

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
November 9, 2011**

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

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

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1411

Roll Call: [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

POST

40 et 8
American Legion #14
American Legion #27
American Legion #44
American Legion #168
American Legion #176
American Legion #208
American Veterans #6
DAV Chapter #4
Marine Corps League #826
VFW #4278
VFW #7824
VFW #12028
Vietnam Vets #512

PRIMARY

**Morris Giesler
Jerry Keesee
Elisa Cotton
Darren Wertz
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
George Hunt
Richard Alvarez
Bruce Maas
Lou Baste
Jenny McCullough
Roy Billings
Ray Saranto
Greg Whitson**

SECONDARY

Jan Wojciechowski
Peggy Sheehan
Rodney Stallard
Bo Russell
Mark Woods
Philip Yasson
Bob Blevins
Richard Gabriel
Michael Riley
Ron Brandon
Gary Dowler
Richard Alvarez
Skip Benge
Jerry Keen

Members at Large

**Thomas Dombeck
Kevin Lawson
Emily Stoutsenberger**

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Youri Archer and Misty Pellagali – CRMHS; Wes Forgey – AL #27; Jim Moore – AL #44; Vince Meyers – VFW #12028

Meeting Minutes: Lou Baste motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 26, 2011. Motion seconded by Kevin Lawson and passed.

CRMHS Additional Budget Information and Contract Modification Request

Misty Pellagali, program manager with Columbia River Mental Health, explained that the Veterans Assistance Fund program is facing a shortfall in their 2011 budget due to a 42% increase in the number

of veterans served over the last two months. She also explained that 76% of the total contract amount goes directly to veterans while the remaining amount is used for staff, administration and operation. Samantha distributed a spreadsheet from Clark County finance staff. The spreadsheet includes past months actual costs which were used to project November and December costs which indicate an approximate \$50,000 shortfall. Without modifying the contract, services to veterans will be stopped until the beginning of next year. Projections for next year's budget will require changes to the Policies and Procedures due to an estimated increase of 18% in veterans returning from the war drawdown. The P&P Committee will develop a proposal for the VRC to review. In 2010, the average services each veteran received equaled \$685. In 2011, the number of veterans served increased dramatically and the cost per veteran decreased to \$610. Ray motioned to increase the 2011 CRMHS contract by \$50,000, seconded by George Hunt with the clarification that the budget for 2012 is looked at more closely before it is approved. Motion approved.

Policies and Procedures Dental Service Review and Recommendations

Jerry Keen mentioned that the committee will be looking at the feasibility of increasing the income eligibility for the dental program to 200% of the poverty level with the hope that more veterans will qualify for the service. Samantha informed the VRC that the P&P committee will review all of the policies and procedures and bring any recommended changes to the board for approval at one time.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto informed the group that there were no new appeals since the last meeting.

Nominations: Bob mentioned that there have been no new nominations for the chair, vice-chair or secretary positions. Elections will be held in December for officers to start in January.

Contractor Reports: Samantha reminded the committee that with the new earlier meeting date the reports will be one month behind and be distributed next month. She also informed the group that the fund received approximately \$144,000 from property tax collections.

Old Business:

- ♦ Sam reminded the committee that the AARP is conducting a Safe Driver Training course on November 28th and 29th at the Public Service Center in the Training Room. Rebecca will send an email reminder to the committee.
- ♦ Sam informed the group that she attended the SW Washington Veterans Housing Summit. Eileen Devine with Veterans Affairs discussed their five year plan to end veteran homelessness. Sam also mentioned that there are approximately 100 VASH vouchers aimed at chronically homeless veterans in Vancouver. There is a new pilot program that was also discussed called TeleHealth. It is designed to remotely meet with doctors instead of having to go into the doctor's office. The WDVA also presented information that about half of the combat troops are National Guard servicemen and women. They mentioned that there are more instances of PTSD and TBI with a 90% survival rate with wounds that would have been lethal in Vietnam.
- ♦ Sam also mentioned that she spoke with Steven Gill with the WDVA regarding returning veterans. He mentioned that there should not be a severe influx of returning veterans at any given time. Approximately 600-800 veterans return to Washington State each month. He was not able to break that number down by county; however, Sam will get him a list of zip codes so he can provide data from the past year for Clark County to help us plan for 2012.
- ♦ Tom Dombeck informed the committee that he went to the Council for the Homeless for

resources for veterans that are looking for a place to park their RVs and trailers. Unfortunately there are no resources in Clark County. He mentioned that Portland has a “homeless camp” and asked the committee if this is something the VRC could do to help. Roy Billings expressed concern about purchasing and maintaining property being outside the realm of the VRC. Morris recommended Tom do some research and put a proposal together that the VRC could endorse and take to the Board of County Commissioners.

- ♦ Jerry Keen mentioned the Hunting with American Heroes trip went well and they will have another trip in the spring.

New Business: Morris informed the committee that service officer training will be held this Saturday.

Open Forum:

- ♦ Roy informed the committee that the Vancouver City Council has designated the 4th Avenue overpass as a Wall of Remembrance and will be renamed the VFW Plaza. VFW Post #7824 will take over maintenance and expects to recruit volunteers 2-4 times per year for cleanup.
- ♦ Jerry Keese mentioned that there will be a steering committee on November 14th at 1000 hours at 40 et 8 to form a Korean Veterans War Association chapter. There are currently three units in Washington; however, only one is active.
- ♦ Morris mentioned that the VAC is planning a fundraiser for Friday, April 13th at the 40 et 8.
- ♦ Some Veterans Day events include:
 - Spaghetti dinner at the Barracks;
 - Post 14 luncheon;
 - Yacolt veterans recognition at 1100 hours with a free taco lunch from 1300-1500 hours;
 - Post 44 Posting of the Colors at 0700 hours;
 - Service at the Cemetery at 1100 hours; and
 - Change of Command Ceremony.
- ♦ Jerry updated the committee on Cory Doane. He will be arriving at the Portland Airport on November 18th at 1000 hours.
- ♦ Five Guys Burger and Fries will be hosting a benefit for the VAC on November 16th. They will donate 15% of sales for anyone that brings in a flyer discussing the event. Flyers can be printed from the VAC website.

Meeting adjourned at 1531 hours.

Next meeting: December 14, 2011 at 1400 hours.