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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Veterans Committee
Monday, March 09, 2020 – 7:00 PM
New York Blood Center
Conference Room 1
310 East 67th Street**

Minutes:

Present: Barry Schneider, Chair, Peter Patch, Co-Chair, Alida Camp (Chair, CB8), Judy Schneider (member of the public), Amauri Espinal (NYC Department of Veteran's Services), Dr. Harold Seigel.

Key Points of Discussion:

- (1) **NYC Department of Veteran's Services Presentation.** In his presentation, Espinal focused on Services for veterans, beginning with housing services.
 - a. **Veteran Peer Coordinators:** This team works directly with Veterans in shelters to help them with the process of finding affordable housing in NYC, including finding apartments they're eligible for, providing transportation of apartment viewings, and ensuring the veterans have the rental subsidies and documentation needed for housing.
 - b. **Housing Coordination Center:** This unit works to increase the supply of housing available to homeless veterans by recruiting brokers, property managers and owners who desire to help homeless veterans get back on their feet
 - c. **Aftercare & Eviction Prevention:** This provides support to ensure veterans are able to stay in their new home, including rental arrear and mediation services for the landlord and the tenant
 - d. **HUD-VASH Continuum Program:** DVS co-administers a rental subsidy program with the NYC Housing Authority
- (2) **Services – Community Recognition:** DVS hosts events throughout the year, and helps organize the Veterans Day, Fleet Week and Memorial Day events.
- (3) **Services – Health & Wellness**
 - a. **Mental Health First Aid:** DVS helped create a veterans and military services member specific version of mental health first aid training.
 - b. **Mental Health Partners:** Veterans can connect with several DVS partners through VetConnectNYC, including Headstrong and NYC Well.
 - c. **Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline:** Service members, veterans in crisis or those concerned about their loved ones can call the Veterans Crisis line at 800-273-8255 (press 1).
- (4) **Services – Education**

- a. **Veterans on Campus:** This initiative assists colleges and universities to adopt best practices that ensure student veterans transition successfully to civilian life.
- (5) **Services – Employment and Career Support**
- a. **Veterans CARE:** This program helps veterans with service-connected PTSD to find steady employment, using Employment Specialists on a one-on-one basis.
 - b. **Service2Service:** DVS Partners with NYCService to launch this mentorship program, connecting NYC government employees with Veterans and AmeriCorps alumni for careers in public service.
- (6) **Services – Multimedia**
- a. **Podcast:** SITREP is DVS’s official podcast, with each episode focused on a single theme, to provide a deep dive into issues that impact veterans and their families.
- (7) **Services – Final Honors:** This service provides a dignified burial for eligible indigent and unclaimed veterans.
- (8) The New Commissioner is Lt. Col. James Hendon, Army Reserves. One priority is the NYU Vet Future Lab, to support veterans in business. The former commissioner was Brig. Gen Loree Sutton, currently running for NYC Mayor.
- a. **Main Office** – 1 Center Street (Rm 2208, 22nd floor). There are also borough offices in each of the five boroughs. Through these offices, veterans can get referrals to City and State programs and agencies. These services aim to provide a holistic approach to whatever the issue or required services may be.
- (9) **WebSite:** nyc.gov/veterans. To access a coordinated network of services for Veterans, through the website or call 1-833-VETS-NYC (833-838-7692) or 1-212-416-5250 for the programs of VetConnectNYC. Can also follow DVS on social media on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and linked-in at @nycveterans.



Barry Schneider, Peter Patch, Co-Chairs