

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

September 12, 2024

**Chair: Bob Nichols**

**Vice Chair: Megan Anderson**

**Secretary: Bruce Maas**

**Meeting called to order.**

**Roll Call:** [Bold script indicates presence at meeting; *italics indicates excused*]

**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

Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

*Bob Brennan*

**Gene Couture**

*Darren Wertz*

**Bob Nichols**

**Michael Gibson**

*John Lovejoy*

**Bruce Maas**

*Steve Slegers*

*Shannon Roberts*

**Greg Gilbertson**

**Greg Whitson**

*Kelly Jones*

**Bryan McGillis**

*Tonya Wark*

*Tamara Elam*

**Megan Anderson**

*Eli Gonzalez*

**Michael Langsdorf**

*Lloyd Bowman*

**Buck Marr**

**ALTERNATE**

*Steve Slegers*

*Charles Ingalls*

**Jonathan Frederick**

*Vanise Pratt*

*Tom Cousino*

**Ron Brandon**

*Dana Difford*

*Nick Herber*

**Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy**

**Guests:** **Lori Pugh** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center), **Judy Russel** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center), **Cindy Tanner** (VA), **Morgan Valentine** (Council for the Homeless), **Sesany Fennie-Jones** (Council for the Homeless).

**Approval of August 8, 2024, meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Ron Brandon that was seconded by Greg Gilbertson.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** None

**Nominations:** None

**Compact Act Presentation, Cindy Tanner**

- Compact Act = Financial benefit for Veterans in an acute suicidal state. 2020 legislation implemented in 2023.
- Cindy is Compact Act Coordinator - involves education, outreach, and advocacy for Veteran suicide prevention
- Requires that VA pay for all emergent suicide care for eligible Veterans (30 days inpatient, 90 days outpatient)
  - Includes emergency transport (including life flight) and some prescription medications
- Administrative (based on service time and discharge status) vs. clinical (based on clinical assessment) eligibility

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- See slides for details and potential exceptions
- 3 ways to initiate care: call the Veterans Crisis Line, call 911, show up at a local VA or facility (anyone can call)
- Post discharge care coordination: options to collaborate with VA or other facilities, harm reduction, ongoing mental health services
- Eligibility question: priority 8 Veterans are eligible
- Have up to 180 days to report to VA for bill payment
- Data shows suicide rates, PTSD, anxiety, depression decreasing

#### **Council for the Homeless Presentation: Veteran-By-Name-List Core Improvement Team**

- Veteran-By-Name-List = List of everyone in Clark County that identifies as a Veteran experiencing homelessness.
- Core improvement team = group of key stakeholders. Meet every 2 weeks to coordinate services for Veterans.
  - Clark County Veterans Assistance Center, Veterans Affairs, Transition Projects, Council for the Homeless, Partners In Careers, Vancouver Housing Authority, staff with lived experience as Veterans and of homelessness
- Goals: decrease number of Veterans falling into homelessness, increase amount of Veterans exiting homelessness into housing, improve data, focus on big picture, reach 100% on VBNL
  - Reach functional zero by March 31, 2025
- Actions: sharing knowledge, outreach, supporting troops through resources
- Contacts: Morgan Valentine ([mvalentine@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:mvalentine@councilforthehomeless.org)), Sesany Fennie-Jones ([sfennie-jones@councilforthehomeless.org](mailto:sfennie-jones@councilforthehomeless.org))

#### **July 2024, Contractor & Fund reports**

- CCVAC: 38 Veterans served in July, services totaling \$21,204.61. 28 male veterans, 10 female veterans, 0 widows, 0 other veterans. 11 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 595 visits to the center for essentials and food, 980 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 39 food boxes provided. 3,238 total pounds of food. 937 volunteer hours, totaling \$37,742 in value.
- Free Clinic: 4 Veterans served in July. Services totaled \$3,872 in value; billed \$3,853.93
- VAF Fund: July revenue: \$8,810.98; expenditures: \$93,165.17; fund balance: \$610,943.63.
- Request for CCVAC to submit budget request by August next year.

#### **Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update**

- Stand Down is coming up on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Have received donations from 2 organizations, hoping other organizations will donate and attend the Stand Down. Gala Video shown,

#### **Old Business**

- N/A

#### **New Business**

- Veteran's Advisory Board Handbook revision discussion. Discussion included definition of lobbying and VAB media communication expectations. Will be finished next meeting.

#### **Open Forum and Public Comment**

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting October 10th, 2024.