

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
February 23, 2011**

**Chair: Morris Giesler
Secretary: Michael Gibson**

**Vice Chair: Robert Nichols
Contract Service Officer: CRMHS**

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1401

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

<u>POST</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>
40 et 8	Morris Giesler	Jan Wojciechowski
American Legion #14	Jerry Keese	Peggy Sheehan
American Legion #44	Darren Wertz	Bo Russell
American Legion #168	Robert Nichols	Mark Woods
American Legion #176	Michael Gibson	Philip Yasson
American Legion #189	Clinton Nelson	Charlotte Elznic
American Legion #208	Brad Hunt	Robert Blevens
DAV Chapter #4	Bruce Maas	Michael Riley
Marine Corps League #826	Lou Baste	Ron Brandon
VFW #4278	Stephen Stetson	Robert Hitchcock
VFW #7824	Roy Billings	Ronald Frisbie
VFW #12028	Ray Saranto	
Vietnam Vets #512	Greg Whitson	Jerry Keen
	<u>Members at Large</u>	
	Thomas Dombeck	
	Kevin Lawson	
	Bill Allman	
	Emily Stoutsenberger	

* Highlighted posts have not returned a completed LOA for 2011, but were active members in 2010.

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

**Samantha Whitley, Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce – Community Services
Shauna McCloskey and Judge Zimmerman – Clark County District Court**

GUESTS

George Hunt and Robert Blevins – AL 208; Pat Stryker and Youri Archer – CRMHS; James Becker – VFW 7824; John Russell – Veterans Assistance Center;

High Fund Users: Morris gave some statistics describing veterans that have used the Veterans Assistance Fund. He explained that a veteran using the assistance one time averaged \$435 in assistance. Veterans using the assistance two times averaged \$585 in assistance. Veterans using the assistance seven or more times receive an average of \$1,570 in assistance. Emily Stoutsenberger mentioned that in her program at PIC they use an Action Plan. The program participant must fill out the goals they wish to

achieve to stop using the assistance. She then gives them referrals and steps on how to achieve those goals. If the participant doesn't follow through, they are not allowed to use her program until they complete the steps. Morris mentioned that there has been a brief discussion on making the assistance available every 2 years instead of every year; however food and transportation assistance would still be available annually.

Community Presentations

Judge Zimmerman and Shauna McCloskey from Clark County District Court gave a presentation to update the committee on the Veterans Therapeutic Court they presented to the VRC last year. The specialty court provides treatment for mental health and alcohol/drug abuse in lieu of jail time and probation. They have a 30 member advisory board compiled of veterans and professionals in Clark County. Shauna also explained the peer mentoring program they are beginning. Peers will be paired with program participants to help them make better choices. Please see the PowerPoint presentation and flyers for more information emailed on February 24, 2011 from Samantha Whitley.

Meeting Minutes: Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on January 26, 2011. Motion seconded by Steve Stetson and passed.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto mentioned that there were four appeals; three were approved and one denied. There is some confusion on the number of committee members. Ron Brandon mentioned he would like to be on the committee which would bring the group to five members. Samantha verified that the by-laws state the appeals committee is to be made up of three member's total.

Budget: Morris distributed a proposed budget for the use of funds in 2011. He asked for a motion to approve the budget. Steve Stetson motioned to accept the budget, seconded by Thomas Dombeck. There was much discussion on the County expenses and contracted costs to the fund before it was accepted.

Strategic Plan: Morris mentioned that Peggy is the chair of this sub-committee. There have been no meetings scheduled as of yet.

Policies & Procedures: Jerry Keen mentioned that he has thoroughly reviewed the Policies and Procedures. The sub-committee has yet to meet, but will schedule a time after the completion of the VRC meeting today.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed the January report. There were 123 veterans served for a total of \$35,423. Pat Stryker mentioned that the offices will be fully staffed starting March 1st; they have hired Karla Bean to assist Youri full time. There was some discussion on the amount of funds used for transportation. Emily Stoutsenberger gave Youri a few resources for programs that also provide bus passes. There was also an error on the total amounts of each category on the reports. A corrected version was emailed to the committee on Thursday, February 24th.

Sam also distributed a report from the Free Clinic regarding dental services. The Free Clinic served 14 veterans for total service value of \$4,725; however the VAF will only be charged \$1,200. Also attached

to the report is an article about the program from The Columbian. There was some discussion about missed appointments; as the program continues, the scheduling of appointments will be fixed.

Another report Sam discussed is the Revenue and Expense Report. There is not much information reported due to the beginning of the year. There was some discussion on when CRMHS turns in their invoice and how long it takes the County to review and enter the information into the accounting program. It is not always possible to have the previous month's billing from CRMHS and Free Clinic on the R&E report; Sam will provide the monthly invoice amount on the reports from now on, however this is not always accurate. Once invoices are fully processed, the R&E Report will have the corrected amount.

Old Business:

VAC: John Russell mentioned that they will be able to start moving into the rented space this weekend and expect to start providing services mid-March. They are working on linking with other organizations to let them know about the new center and provide referral services. John also mentioned that the meeting tonight has been moved to Monday, February 28th. Greg Whitson recommended having an accredited service officer at the VAC to assist in getting VA benefits. Thomas Dombeck motioned to move the county paid service officer to the VAC, seconded by Jerry Keese. There was discussion regarding the logistics of having a service officer at the new center and abiding by HIPAA laws. Pat also mentioned space, computer and telephone requirements that would need to be met. Another hurdle is breaking the lease on the existing space. Moving the county paid service officer would require approval by the County Commissioners. Steve Stetson recommended tabling the discussion until further information can be obtained. Because the committee lost quorum, there was no vote on the motion.

Project Homeless Connect: Sam briefly went over the report from Project Homeless Connect. Out of the 321 people that attended the event, 41 were veterans.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

Open Forum: There were no discussions during open forum due to time constraints.

Meeting adjourned at 1622 hours.

Next meeting: March 23, 2011 at 1400 hours.