

Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

An advisory board to the Clark County Council

June 12, 2025

Chair: Bob Nichols

Vice Chair: Kelly Jones

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
Charles Ingalls
Bob Nichols
Michael Gibson
John Lovejoy
Bruce Maas
Patrick Locke
Steve Slegers
Shannon Roberts
Greg Gilbertson
Greg Whitson
Kelly Jones
Bryan McGillis
Tonya Wark
Tamara Elam
Michael Langsdorf
Lloyd Bowman
Buck Marr
Joe Fettig

ALTERNATE

Darren Wertz
Jonathan Frederick
Vanise Pratt
Roy Day
Earl Edwards
Thomas Brandt
Stewart Bauer
Nick Herber

Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy, Nooreen Ebrahim

Guests: Judy Russel (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center)

Approval of May 8, 2025 meeting minutes

The minutes were approved following a motion by Buck Marr that was seconded by Steve Slegers. Approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Appeals: None

Policies and Procedures: None

Nominations: None

2024 Community Needs Assessment Presentation, Abby Molloy

The Community Needs Assessment (CNA) is completed every 3 years as a Community Action Agency requirement. This report is used to collect and analyze data of low-income members of the community. Community outreach through community forums and a survey were completed to collect data of what the most current community needs were at the time.

The results of the 2024 CNA survey were discussed, including data regarding race, gender identity, housing status, income level, and if a family member had served in the armed forces. The majority of respondents identified as female, white, and between the ages of 25-44. The main barrier for people meeting their needs of housing, physical health, behavioral health, and more was not knowing how and where to access services. Compared to other demographics,

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veterans were less likely than other participants to identify food assistance, asset building, utility assistance, employment services, and childcare as a community need.

Key recommendations from the survey were to provide financial assistance and education, put policies in place to support low-income renters, expand access to healthcare and mental health services, and focus on efforts that address the root causes of poverty instead of treating its symptoms. County staff is beginning to work on the next CNA and will need assistance from the board to spread awareness of community outreach efforts.

Questions and Comments:

Q: How many surveys were sent out to the community?

A: An estimate of thousands of surveys were sent, but difficult to count as it was available electronically.

Q: What percentage of respondents were female? Does this skew the results?

A: Fifty three percent of respondents identified as female. There is likely a skew due to this, which is why having more responses to future surveys is important.

Q: How are language and cultural barriers different?

A: Some people are bilingual and do not need language services but may require cultural services.

C: With dental clinics being short staffed and the high cost of dental procedures, it is understandable why dental services were an identified community need.

C: It is apparent that people do not know where to go to access services.

Q: What steps have been taken to inform the public of the services provided in Clark County?

A: Outreach done by 211 info and information shared by partnering agencies.

Q: What is 211 info?

A: 211 info is the local information and referral hotline for services provided in Clark County.

Q: When will the next survey be available?

A: It will begin in January 2026. with more information to come before the board in December 2025.

C: It is likely this information was skewed towards females due to females being more likely to fall below the poverty line.

April 2025 Contractor & Fund Reports

- CCVAC: 54 Veterans served in April, services totaling \$3,291.06. 50 male veterans, 3 female veterans, 1 widow, 0 other veterans. 15 denials, 0 subject to appeal. 693 visits to the center for essentials and food, 1,102 sack breakfasts and lunches provided and 70 food boxes provided. 5,100 total pounds of food. 560.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$22,577 in value.
- Free Clinic: 1 Veterans served in April. Services totaled \$400 in value; billed \$739.11.
- VAF Fund April: Revenue: \$331,691.96; expenditures: \$74,029.11; fund balance: \$696,859.85, about a \$257,662.74 increase in the fund from last month.

Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Updates, Judy Russel

- The Boots, Chaps, and Cowboy Hats Gala is June 21st from 4-9 p.m. at the Ilani Casino. Board members are encouraged to attend.
- The center will be signing a new lease this month, with a final walkthrough being done June 13.

Questions and Comments:

C: There has been misinformation about the benefactor behind the new CCVAC building, but they and the community are supporting the acquisition of the new CCVAC building.

Old Business

Bruce Maas shared that the VFW service office is now up and running as of May of this year.

New Business

None presented.

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Open Forum and Public Comment

- Bruce Maas discussed multiple articles in the Columbian that highlighted Veteran associations at a local level.
- Bob Nichols shared that about 5 years ago AL #168 was losing membership, and now they are having an influx of new members, many of them younger. Several new chapters have been added.
- Greg Gilbertson will be taking a leadership position in VFW #7824, and echoed the sentiment that having younger members breathes new life into the association. They will be having a 4th July barbeque if anyone is interested in joining..
- Abby Molloy reminded the board that there will not be a July meeting.
- Thomas Brandt from VFW #4278 shared that they were approved to use but will no longer be using the Black Pearl for a Fourth of July celebration. If other associations are interested, please reach out to him and Shannon Roberts.

***Motion to adjourn by Greg Gilbertson and seconded by Llyod Bowman. Approved unanimously.
Next meeting August 14, 2025.***