

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
October 27, 2010

Chair: Morris Giesler
Secretary: Robert Nichols

Vice Chair: Michael Gibson
Contract Service Officer: CRMHS

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1403

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

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
Mark Woods
Philip Yasson
Charlotte Elznic
Robert Blevens
Michael Riley
Ron Brandon
Eino Suomi
Robert Hitchcock
Bill Romine
Jerry Keen

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Jerry Keesee – 5th District; Pat Stryker – CRMHS; John Russell – Veterans Assistance Center; Mike Benko and Jose Zamora - WorkSource

Meeting Minutes: Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 22, 2010. Motion seconded by Ray Saranto and passed.

Committee Reports

Nominations: Bob Nichols informed the committee that the current nominations for 2011 are: Morris Giesler for Chair, Michael Gibson for Vice Chair and Robert Nichols for Secretary. Bob mentioned that the Vice Chair position, held by Mike Gibson for the last several years, has a two year term-limit according to the By-laws. The group discussed having Mike and Bob switch positions, but Mike was not present to give his approval. The committee recommended tabling this discussion until the next meeting. It was also suggested that an email go out to the committee requesting more nominations.

Policies & Procedures: Morris Giesler mentioned that he, Bob Nichols and Jerry Keen had a meeting to discuss tasks for the Policies and Procedures committee. They discussed reviewing the By-laws for possible updates and re-instating language in the Policies and Procedures that had previously been removed. Morris also mentioned that Jerry is looking for volunteers for the Policies and Procedures committee.

Morris also mentioned that the committee was looking at expanding the definition of indigent veteran used by the VRC. Currently, the committee is using the definition from the state RCW 73.08.005 (3) stating that “‘indigent’ means a person who is defined as such by the county legislative authority using one or more of the following definitions: (b) Receiving an annual income, after taxes, of up to one hundred fifty percent or less of the current federally established poverty level, or receiving an annual income not exceeding a higher qualifying income established by the county legislative authority.”

Morris would like to include section (c) that states “Unable to pay reasonable costs for shelter, food, utilities, and transportation because his or her available funds are insufficient.” There was some discussion about defining “reasonable” and if this would be for the Veterans Assistance Center, the Veterans Assistance Fund or both. It was decided that the Policies and Procedures committee would look further into this suggestion. Peggy Sheehan and Greg Whitson volunteered to be on the committee along with Bob Nichols, Jerry Keen and Samantha Whitley.

Appeals: Ray Saranto mentioned that there were no appeals in process.

Case Management Report: Samantha Whitley distributed the September report. There were 89 veterans served and 23 denials. Services totaled \$28,158.87. Also attached is Mike’s case management report for review.

Another report Sam discussed included the survey responses received for the VAF services. Respondents are asked to rate several questions from 1 (worst) to 4 (best). The report shows the responses received and the average for each question, all at 3.0 or above.

Sam also distributed the Revenue and Expense report through September. She reminded the committee that tax revenues are collected in October and will be included in the report for November. When asked about the increase to the Operating Expense, Sam said she wasn’t sure, but would look into and send an email to the committee.

Old Business: John Russell discussed how the members of the VRC have worked together to start the annual Stand Down events two years ago. He mentioned working with community partners that have the expertise in certain areas and that are already providing needed services, such as Council for the Homeless. John asked that the members of the VRC work together with the County to get the Veterans Assistance Center up and running to help reach the goals set by the VRC.

Morris gave an overview of the CRMHS Contract Committee's findings. He mentioned that they reviewed several sections of the contract. A letter was sent to CRMHS requesting clarification on several concerns the committee had including: the definition of case manager, the role of each position, compliance with the Policies and Procedures, dealing with language proficiencies, accuracy of applications and office hours. Morris mentioned that CRMHS responded to each of their concerns and feels that services have improved, but there is still more that can be done. There was some discussion on providing case management and it was agreed that the Strategic Plan should be reviewed and updated.

Sam presented the revised Dental Van program provided by the Free Clinic of SW Washington. She mentioned that their budget includes paying for a dentist only if a volunteer cannot be found. The program will provide emergency dental services including fillings and extractions; teeth cleaning and other more involved procedures will not be performed. The dental van will be available two days per month for seven hours. The Free Clinic estimates that 12-13 veterans can be seen each day. Veterans will need to be referred to the dental van by the case management officer after their eligibility is confirmed. Sam explained that 288 veterans should be seen per year at a cost of \$124.42 per veteran. She also mentioned that the Free Clinic would provide monthly invoices and reports to the County as part of the contract for service. Steve Stetson motioned to approve the dental van service, seconded by Peggy Sheehan and approved by the committee. The contract will start January 1, 2011.

New Business: There will be several Veterans Day events in November including:

- ◆ Historical Society is hosting a museum day on Monday, November 1st.
- ◆ Veterans Parade on November 6th at the barracks. Sign in between 0800 and 1030 hours. Stepping off begins at 1100 hours.
- ◆ Korean Society is hosting American Veterans Night at the Water Resource Center starting at 1800 hours. There will be free dinner, cultural costumes and dancing.
- ◆ There will be a convoy from the Clark County Fairgrounds to Wilsonville on Sunday, November 7th starting at 1100 hours. Medals will be presented along with a salmon bake at the Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville.
- ◆ There will be a ceremony at the VA Hospital on Sunday, November 7th starting at 1100 hours.
- ◆ On Veterans Day:
 - Post 122 in Washougal is hosting a breakfast from 0800 to 1200 hours.
 - There will be a ceremony at the cemetery starting at 1100 hours. Post 14 is hosting a free turkey dinner after the service.
 - La Center will be hosting a Veterans Day Parade
 - There will be free lunch from 1300 to 1700 hours at the Red Fir Inn in Yacolt.
 - There will be a ceremony at the new memorial in Yacolt starting at 1400 hours.
 - The Elks 823 is hosting a turkey dinner starting at 1730 hours.
 - Applebees is offering a free meal to all veterans that have proof of military status.

Morris asked the committee its opinion on the November and December meeting schedules since both

land next to holidays. The committee decided to cancel the November meeting and move the December meeting to earlier in the month. Bob verified that the committee need only have nine meetings each year to be in compliance with the By-laws. After verifying the conference room was available, Steve Stetson motioned to cancel the November meeting and reschedule the December meeting to Monday, December 13th starting at 1400 hours. Bruce Maas seconded the motion and the committee approved. A notice will go out to all members and posts notifying them of the change.

Open Forum: Bob reminded the committee that elections will be held in December.

Pat Stryker informed the committee that one of the veterans that received assistance through the VAF made a donation back to the fund. The contribution is being routed back to the fund and will be noted as Miscellaneous Revenue on the Revenue and Expense Report.

Bruce updated the committee on VFW Post 7824. They do not qualify for the grant from Senator Patty Murray; however Senator Murray is working to get the post information on banks that work with nonprofit organizations.

Jerry Keessee informed the committee that Tom Dombeck is doing well after returning home from heart surgery.

Several veterans were briefly honored who have recently passed away.

Meeting adjourned at 1543.

Next meeting: December 13, 2010 at 1400.