

Arizona Military Family Relief Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Conference Room
3839 North 3rd Street, Suite 209, Phoenix, AZ 85012
July 16, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Randy Meyer, Chairman
John Aldecoa* (left at 2:33, returned 3:18)
Paul Clark*, Vice Chairman (2:31)
Carol Culbertson
George Cushing
Kathy Pearce*
Larry Struck*
Stanley Zeitz

Committee Members Absent

Robert Barnes, ADVS Deputy Director/Designee
Martin Badegian
Larry Brown
Paul McKenney
Thomas Troxell

** 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 2:07 p.m. George Cushing moved to approve the draft minutes of the public meeting held on June 18, 2013. Stanley Zeitz 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 3:19 p.m. to vote on applications:

1. **2010C July D** – George Cushing moved to recommend the application be approved for \$1,600 for past due and current month's rent, but not for any of their additional requests for three months' rent, utility, auto, insurance, title loan, groceries or school expenses. Carol Culbertson seconded the motion. The proposed award would take the total lifetime amount received by this family up to the \$10,000 limit. Approval of the complete request as submitted by the applicant would exceed \$10,000 thereby requiring 2/3 majority approval by the Advisory Committee (nine) to approve the motion. Per discussion, various Committee members stated they would not support an award over the \$10,000 limit as the family has not presented a sufficient long term plan to become financially stable. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2010E **October A** – George Cushing moved to table the application pending further documentation that was requested from the applicant that can connect felony conviction to the diagnosis of PTSD and that PTSD is combat related. Carol Culbertson seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
3. 2013 **July A** – Carol Culbertson moved to table the application pending further documentation that can connect combat deployment to financial hardship. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
4. 2013 **July D** – George Cushing moved to recommend the application be denied as submitted for two months' rent and water as assistance will not improve applicant's future financial stability and current income cannot sustain current living choices. Per discussion, various Committee members noted that applicant has exhausted his mother's savings through her paying applicant's mortgage and utilities since military separation in 2009 and has not made changes to lifestyle or living arrangements to accommodate income and realistic financial situation. The combination of applicant's car and auto insurance alone exceed applicant's monthly income of \$570/mo, yet applicant is single living alone in a house with a high mortgage of \$1200/mo and has no plans to increase income other than to apply for additional benefits despite already being denied twice. MFRF is not intended to subsidize a lifestyle, and without drastic changes to living expenses, such as selling the house and car, assistance will simple prolong an untenable situation rather than help applicant achieve financial stability. Stanley Zeitz seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
5. 2013 **July E** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend the application be approved for \$2,910.81 for assistance for three months and past due amounts for auto payment, internet, electricity and phone, excluding satellite and credit collection as those are ineligible for assistance per award criteria. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.
6. 2013 **July F** – Stanley Zeitz moved to recommend the application be approved for \$3,206.96 for the past due electricity, water, auto payment, auto insurance, internet and cell phone to bring applicant current so applicant can make needed, tough financial decisions, but not for any assistance with past due mortgage or future utility, auto or house payments. Approval of the complete request as submitted by the applicant would exceed \$10,000 thereby requiring 2/3 majority approval by the Advisory Committee (nine) to approve the motion. Per discussion, various Committee members stated they would not support an award over the \$10,000 limit as the applicant's current financial reality is unsustainable and unable to be remedied by MFRF assistance alone. Applicant's mortgage payment is over \$10,000 in arrears, and is unlikely to be sustained if caught up as applicant's auto payment and insurance nearly exceed his income before factoring in mortgage and utilities. Due to the length of mortgage delinquency, the applicant may already have received notice of foreclosure or is certainly at risk, and paying off the past due amount would not guarantee long term housing stability. The applicant is too far in arrears and did not present a financial plan that demonstrates future financial stability that MFRF assistance can help achieve. Chairman Meyers suggested the applicant apply for Social Security Disability benefits for additional income and go the VA hospital for medical expenses rather than pay them out of pocket. George Cushing seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

UPDATED MFRF BYLAWS, MEMBER STATEMENT, FAQs AND APPLICATION

Updated Guidelines and Bylaws, Member statement, FAQs and Application were distributed to the Committee for review. Barring any additional amendments to the Bylaws, updated materials will be voted on at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

MARKETING REPORTS

Travis Schulte informed the Committee about the 2013 Military/Veteran Women's Health & Knowledge Event to be held on Saturday, August 17. The goal is to have participation by all three VA medical centers

in Arizona. The event will focus on health services, skill building, benefits, resources, and will include community service providers to direct support and services to Arizona's military and Veteran women. More information can be found at www.azdvs.gov.

Paul Clark will have a meeting with the Arizona Diamondbacks to attempt to lock in a suite for wounded warriors next season. Funding sources will need to be determined based on cost presented by Dbacks.

CALL TO PUBLIC

No public attendance.

ADJOURNMENT and NEXT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

George Cushing moved to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting. Carol Culbertson seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:48 pm.

The next Advisory Committee meeting will be Tuesday, August 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the Director's Conference Room.