

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

July 8, 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
Gene Couture (*excused*)
Darren Wertz

Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Bruce Maas

Steve Slegers
Shannon Roberts
Michael Harding
David Daly
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 (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Mallory Huerta** (WorkSource Vancouver); **Tom Cousino** (DAV Post #4); **Nichole Peppers, Michelle Ahmed** (SWACH); **Leslie Luo** (Transitions Project)

Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call

Approval of June 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve by Les Schreiber, motion seconded by Steve Slegers, minutes approved as written.

SWACH Navigator Presentation

Michelle Ahmed and Nichole Peppers presented on the HealthConnect Hub and Pathways program. HealthConnect Hub is a Community Care Coordination System. This program:

- Identifies, screens, engages people who are likely to have multiple health and social needs (housing, healthcare, mental health, education, social services, etc.);
- Connects patients with community organizations that can help address their needs;
- Follows up to ensure people are connected and facilitates completion of activities; and
- Tracks outcomes

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The Pathways Community Hub Model works to improve whole-person health. There are 20 standardized Pathways, each with outcomes that are tracked. The program model only pays for outcomes that are achieved.

Motion made by Darren Wertz seconded by Michael Gibson, to establish a \$30,000 budget for a pilot program to be offered to Veterans in partnership with the CCVAC; motion passed. The pilot program would run for six months, then the Board will review the program's outcomes to determine if it is a good fit for Veterans. *Editor's Note: Program contract was set up for 12 months for \$30,000 to allow time for participants to achieve successful outcomes.*

Committee Reports

Appeals: There was one appeal in June, and it was approved.

Policies and Procedures: Samantha Whitley to research/review policy and procedures to determine whether to include Veteran families, including Goldstar members and widows, in eligibility.

May 2021 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 18 Veteran households in May with \$10,988 in assistance provided; there were four (4) denials. Year-to-date, six Veterans have exited homelessness, two housed in May. The Veterans Assistance Center saw 103 Veteran visits for essentials and food; 93 meals served and 1,077 calls/emails. Volunteers provided 304 hours for a value of \$8,395. The Free Clinic Dental Program served three Veterans and billed \$671. The fund balance at the end of May was \$979,145.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- CCVAC is still looking for a new building, approximately 8,000 sq ft. Construction has begun nearby making parking at CCVAC very difficult.
- CCVAC is now open from 9 to 3 pm daily for phones and at the door only. Due to Covid, there are not enough trained volunteers to allow folks to come/go in the Center. Re-training new volunteers is taking place and the Center hopes to fully re-open soon.
- CCVAC will host an online fundraiser auction Sept. 1 through Sept. 14.
- Stand Down will be October 1 and 2 at River City Church.
- Judge Parcher and Beth Robinson from Veterans Court toured the Center. Judge Parcher is very excited to get started making changes to help Veterans.
- The Center received an Art Fund Grant for \$22,500 to assist in the Center's expenses.
- Question: changes were made during Washington's State of Emergency to the policies and procedures regarding things the Center could do. It is suggested that since the Governor extended the moratorium to Sept. 30, 2021, we are still considered in a state of emergency.

Old Business - None.

New Business

Portland Stand Down is September 9 & 10, 2021, at the Memorial Coliseum. Flyers will be sent out when they become available; Veterans can attend both and are encouraged to do so.

Open Forum

Michael Harding shared that Kelly's leadership is outstanding! She works hard to represent Veterans and her level of care is awesome!

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held August 12, 2021 at 2:00 pm.