

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

April 14, 2022

**Chair: Michael Harding**

**Vice Chair: Shannon Roberts**

**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

Bob Nichols

**Thomas Phillips**

**John Lovejoy**

**Bruce Maas**

Earl Edwards

**Steve Slegers**

**Shannon Roberts**

**Michael Harding**

**Greg Whitson**

Kelly Jones

Kevin Lawson

Bryan McGillis

**Tonya Wark**

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**

John Rose

**Michael Gibson**

Vanise Pratt

Tom Cousino

Dixie Hotaling

John Stofiel

Dana Difford

**Clark County Representative: Emily Langston**

**Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre, Lori Pugh (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); Janet Snook (Clark County); Ernessia Chatman, Rudy Bielitz (Lifeline Connections); Mallory Huerta, Jennifer Frost (ESD);**

**Approval of March 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**The minutes were approved following a motion from Shannon Roberts that was seconded by Greg Whitson.**

**Introduction of Lifeline Connections' Veterans Engagement Staff and Services**

Certified behavioral health center providing services for inpatient, detoxification, residential, and other programs. Clients who identify as being veteran are assisted with navigation through VA services and benefits while addressing barriers. Windhaven equine therapy available to treat PTSD. For additional information, contact [rbielitz@lifelineconnections.org](mailto:rbielitz@lifelineconnections.org) or [echatman@lifelineconnections.org](mailto:echatman@lifelineconnections.org), or call 360.605.3241.

**Myofascial Release Treatment**

No discussion.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None.

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**Policies and Procedures:** The VAC requested a rule-change under RCW 73-08-005 to help all veterans who pass away in Clark County with burial benefits regardless of income or discharge status. Emily Langston to conduct further research for policy and procedures meeting discussion.

### **February 2022, Contractor & Fund Reports**

The fund assisted 27 Veteran households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 105 veteran visits. The Free Clinic served 1 veteran. The Fund balance at the end of February was \$663,831.

### **Veterans Assistance Center (VAC) Update**

- Lori Pugh is new president of VAC board
- Lobby is open. Hours are 9am-3pm. Beginning May 3, hours will be 9-4:30
- Sonya Wood is VAC new outreach person
- The Columbian community partnerships is running full-page advertisements for VAC
- Assistance fund purchased new computers for the Center
- In-person Stand Down scheduled for September 9, 9am-3pm, at River City Church. Donations are needed to cover increased costs. Department of Defense supplies are being received. May receive up to \$3,500 grant from DoD. Department of Labor may grant up to \$7,000. Match must be at least \$2,000 to receive this award
- Storage costs have increased
- Team *The Young and the Rest of Us* participating in Paddle for Life this year

### **Old Business**

- VVA looking to hire a part-time VSO for the Center

### **New Business**

- WorkSource job fair, 10-2 next week
- VFW 4278 had successful fundraiser at Safeway

### **Open Forum**

- Veterans Legislative Coalition supporting mental health bill for veterans
- C-Tran offers free bus passes to any veteran. Take service ID to Vancouver Mall offices
- Community Salutes ceremony available to view on CVTV
- Thanks to CVTV staff for working with VAB

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting May 12, 2022