

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
An advisory board to the Clark County Council

February 11, 2021
Meeting held remotely.

Chair: Kelly Jones

Vice Chair: Michael Harding

Secretary: Bruce Maas

Meeting called to order.

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8

American Legion #14

American Legion #44

American Legion #168

American Legion #176

American Veterans #6

DAV Chapter #4

Korean War Assoc. #321

Marine Corps League #826

VFW #4278

VFW #7824

VFW # 12028

Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

PRIMARY

Morris Geisler

Darren Wertz

Michael Gibson

John Lovejoy

Bruce Maas

Steve Slegers

Shannon Roberts

Michael Harding

Jim Jensen

Kelly Jones

Michael Langsdorf

Kevin Lawson

Bryan McGillis

Tonya Wark

ALTERNATE

Steve Slegers

John Rose

Les Schreiber

Vannis Pratt

John Stofiel

Dana Difford

Bruce Maas

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Dawn Lee**, (Clark County); **Greg Whitson; Catherine Bean, Anne Wheelock, Edward Hernandez** (Free Clinic); **Kellie Gordon**

Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call

Approval of 2021 Members-at-Large

Six members at large submitted letters of intent for 2021. **Motion made by Steve Slegers to approve all six received, seconded by John Lovejoy, all in favor, approved.**

January 14, 2020, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by **Steve Slegers** that was seconded by **Les Schreiber**

SW WA Free Clinic Veteran Dental Program

- Update was given by Catherine Bean, the new dental program manager.
- The pandemic attributed to a lower turnout for the program. However, the Veteran dental care provided in 2020 was as follows: 24 extractions; 4 fillings; 4 total restorations; 2 full sets of dentures, 1 partial; and 9 x-rays, for a total value of \$10,046 (not including dentures).

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- Clinic referred patients to the MTI (Medical Teams International) dental van; the clinic sold their van last spring because of costly repair issues.
- Question raised regarding timeline for having the van at the Stand Down. Judy Russel will coordinate with Catherine for dates needed.

Committee Reports

Appeals: No appeals

Policies and Procedures: The Policy committee met and proposed two changes to the Policies and Procedures. One change will allow additional assistance during a declared emergency and the limitation on security deposits for Veterans in a rental assistance program is removed. **Motion made by Jim Jensen to approve the policy so it can move forward to legislators for approval. Motion seconded by Bruce Maas, all in favor; motion passed.** (editor's note: additional auto repair policy change recommended and approved during Open Forum)

December 2020 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 54 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 149 Veteran visits for essentials and food. The Free Clinic assisted one Veteran, billing the fund \$2,176. WDVA had 515 fourth quarter claims with an 80% approval rating resulting in \$96,176 in VA payouts. The fund balance at the end of November was \$728,308.

2020 Year-End VAF Report

- 2020 vs. 2019 Fund services all decreased, except for burial services.
- 19 Veterans were moved out of homelessness for a total cost of \$21,920, with past debt assistance playing a large role.
- There were 7,747 Veteran visits in 2019 vs. 3,208 Veteran visits in 2020, largely due to the pandemic.
- WDVA service officer filed 1,767 claims in 2020 but had a higher percentage approved, resulting in increased VA payments to Clark County Veterans. WDVA will present at next month's meeting.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- Area code was changed to 564 in 2020, resulting in drop in calls to the Center.
- Year-end audits are being performed, the 990 Form is complete for 2020 and includes Veteran Fund and VAC.
- The VAC is getting ready for their online auction (gift baskets). Veterans by Name List (VBNL) update given by Sharon Tyre.
 - VBNL committee is made up of homeless providers and Veterans service providers to help Veterans who are homeless get into housing.
 - Currently, the VBNL is prioritizing Veterans 65 and older.

Old Business

No discussion

New Business

No discussion

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Open Forum

- Mike Gibson discussed an appeal request for Policy 3.11.1- Auto Repair, suggested raising the auto repair limit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. **Jim Jensen motioned for this to be a separate change item; no one opposed. Motion approved to raise the Policy 3.11.1 limit for auto repairs to \$2,000 for 12-months.**

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- Windhaven Therapeutic Riding Association offered a tour of their facility. Please let Samantha Whitley know if you are interested in a tour.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held virtually on March 11, 2021 at 2:55 pm.