

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

June 10, 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

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); **Beth Robinson, Judge Parcher** (Clark County Veterans Therapeutic Court); **Andy Lexow** (Lifeline Connections)

Call to Order/Invocation/Roll Call

Approval of May 13, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve by Kelly Jones, motion seconded by Tonya Wark, minutes approved as written.

Veterans Therapeutic Court presentation

Beth Robinson, Court Coordinator and Judge Kristen Parcher, District Court, presented on the Veterans Therapeutic Court. Treatment court integrates justice and treatment. Veterans work through the program meeting milestones and staying sober and their charges are dismissed if they graduate the program. The court is looking for Veteran mentors and there are trainings available. The court has recently expanded service for Veterans who may not be VA-eligible. Beth will send an invite to board members to attend an upcoming online Veterans Court graduation ceremony on June 28.

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Committee Reports

Appeals: There were no appeals filed in May and one appeal in June.

Policies and Procedures: No report

April 2021 Contractor Reports & Fund Report

The fund assisted 23 Veteran households in April with \$13,591 in assistance provided. Year-to-date, five Veterans have exited homelessness, three housed in April. The Veterans Assistance Center saw 116 Veteran visits for essentials and food; 99 meals served. Volunteers provided 324 hours for a value of \$8,000. The Free Clinic served one Veteran and billed \$882. The fund balance at the end of March was \$970,064.

New VAF Funding Proposals

The board reviewed additional assistance requested from the fund to help Veterans recover from the pandemic. There is a large need for homelessness outreach, and VA claims filing. The following proposal for additional funding was discussed by the board.

CCVAC hire a full-time homeless outreach staff (12 month)	\$45,000
CCVAC increase half-time CSO to full-time	\$25,000
CCVAC purchase additional Stand Down/outreach supplies: clothing/tents, etc.	\$10,000
CCVAC increase wages for current staff	\$15,000
WDVA hire additional full-time Veteran Service Officer	\$70,000
Total	\$165,000

This funding proposal was recommended by Bruce Maas and seconded by Tonya Wark, motion approved.

Jim Jensen suggested that Veterans would also benefit from Care Coordination and will connect staff with SWACH HUB Manager to learn more about the program services and cost.

Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update

- CCVAC will host a second online auction in the late fall. Online auction this spring raised \$3,500.
- New social media chair has volunteered with the Center and is helping with outreach.
- The Stand Down will be October 1 and 2, at River City Church, 2400 E Fourth Plain Blvd, from 9 am to 1 pm. The format will be like last year, an outdoor walk/drive through.

Open Forum

- Bruce Maas let the board know that it is difficult to get military records through the facility in St. Louis because of limited staff and backlog from COVID.
- Tonya Wark mentioned that NAMI Multnomah County is doing Veteran peer support specialist training. The training is online on the weekend; highly recommended.
- Kelly Jones shared that dragon boat races are happening August 7 at the Ridgefield kayak launch. Paddle for Life supports Veteran and other nonprofit causes.

Adjourn

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