

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

*An advisory board to the Clark County Council*

February 13, 2020

1300 Franklin Street, Room #680  
Vancouver, Washington

**Chair: Kelly Jones**

**Vice Chair: David Daly**

**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**  
**Dixie Hotaling**  
**Darren Wertz**  
**Bob Nichols**  
**Michael Gibson**  
**John Lovejoy**  
  
Earl Edwards  
**Steve Slegers**  
Shannon Roberts  
**Bruce Maas**  
**David Daly**  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Kelly Jones**  
Kevin Lawson  
Bryan McGillis  
**Michael Langsdorf**  
**Jim Jensen**  
**Tiffany Plous**

## **ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**  
Karla Bean  
John Rose  
  
**Les Schreiber**  
Vannis Pratt  
  
John Stofiel  
**Dana Difford**  
Michael Harding  
**Doyle Flemming**  
Tom Mielke

**Clark County Representative: Samantha Whitley**

**Guests: Judy Russel, Sharon Tyre** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Billy Anderson, Jeff Standard** (Guests); **Michael Torres** (Clark County Community Services) **Tonya Wark** (Partners In Careers)

## **January 9, 2020, Meeting Minutes**

**The minutes were approved on motion by Bob Nichols that was seconded by Steve Slegers.**

## **Legislative Updates**

- Senator Wilson is sponsoring SB5149, known as the Tiffany Hill Act. This bill enhances electronic monitoring of people who are bound by restraining order, sending phone alerts to victims in real time when the person is too close. The bill is scheduled for public hearing in the House on Feb. 20. Contact state representatives.
- Rainier Springs, a new behavioral health facility in Salmon Creek, is now in-network for VA.
- SB5762 supports awarding three percent of all procurements to veteran-owned businesses from state agencies.

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- SB5890 provides tax exemptions for disabled veterans.
- SB6199 modifies the qualifying income for the senior and veteran property tax exemption to be adjusted for inflation.
- SB6338 adds preference points in scoring criteria for public exams for employment to be given to military surviving spouses.
- A senate and a house bill seek to remove the Veterans Assistance Fund from the general fund levy.
- Any Veteran who is 50% or more disabled can apply for free license plates and vehicle registration for one vehicle. To receive the benefit for lifetime, Veteran must be 100% disabled.

### **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** Two appeals were received and approved.

One appeal was for a Veteran who is temporarily homeless due to his rental unit being deemed unlivable. A vote was taken on allowing the Veteran additional housing assistance. Vote passed. For the second appeal, a landlord cashed a check to allow a Veteran to move-in. A lease was never signed and Veteran never moved in. The Center is attempting to recover the funds.

**Policies and Procedures:** No discussion.

### **December 2019 Contractor Reports & Fund Report**

The fund assisted 93 Veteran households and seven homeless households. The Veterans Assistance Center received 780 Veteran visits, including 257 visits from Veterans who are homeless. The Free Clinic charged the fund \$3,366 for care for two Veterans. In the fourth quarter, the WDVA service officer filed 479 claims, of which 79 percent were approved, returning over \$342,000 to Veterans. The Fund balance at the end of December was \$522,107.

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

- The homeless fund has housed 41 Veterans since July 1.
- The next annual fundraiser, Boots, Chaps, and Cowboy Hats is April 3, 2020 at ilani. Kelly Jones is the keynote speaker. Table reservations or individual tickets may be made through Event Brite.
- The Stand Down is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 26, on the VA campus.
- A feasibility study for conducting a capital campaign towards relocating the Center is being evaluated. Funding of \$36,000 in general fund money needs to be requested from the County Council through a staff report. **A motion to recommend the request for funding to the County Council for the CCVAC to hire a consultant for a capital campaign feasibility study was made by Dixie Hotaling and seconded by John Lovejoy. Motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

None at this time.

### **New Business**

None at this time.

### **Open Forum**

- The Veterans Village Gala is in March at The Black Pearl in Camas.
- Vancouver VA pharmacy will not honor prescriptions written by doctors not in the system.
- Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions six-week workshop brochures available.
- Resource Guide for Veterans is available.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2020.