

**STATE COUNCIL FOR THE INTERSTATE COMPACT ON EDUCATION FOR
CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES**
Thursday, March 9, 2017 – 2:00 p.m., Library Conference Room

Attendees:

Jennifer Davis
Patrick “Mickey” Devlin
Sonya Dyer
Susan Haberstroh
Earl Jaques, Representative
Christine Kubik
Michael Noel (representing Kevin Fitzgerald)
Ariana Oregel, intern for Sonya Dyer
Ron Sarge
Tina Shockley

Unable to Attend:

Susan Bunting
Doug Crouse
Terri Hodges
Arnold Mosley, Lt. Col. (representing Lt. Col. John Preston)
David Sokola, Senator

Introductions and Welcome: The State Council for the Interstate Compact on Education for Children of Military Families (MIC3) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at the Townsend Building in Dover by State Commissioner for MIC3 Susan Haberstroh. Susan explained that this group is required to meet once a year. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes. A blank was noted in the minutes. It was requested that the blank be filled in with the words “Military Family Life Counselor.” Everyone agreed to this clarification of the minutes. Representative Earl Jaques motioned to approve the minutes with the change and Ron Sarge seconded the motion. All were in favor of the minutes as edited, the motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Review and Purpose of Council:

Susan Haberstroh reviewed the purpose of the Council. She noted that Delaware was one of the first states to sign on to this Compact and that it has been involved in rule making and activities since the beginning. The Compact was established to assist families when deployed. Particularly, this Compact works with military children and families to remove any barriers related to transitions because of deployments. For example, education records, graduation requirements, immunizations, etc.

Susan noted most complaints are handled at local level, with very few having to come up to the State Commissioner for this Compact.

Updates from the Annual National MIC 3 Meeting

Susan Haberstroh referred members to the handout packet which contained the Military Interstate Compact (MIC) Annual Report and another guidance document. She noted that these documents were also available electronically and could be shared with the group.

She also referenced a handout which listed MIC dues for each state. Delaware is a minimum participation state, so our dues are \$2000.

Ron Sarge asked if the 1,683 number listed for children ages 5-18 represented just those students in public schools. Susan said she would get back to him on whether that includes private and/or home schools.

Discussion of Military Identifier and Clarifications to Regulation

Susan Haberstroh advised the group that Delaware passed a law last General Assembly session requiring public schools to identify military-connected youth. She referred them to a handout which provided 14 Del. Code §122(b)(28), that outlines specifically what is required. She noted that Delaware is very broad in the definition it uses for these military-connected children. This is in comparison to the new federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which requires states to identify military-connected youth, but only for those with a parent (Title 10 families) on active duty.

She noted that the 2016 – 2017 is the first school year Delaware has been required to collect military-connected youth data. This year we had 3,001 students identified. Most of them are in the Caesar Rodney School District, but it is also interesting to see how many military-connected students are located across the state. Our data collection found that once schools realized they had military-connected students, they were enlightened. This legislation was definitely a positive move by legislators. ESSA requires the subgroup of military-connected students to have their academic educational outcomes reported.

Some asked if we are using active duty families only, and how we are defining military-connected. Susan noted that reserved and active duty forces are counted. This allows us to know that we have a good number of military-connected youth in our schools.

Sonya Dyer asked if she could get access to the data as to where military-connected students are located. Susan noted that per Delaware Code and FERPA, identification of the student is not a public record so individual student data could not be shared. Sonya noted that she would like to educate school staff, but in order to do that she needs to know where the military-connected students attend school. Susan noted she would talk to our legal staff to see what we can share. Susan asked if even knowing what district the military-connected students attend would be helpful. Sonya said that yes that would be a start, and suggested knowing the top five districts for military-connected students would be beneficial to her regarding being able to offer resources to schools. Susan also noted that DOE could add information related to military-connected youth to the weekly Chiefs and Charters memo in order to bring this matter (and potential resources available) to the attention of superintendents and charter heads.

Representative Jaques noted that 3,000 military-connected youth seems low. Susan noted that this was the first year we collected it, so we will see if this evolves. It was further noted that through feedback received from parents and schools, we realized we needed to amend the regulation (Regulation 932) to include disabled veterans and those killed in the line of duty. The amended regulation is out for comment right now. Susan again referenced ESSA's less inclusive definition, how the federal government is looking at these vulnerable populations, and noted that our definition is already more broad. She noted that for purposes of the federal law, there are other subgroups such as students with disabilities, English Learners, race categories, low-income, homeless and students in foster care where information is used for accountability or reporting and now military-connected has been added as a category.

Sonya asked if preschool children are included in Regulation 932. Susan noted that they are not included if the public school they attend does not have a preschool program.

Representative Jaques asked if it includes homeschooled children. It was noted that there are 20-30 families associated with the base that homeschool their children. Sonya noted that some have returned to public school, or return to public school at a transition point, deployment, etc. It is situational. (Note: Homeschooled children are not included in the data DOE receives for military-connected youth.)

Presentation: Delaware Joining Forces by Christine Kubik

Christine Kubik provided a handout that describes three agencies – Health and Social Services, Delaware Commission of Veteran Affairs and Delaware National Guard - that have come together to create Delaware Joining Forces (DJF). It is a network that provides solutions to improve the quality of life and welfare of the state's military community.

The DJF identified ten different disciplines to assist, with youth being one of them. She noted they have a steering committee to identify any issues, and that they are working with every state agency in some way. They are an advocacy group that works throughout the state and service providers, and assists military families through events, services, etc.

Some of the events and services they have provided include behavior health services, stop soldier suicide event, military spouse job fair, resumé assistance, business relations and Beau Biden Foundation training.

She further noted that anyone can participate and that there are workshops specifically for youth.

Observance of Recognition of the Military Child in the State of Delaware Department of Education

Susan noted that the Month of Military Child is April and that it is fast approaching. She noted that last year the General Assembly honored Rhonda Martell, a long-time advocate of military families, who had passed away.

The group was provided with last year's Senate Concurrent Resolution as well as a draft of this year's resolution, and encouraged to provide feedback, changes, etc. No changes were made to the draft resolution. Susan noted that last year's event was very nice, and that the Dover Air Force Base' choir sang in the Senate, which was especially poignant. Susan asked Sonya if

they would be able to return this year. Sonya indicated that there is a new middle school base principal and that she will discuss this event with her. Sonya noted that if invitation is there, they will likely be on board to perform.

Susan noted that we will need to pick a date for this year's event, and coordinate with Glenn Shipley of Senator Bushweller's Office, as well as Representative Earl Jaques in the House of Representatives. After some discussion, Representative Jaques indicated that that the first week of April, either the 4th or 6th at 2 p.m. would tentatively work.

Susan indicated that as soon as a date for the event at Legislative Hall was decided, that we would send an email to Representative Jaques, Christine Kubik and Sonya Dyer.

Susan asked the group if they wished to highlight anything special this year. Ron Sarge suggested that we honor General Vavala for all his work with the National Guard and military families. The group agreed on this idea and Susan noted that she would share this with sponsors of the resolution.

Christine noted that perhaps we can bring some National Guard kids to participate in this year's event.

Susan noted that Glenn Shipley in Bushweller's Office usually coordinates the event with the Governor's Office and the group is typically invited to meet with the Governor.

Representative Jaques noted that Senator Ennis may not be a sponsor because of some committee changes. Susan noted that we would work with Senator Bushweller, and that Representatives Carson and Jaques are typically sponsors in the House.

Susan noted that the nation MIC3 has requested pictures for the Council of State Governments (CSG) and asked if anyone had any photos from last year that they could share. Christine said that she did and will send photos to Susan. Susan will send the photos to the national MIC3 so we can be featured.

Other Discussion as needed

Jenn Davis spoke about the Capital Guardian Youth Challenge Academy. She noted that the Department partnered with the National Guard on this and was able to offer 10 slots free of charge. She noted that information was shared with school counselors, administrators, and school resource officers. Ultimately we were able to enroll nine students in that program. This program targets drop outs aged 16-19 years. Various districts from across the state participated. Seven out of the original nine students graduated from the program. They provided wonderful feedback on the program and are now working in their communities with mentors. All have earned their GED. Two of them came back as mentors, and three of them were elected into leadership roles.

The second class of the Academy is currently underway. It consists of five students. One of the challenges is to pull this program together while we work on getting a permanent person in place. Overall it is still going well. It was further noted that one of the students enlisted in the military this year.

Onto another discussion area, Sonya noted that this is the third year Dover Air Force Based (DAFB) provided a diversity and inclusion program on installation. It is focused on minority categories in grades 5-12. It provides students who may not have military experience, time to come to the base to talk to airman about potential career/active duty or civilian service. The first year they targeted ROTC units. Last year, Capital and Caesar Rodney brought 200 kids to the program. This year they are reaching out to Milford, DelCastle, Seaford, Smyrna and Woodbridge High Schools to see who else may be interested in the program. The program will be coming up in May and transportation will be provided from the schools to DAFB. The day-long event will include briefings, group sessions, tours, a military dog demonstration, ordinance demonstrations, an aerial port tour, as well as tours of a C-5 and C-17. The best part of the day is the students go back to the club, share lunch and get to interact with young airmen one-on-one. They are also trying to get middle school to high school kids who are not in an ROTC program interested in this program.

Jennifer Davis noted that she would like to have more information on this program and that school counselors should likely have that information as well.

Onto another discussion area, Sonya noted that in February the Military Child Education Coalition awarded a training for students of Caesar Rodney and Polytech High Schools. This is an ambassador program, with leadership roles held by students. Representative Jaques asked if Colonial School District was involved. Sonya explained that they currently are working with the (12) schools that have ROTC programs. They work a great deal with Caesar Rodney High School due to its proximity and high population of military students. She is hopeful that the program can expand so that any school can participate, though there may be a cost to schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.