

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
March 10, 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
Mark Woods
Jerry Keen

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Pete Munroe, Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Jerry Keesee – 5th District; Gib Ridout – AL 14; Tim Rydell – AL 14; Donald Crouch – AL 27; Mike Willbur – Washington DVA; Pat Stryker and Tiffanie Eilers – CRMHS; Beth Brown - MOAA

Meeting Minutes: Mike Gibson noted a correction to the February 10th minutes that William Lipp's name was misspelled as Liphold. Steve Stetson motioned to approve the minutes with the change. Motion seconded by Peggy Sheehan and passed.

Community Presentation: Mike Willbur, a nationally accredited service officer with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, presented the Veterans Incarcerated Project (VIP). He distributed a

presentation packet that explains the program history, what departments and organizations are involved and who qualifies for the program. Mike discussed the intake/interview process with potential participants and the referral resources he offers. He also explained that there is not a VIP program at Larch Correctional Facility, but inmates have heard of the program and contact him for services. Please see the attached presentation for more information.

Committee Reports

Strategic Planning: Bob Nichols explained that he had a brief meeting with Ray Saranto after the last VRC meeting. They discussed how the Clark County Veterans Assistance Center falls in line with the Strategic Plan, how existing members could help new members as a mentor, and making sure that all VRC primary and secondary representatives have an updated VRC binder.

Appeals: Ray Saranto stated there were no appeals to discuss.

Budget: A budget was distributed in conjunction with the Revenue and Expenditures report that showed proposed funding for the Veterans Assistance Center and the Veterans Incarcerated Project. The Veterans Assistance Center was approved by the VRC in February and there was no discussion of funding the Veterans Incarcerated Project during budget discussions. Pete was asked when the Veterans Assistance Fund received allocations from the tax collections and he noted that it was twice a year, in April and October. Ray asked if it was time to request the County Commissioners raise the taxes collected for this fund, but with the economic times, the committee agreed that this should wait.

Charlotte Elznic read a letter from Tim Hopkin, Chief of Police of La Center, looking for support for the American Veterans Traveling Tribute. This event includes an eight by 380 foot replica of the Memorial Wall, a motorcycle escort into town, ceremonies each day of the four day event (August 4 – 8 at La Center Park) and supplies for visitors to trace names from the wall. Charlotte explained that they have currently raised \$2,500 for the event that is projected to cost \$9,700 total.

Nominations: There are no offices to be filled. The elections process will begin in September.

Policies & Procedures: Richard Langenbach handed out a document with notes about the Policies and Procedures that he and Mike Jajan would like further clarification on. Richard also handed out a section of a previous version of the Policies and Procedures that shows Clark County Roles and Responsibilities that has been deleted from the current version. He asked that this section be reinstated. It was explained that this section was removed as it is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the VRC and Clark County. County staff will make sure a copy of the MOU is distributed at the next meeting.

Finally, Richard distributed a section the Policies and Procedures Committee would like reviewed and added to the By-Laws regarding Member-At-Large qualifications. The committee will review the information and discuss it at a future meeting.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed the case management report. She also introduced Tiffanie Eilers, the part-time assistant to the Veterans Case Management Officer. Tiffanie explained that she works in the middle of the day to cover while Mike is on lunch or out helping

veterans. Pat Stryker was available to answer questions regarding Mike's training and the hours the office is open. She explained that there will be someone in the office from 0800 to 1700 each day and that Mike is receiving ongoing training to assist him as the case management officer. She mentioned that he also received CRMHS orientation trainings as he is now a CRMHS employee. Morris mentioned that he would like to work with Pat, Mike and Tiffanie on referral services they offer.

Old Business: Bob Nichols gave an update on the Veterans Assistance Center project in Sally Garcia's absence. He briefly mentioned that they have their Articles of Incorporation and are still awaiting their nonprofit status. The committee is also still looking for a location to house the program. It was mentioned that Evergreen Memorial is no longer using their administration building and that it might be available for use.

New Business: Pete discussed a proposal from the Council for the Homeless to help pay for the Project Homeless Connect event they offer each year. The request is for \$2,500 with the understanding that any unused funds would be returned to the Veterans Assistance Fund. The project provides several services for the homeless such as hair cuts, assistance with housing programs, DSHS application assistance, eye exams, vaccinations and many others. Last year the event helped approximately 300 people, with 30 of them documented as veterans. Some concern was expressed by the committee that the funds would be used to help others besides veterans. Pete explained that CFTH will document that the funds from the VRC went to help veterans only. Pete also mentioned that Commissioner Boldt is in support of the event. Peggy motioned to approve \$2,500 for Project Homeless Connect, seconded by Clinton Nelson. A vote by post passed the motion nine to three.

Mike Willbur submitted a letter to Morris regarding a proposal for \$80,000 to expand the services he is providing under his contract with Clark County and the Veterans Incarcerated Project. When asked if he had discussed any options with CRMHS, Mike said that there were conversations, but no conclusions had been made. Steve Stetson made a motion to review the proposal, seconded by Mike Gibson. The committee verified that this would be additional funds on top of the CRMHS Case Management Officer Contract and the funds proposed for the Veterans Incarcerated Project mentioned on Morris' budget. Mike explained that these funds would expand the services his program provides. The committee expressed concern that this proposal would duplicate services already being provided. Sam explained that any contract over \$25,000 would need to go out to bid in an RFP process. An RFP process was just completed in December 2009, and the WDVA applied for this funding but was not selected by the review committee. She also explained that WDVA cannot divert funds from CRMHS other than subcontracting with them. Bob Nichols proposed an amendment to the motion to table the discussion until a meeting can be set up with Mike and his supervisors to discuss the proposal in more detail.

Open Forum: Pete briefly mentioned that more Veterans Therapeutic Courts are being started across the country. This alternative court program was presented at February's meeting.

Karla Bean reminded the committee that the 2010 Stand Down Committee would be meeting Monday, March 15th at 1800.

Meeting adjourned at 1537.

Next meeting: April 14, 2010 at 1400.