

## Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room  
3839 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012  
February 19, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

### Committee Members Present

Randy Meyer, Chairman  
John Aldecoa\*  
Paul Clark\*, Vice Chairman  
Carol Culbertson  
George Cushing\*  
Kathy Pearce\* (2:12)  
Larry Struck\*  
Thomas Troxell\*  
Stanley Zeitz

### Committee Members Absent

Robert Barnes, ADVS Deputy Director  
Martin Badegian  
Larry Brown  
Paul McKenney

*\* Participated in the meeting by teleconference*

### MFRF Committee Staff

Travis Schulte, ADVS/MFRF

Assistant Arizona Attorney General - Invited

## CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Meyer called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Stanley Zeitz moved to approve the draft minutes of the public meeting held on January 15, 2013. Carol Culbertson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Chairman Meyer read the Advisory Committee's Disclosure Policy. Advisory Committee members must disclose their knowledge of an applicant to the Advisory Committee during the consideration process. Knowledge of an applicant that benefits all members of the Advisory Committee during the consideration process does not create a conflict of interest. If an Advisory Committee member has knowledge of an applicant and has a vested interest in the outcome of the Committee's findings or seeks to benefit or gain from a vote on a particular application, he/she is required to recuse his or herself from consideration of that applicant as it creates a conflict of interest.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Meyer moved the meeting to executive session at 2:09 p.m. to discuss MFRF applications that are, according to ARS 41-608.04.E., confidential. Executive Session is allowable under ARS 41-608.04.E.

## APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Chairman Meyer returned the meeting to public session at 3:15 p.m. to vote on applications:

1. 2011E **December E** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved for \$2,002.94 for two months mortgage. Carol Culbertson seconded the motion. Per discussion, assistance with their mortgage will cover their monthly deficit and put them in the black. Larry Struck re-registered his opinion that he was having trouble with this application in turns of some of the issues application raised. The proposed award would exceed \$10,000 thereby requiring 2/3 majority approval by the Advisory Committee (nine) to approve the motion. Per vote, the motion failed to achieve the required super-majority by receiving eight aye and one nay votes. Per discussion, Larry Struck suggested approving only one month of mortgage while we get more information on some of the auto insurance and other inconsistencies that were submitted and incorrectly recorded on the

application. Chairman Meyer stated that applicant has already been awarded \$9,936 and only has \$64 to play with, so any assistance with applicant's mortgage requires super-majority approval. Larry Struck had a problem that applicant submitted inaccurate information and signed off on it. Other Committee members didn't consider the inconsistencies as intentional or deceitful, and inquired if Mr Struck was mistaking this application for another. Per discussion, Larry Struck changed his vote to an "aye," meeting the required 2/3 super-majority approval of nine votes required to approve the motion and the motion to recommend approval of two months mortgage assistance was approved.

2. **2012 January B** – Per discussion, Chairman Meyer summarized various Committee members' observations that there were a lot of questions with this application about the amount of disability applicant was receiving because that didn't match the VA decision document and social security and food stamp benefits that have been decreasing with each application making it look like applicant was underreporting income to increase financial deficit, as well as increase the financial deficit by increasing expenses such as listing \$100/mo in grooming expenses. Questions were also raised regarding applicant's lease which expires in March and no information presented on how applicant would bring rent in line with reduced income. Kathy Pearce stated there was a lot she had a problem with regarding this application including applicant's spouse hasn't worked for over a year since applicant's first application. John Aldecoa moved to recommend application be denied. George Cushing seconded the motion. Per discussion, Stanley Zeitz stated documentation submitted is inconsistent with previous submissions and has too many discrepancies, and if he gets the application in line with previous applications maybe the Committee could reconsider but presently applicant has to be turned down. Kathy Pearce wondered which application would then become the lie and which one the truth. Carol Culbertson asked to make sure enough data has been given where the inconsistencies are so the applicant is aware, and was assured that the specific concerns have been raised in open discussion and would be communicated to the applicant. Stanley Zeitz stated that when you lay each application out there is no logic to them to support the numbers. Per vote, the motion to recommend application be denied carried unanimously.
3. **2012 June M** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved as submitted for \$1,142.00 for one month's assistance with rent, cell phone, auto insurance, internet and electricity. Larry Struck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
4. **2012 July N** – George Cushing moved to recommend application be denied for failure to provide requested information concerning current housing status and how many months of assistance the veteran is requesting, VA claim status update, documentation confirming back surgery, status of the children veteran took into custody at time of previous application, and employment status of additional person listed on the lease. Larry Struck seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
5. **2012 November F** – Larry Struck moved to recommend application be approved as submitted for \$6,143.31 to pay off medical bills, particularly based on Travis's observation that veteran is pretty sensible at managing his funds. George Cushing seconded the motion. Paul Clark inquired on the total amount applicant was at now. Stanley Zeitz stated if approved applicant would have received \$8,800. Kathy Pearce stated she had a problem with the way the motion was stated; whether the veteran is good at knowing his finances has nothing to do with if we should assist the service member and is not sure she can go along with paying bills that have nothing to do with veteran's deployment. Paul Clark concurred with Kathy Pearce. Per vote, the motion carried 5 ayes to 2 nays. Paul Clark noted this application would probably not get through the \$10,000 threshold.
6. **2013 February A** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend application be approved for \$3,061.41 for two months' mortgage and current past due balances, plus an additional month's mortgage if necessary depending on VA claim status. Kathy Pearce seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. 2012 **December B** – John Aldecoa moved to recommend approval of application for up to \$8,333.34 to participate in the transition in place program providing case management, supportive services and housing to prevent homelessness, but not assistance with auto repairs as applicant should have enough funds left over to pay for repairs himself. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
8. 2013 **January F** – John Aldecoa moved to recommend approval of application as submitted for up to \$8,333.34 to participate in the transition in place program providing case management, supportive services and housing to prevent homelessness. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **MARKETING REPORTS**

Randy Meyer informed the Committee that if they haven't already done so there is still time to sign up to volunteer at the Arizona StandDown March 7, 8 and 9. The Arizona StandDown is the nation's largest homeless veteran outreach event, serving 1,300 veterans last year and expecting to serve 1,600 veterans this year. You can sign up to volunteer online at [www.arizonastanddown.org](http://www.arizonastanddown.org). Randy explained the event and stated it was a rewarding experience helping homeless veterans at the event.

Kathy Pearce has another opportunity to volunteer at her fundraiser 5k for Arizona Heroes to Hometowns on March 23. Kathy will send the information to Travis Schulte who will then forward it on to the Committee.

Kathy Pearce is hosting a Spring Fling for wounded warriors and their families in Tucson on March 30.

Carol Culbertson will be attending a two day training event for federal employees on March 21 and will give out MFRF info.

Larry Struck stated he went to visit the Wounded Warrior contingent at Fort Huachuca last week and it appears to have nearly dissolved and is now being run by a Staff Sergeant and have three people left. Larry goes to talk to them about every six months. Larry spoke with two of the three wounded warriors and will call to arrange to speak with the third next week.

## **CALL TO PUBLIC**

No public attendance.

## **ADJOURNMENT and NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

John Aldecoa moved to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting. Carol Culbertson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:41 pm.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, March 19 at 2:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.