

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

March 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

Greg Whitson

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

Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley

Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre, Mark Kriesen (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Steve Gill, Rafael Lozano** (WA Department of Veterans Affairs); **Zena Edwards** (WSU Extension) **Katherine Allen, Tom Phillips, Mallory Huerta** (WorkSource)

Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call

February 11, 2020, Meeting Minutes

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

WDVA Veteran Service Officers VSO)

Steve Gill, Veteran Services Administrator for the WDVA gave an update on the Clark County Service Officers that work out of the Center. Clark County Veteran benefits are now on par with the state average (29%) of Veterans who are receiving VA benefits compared to before the contract. In 2020, the VSOs filed 1,767 claims which resulted in over \$2M in VA benefit payments to Clark County Veterans.

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Chronic Disease/Pain Self-Management Program

Zena Edwards with Clark County WSU Extension described the disease and pain management virtual workshops that are starting soon. Classes are held through Zoom and can help people better manage physical and mental health conditions. Flyers were sent out with registration information.

Myofascial Release Treatment (MRT)

Katie Allen described how MRT can help the body heal past trauma. Katie offers sliding scale prices for Veterans and provided several resources for further information about this type of therapy.

Committee Reports

Appeals: No appeals

Policies and Procedures: Policy recommendations from February were approved by the Clark County Council on March 2.

January 2021 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 33 Veteran households in January with \$33,595 in assistance provided. The Veterans Assistance Center saw 119 Veteran visits for essentials and food. The Free Clinic billed \$649. The fund balance at the end of January was \$727,258.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- CCVAC has partnered with TMG on Operation Home Rescue. This program will provide volunteer labor to Veterans over 55 who own their home and need minor improvements such as landscaping, clean up, or accessibility modifications.
- CCVAC is looking for a new service officer to help qualify Veterans for assistance and provide federal rental assistance to respond to COVID.
- The online auction will be April 1 – 10, a link will be sent out mid-March.

Old Business

No discussion

New Business

No discussion

Open Forum

- Bruce Maas mentioned that deployed military members may not find out, or may not be able to take leave to be home with family members who are sick or dying from COVID.
- The Returning Veterans Project has volunteer service providers in our area who donate health and wellness services to Veterans. <https://returningveterans.org/>
- John Lovejoy mentioned that the Portland VA also has whole health services listed on their website at https://www.portland.va.gov/services/Whole_Health.asp

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held virtually on April 8, 2021 at 2:00 pm.