

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
June 9, 2010

Chair: Morris Giesler
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: CRMHS

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1402

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #122
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #189
American Legion #208
DAV Chapter #4
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #1927
VFW #4278
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

American Legion 5th District
Creekside Mortgage
DSHS Veteran's Project
WorkSource Vancouver

PRIMARY

Morris Giesler
Karla Bean
Richard Puttkamer
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
Clinton Nelson
Brad Hunt
Bruce Maas
Lou Baste
Jim Chisholm
Stephen Stetson
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson
Members at Large
Thomas Dombeck
Kevin Lawson
Bill Allman
Sally Garcia

SECONDARY

Jan Wojciechowski
Peggy Sheehan
Michael Edwards
Richard Langenbach
Philip Yasson
Charlotte Elznic
Robert Blevens
Michael Riley
Ron Brandon
Eino Suomi
Robert Hitchcock
Bill Romine
Jerry Keen

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Jerry Keesee – 5th District; Pat Stryker and Mike Jajan – CRMHS; John Russell – Veterans Assistance Center; Roxanne Boose – AL 176; Fran Tobias – SWVBRC

Meeting Minutes: Steve Stetson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on May 12, 2010. Motion seconded by Tom Dombeck and passed.

Community Presentation: Bill Allman with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) talked to the committee about the Washington Veterans Benefit Enhancement Project that started eight years ago as a pilot project in Clark County. Bill uses access to Medicaid information not available to the

public and partners with the WDVA to cross-reference benefits and services using the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). To date, the program has saved Washington State over \$16 million in public assistance (?) and helped hundreds of veterans and their families get access to benefits and services.

CRMHS Request for Additional 0.5 FTE: Pat Stryker with Columbia River Mental Health Services presented a proposal to the committee to add an additional 0.5 FTE Program Assistant to the existing Case Management Officer contract. She explained that the extra time would ensure that there was always someone in the offices when Mike needed to perform duties outside the office. The increased 0.5 FTE would add \$17,885 to the existing contract. Morris expressed concern that he has received complaints from veterans that have been in to see the Case Management Officer, but no one was in either of the offices. He would like to table the discussion until the July meeting and do some research on the situation. Bill Romine requested Morris supply this information to the committee before the next meeting to give the committee time to review his findings before the discussion.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto stated there was one appeal submitted, however they weren't eligible for services.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed the case management report for May. She mentioned that 56 veterans received services, mostly for rent and transportation assistance. Samantha also mentioned that Mike documented 16 hours of counseling in May, double that of April. Mike explained that one outreach meeting he attended was at the YWCA for a new program providing cell phone services for eligible individuals. This is a program that has been successful on the east coast.

Old Business: Karla Bean briefly discussed the Veterans Stand Down. They are having meetings twice a month; the next meeting will be on June 21st at the Elks at 1800. She will bring a flyer for the Stand Down to the July VRC meeting. Karla also mentioned that they are in need of volunteers and "stuff" for the event.

John Russell mentioned that there hasn't been much change in the progress of the Veterans Assistance Center.

Open Forum: Several events will be taking place this summer:

- Flag Day celebration at Fort Vancouver on June 14th
- Rededication of the Blue Star Memorial at the Covington House June 21st
- First service at the Korean War monument on the VA campus on June 25th
- VFW Convention at the Red Lion Quay June 17th through 19th
- Kids Parade at Fort Vancouver on July 4th
- Traveling War Memorial will be in La Center August 4th through 8th

Bruce Maas informed the committee that the DAV has a new commander, Mike Riley.

Meeting adjourned at 1544.

Next meeting: July 14, 2010 at 1400.