 process helped FROs connect with families and get to root of their problem behind why they were seeking holiday assistance.

Ramona Higgins: Went to 1st Sgt and GySgt who were more in tune with a specific need to refer their Marines to her. Some wives went directly to new USO on Indian Head, self-referred. Ramona agrees with FROs having control over the process, and the benefit of getting to know families through it

Sgt Hoey: All went smoothly at Navy Yard, no complaints, can't compare to 2008, wasn't on deck.

May 15-16 JSOH

- 2009 funded Thanksgiving food basket program with \$2160
- 8th and I Barracks has led with 32 volunteers for the last two years then Navy Annex/HH, CBIRF and Ft Meade.
- We were top seller at show, raising over \$5000 in past two years
- VTT and Mass Communication Tool are great ways to track volunteer hours from event
- Recruit NOW!!! This will help out tremendously with the Thanksgiving program!
- Yasmine recommended 20 volunteers needed to man booth each day
 - Could be in shifts and reduced to 15 per day

Billie passed get well cards for HH and 8th and I FRO.

LINKS

- Provided description of LINKS curriculum for new deputy FROs from Navy Yard, requesting mentors
- Trish reiterated Saturday, Feb. 27 LINKS for Couples at 8th and I and Friday, March 26 LINKS for spouses at CBIRF
- Circulated 3 month calendar of classes and program flyers to council
- Working with youth center and SLO at CBIRF for LINKS for Kids outreach to military and civilian children, helping them to better understand military life

- Proposed LINKS for Kids during Patriot Week in July
 - 50 kids in summer camp in newly renovated youth center
- LINKS for Teens also a possibility through Dahlgren, with SLO's assistance
- Trish will continue to offer classes at Henderson Hall but willing to go to commands, offer weekend sessions and partner where she can since we are all trying to reach the same audience
- Will work with Bea at their new site in June
- Will continue partnering with ACS at Ft Meade for April 20 Military Family Team Building 2 day class for Crypto families with Marine Corps spin

MSgt Moore: Confirmed parking and location at Henderson Hall is a challenge for his families and mentioned new Cyber Command with 200 Marines coming to Ft Meade next month, some from Crypto. A further need to reach Marines at Ft Meade

- Trish partnering with Barbara Hawkins in Quantico for LINKS for Parents March 24 @ theater, expecting 100+ parents from OCS graduates

LifeSkills/Readiness and Deployment Support

- Christianne mentioned resurgence of Joint Services Hearts Apart Support Group for deployed spouses dealing with combat or TAD separation
 - 2nd Tuesdays of month at Bellevue Housing for DC based spouses with Fleet and Family Anacostia partner
 - 2nd Wednesday of month at Indian Head's Crossroads café for CBIRF spouses with Fleet and Family Anacostia partner
 - 2nd Thursday of month at Ft Myer for VA based spouses with ACS partner
 - Wants to provide a fun setting with useful resources for spouses like MFLC, stress management, single parenting tips
- Mentioned Family Care Plan brief March 11th, at CBIRF from 0900 AM-1100 AM and March 17th, at 8th & I from 0800 AM-0930 AM.
- Proposed a Four Lenses for DNFOS and Crypto staff by end of March, date TBD
- Talked about partnership with MFLC and HH Relocation at the Military Entrance Processing Center on Mondays for parents and spouses of new recruits. Also spoke about recent site visit with CO and SNCO at DNFOS to offer MFS services
- Locked on Wellness Workshop on Nutrition 101 for National Nutrition Month with Akida Jordan, Health Promotions Coordinator for 30 March at Smith Gym
- Will be travelling to Pendleton to be certified in 7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families March 1-6

Unit Family Readiness Program/Community Volunteering

- Yasmine was encouraging FRA referrals from FROs and mentioned rewards and incentives from volunteering e.g. volunteer appreciation luncheon
- With the upcoming turnover in the FRPT position, the replacement will be more effective and productive now that the line of communication is in place with

FROs and CO. Training is established to meet various needs of each command with the corresponding materials Yasmine created

- Volunteer opportunities have spanned Alexandria, Arlington and Montgomery County, including active duty and civilian opportunities with HH leading the way with a solid volunteer base

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon: April 9, 2010 from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Six civilian/active duty will be eligible for the Presidential Service Award
- One hundred twenty volunteers will be recognized
- Details will be coming

Military Spouse Appreciation Day: May 7, 2010 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

- Since the Reagan Administration, every Friday before Mother's Day has been Military Spouse Appreciation Day to recognize military spouses
- Open to all NCR Marine Spouses and Commands MCFTB supports.
- Tentative: Relax, Relate and Release theme- Free pampering evening with rotations like massaging station, manicure/pedicure station, Exchange counter makeup booth, Vineyard wine samples, cooking demos in the HH gym
- Billie to provide update after meeting with MCCA director

Concerns from the Field:

Use of MCT several challenges and issues, Everbridge specific system problems with members being dropped from contact list or unable to access list. Time spent separating lists for Marine specific and family message using 7 UICs, and losing 4 UICs and the contacts with them. VTT has also had issues taking 3-4 weeks to get volunteer info posted plus the challenges with recruiting volunteers from a dispersed population. Everbridge is aware of the problems and some UICs are too long, which they are fixing. Change over from 3M to Everbridge is still addressing technical issues after being live for 1 year.

Bea Owens: 4th CEB is having an upcoming family day in May, 1st week, with ribbon ceremony for new bldg with new conf room. There will be a new CO on the Reservist side, and they are expecting 500-600 people. Looking for help and ideas for family day as well as submissions for her quarterly newsletter with over 1900 contacts

MSgt Moore: Struggling with Mass Comm Training and VTT for dispersed companies across CONUS and OCONUS, but currently uses mass comm. for local Marines

It was stated that for the Retire Retain FROs, FRO business should be their #1 priority.

Crypto mentioned difficulty accessing funding from Quantico for all aspects of the program. They have yet to receive Unit Funds and he is also unable to bring Deputy FROS to unit to train on mandated materials. An e-mail will be sent to HQ to help address the training piece and Sgt. Major will help assist in budget piece for unit funds.

CBIRF is still having funding issues. They are still unsure where their money is coming from and suggested it would be easier receiving it from HH.

SgtMaj Green: There is an improved communication with families. Henderson Hall had two very successful family days with record attendance. He is also pleased with communication going on outside of fence with other units. He asked for patience with the challenges of MCT and VTT, getting all systems to talk to each other, and with upcoming buyback of all NMCI computers. Spoke about \$35M dedicated to Family Readiness program budget per Commandant who believes in the need and value of these programs but also struggling with being over 3000 Marine and the strain it puts on the budget right now. There is also a great focus on suicide and sexual assault prevention programs, so they are currently trying to balance the budget for the troops and budget for family readiness.

Exceptional Family Member Program: Mentioned Wednesday March 24, 2010, Tri-Care forum with Sandy Johnson, an EFMP subject matter expert @ HH Theater from 10:00 AM-1:00 PM. The Respite Care program and its importance was talked about: 40 hrs/month free for caregivers. The flyers were circulated on the program.

TAMP/FMEAP: CRMC offers monthly a 1-3 day Separation class, 4 day Retirement class and 5 day Executive TAP class, as well as Adecco monthly visits on base to place spouses in jobs. There is an upcoming "How to Start a Business" class next week on Thursday February 25, 2010. March 10th, 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM there will be a Federal Employment workshop/resume workshop at Henderson Hall, March 30 there will be a Federal Employment/4 Lenses Career Paths workshop at CBIRF from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM and April 20th, Career Fair at HH gym from 10:00 AM -2:00 PM. CRMC also offers resume assistance, mock interviews, resource library, resume paper and skills assessments for free. JETS (Joint Employment Transition Services) will be hosting a Military Spouse Expo May 2nd, at Ft Meade, sponsored by USO.

Bea Owens: Working on a career development weekend with 800 Marines and families and will tap into HH CRMC resources.

OSD has placed an "indefinite pause on MYCAA" for anyone who applied after Feb 16, 2010 @ midnight.

Counseling: Alice introduced Diane Waters, New Parent Support Program Home Visitor who will work with Claire Quigley. She provided a program overview and team breakdown for all new council members and provided her contact info: 703-693-0643. She invited members to contact her 2 clinicians, 2 MFLCs with offsite, confidential services and 2 victim advocates with daytime and after hours as needed. She also

mentioned Molly Ryan and her role as Prevention Specialist with CRC training and her willingness to offer classes on stress, anger management and conflict.

Relocation Assistance: Willie Acevedo introduced his program and workshops like the Smooth Move and Overseas Relocation as well as his "FYI" email distribution list. He took email sign ups from new council members and circulated a handout on the new Operation Purple Camp 2010 info on the Military Homefront site: <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>. He also announced the next Smooth Move workshop at HH will be February 25th, his and willingness to do outreach and teach classes at other installations.

The MCFTB Director then adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM with the next council meeting scheduled for May 20, 2010.