

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee**  
**Clark County Public Service Center**  
**1300 Franklin St, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ste #679**  
**Vancouver, Washington**  
**August 26, 2011**

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

**Vice Chair: Robert Nichols**  
**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 #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**  
Stephen Stetson  
Roy Billings  
**Ray Saranto**  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Members at Large**  
**Thomas Dombeck**  
**Kevin Lawson**  
**Emily Stoutsenberger**

**SECONDARY**

Jan Wojciechowski  
Peggy Sheehan  
Rodney Stallard  
Bo Russell  
**Mark Woods**  
Philip Yasson  
Bob Blevins  
Richard Gabriel  
Michael Riley  
Ron Brandon  
Robert Hitchcock  
Richard Alvarez  
  
**Jerry Keen**

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce, Pete Munroe**

**GUESTS**

**Youri Archer – CRMHS; Skip Bengue and Vince Myers – VFW #12028; Pam Brokaw – Partners in Careers; Mike Willbur – WDVA; Karla Bean – AL #14; Kevin Williams, Lonnie Goins, Hugh Casey – Veterans Incarcerated Project; Linda Maddy - VA**

**Meeting Minutes:** Greg Whitson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on July 27, 2011. Motion seconded by Ray Saranto and passed.

Morris discussed John Lund's recommendations from the board training provided last month. John suggested the board update its Strategic Plan to include critical success factors, priorities, goals and

objectives and measurement devices. John also recommended the committee create a new members orientation packet which Morris suggested be started in January. Morris also mentioned that King County has created a Five Year Plan to End Homelessness for Veterans which includes six specific areas of focus: outreach to veterans and education, treatment, prevention, housing and support services, income and benefits and community participation. Morris would like the committee to get more involved in Clark County's 10-year Homeless Plan as a long-term goal.

### **Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** Ray Saranto mentioned that there was one appeal in August that was approved.

**Policies & Procedures:** Jerry Keen informed the committee that there was nothing new to report.

**Nominations:** Bruce Maas reported that there have been no nominations submitted.

**Contractor Reports:** Samantha Whitley distributed several reports for July. CRMHS served 119 veterans for a total of just over \$29,000. There was a large increase in food requests; Youri was not sure why. The packet also included a list of denials and the case management report.

Sam also handed out the Free Clinic Dental Services report. Four veterans received services including nine extractions. The total billed to the VAF for July was \$864. There was discussion on new ways to market the program. The County will look into distributing information through the Clark County Dental Society and local medical clinics. There is concern that the income requirements are too strict to serve more veterans. Sam mentioned that the policies can be changed for this service only if the board agrees. Youri informed the committee that New Day Dental has a sliding fee scale for services. She is also referring veterans to Public Health and Clark College.

Sam reported that the VAC served 38 veterans in July with 617 hours volunteered to the center. Jerry Keen mentioned that they are getting more resources to help veterans and their families. He also informed the group that the VAC may be changing their hours to start later in the morning.

Finally, Sam mentioned that the fund balance is over \$877,000 through July, but this does not reflect the CRMHS invoice as it wasn't processed yet.

Karla Bean handed out flyers for the Stand Down scheduled for September 26<sup>th</sup>. They are looking for volunteers and requested they register online at <http://www.ccvac.net/Standdown.html>. Volunteers are greatly needed to help with large deliveries on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Karla also mentioned that the Stand Down Committee is not seeking monetary donations this year, however they are needing new or gently used men's clothing and personal hygiene items such as dental floss and sanitizer.

### **Presentations**

Mike Willbur with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs gave a brief presentation on the Veterans Incarcerated Project (VIP), a program that was started three years ago. He explained that he meets with veterans that have been incarcerated for a misdemeanor offense to offer them an opportunity to participate in his program. Mike has made contact with over 700 veterans and expanded the program from help obtaining housing and employment by removing barriers, to managing a transitional living program. Mike introduced Lonnie, a veteran he assisted several years ago. Lonnie explained that he now works with Mike to help other veterans with employment opportunities in his trucking business and also by renting his property to VIP clients. Mike also introduced Hugh Casey, a

veteran that works with VIP clients as a mentor, including Monte, an Iraq veteran who received a purple heart, along with Linda Maddy with the VA that coordinates the Veterans Court. Mike mentioned that they would be submitting a funding request to the VRC in the near future.

Pam Brokaw, executive director of Partners in Careers (PIC), also gave a presentation for the Veteran Women Program (VWP). This program was started two years ago to expand the employment services PIC offered. The VWP is a collaborative program to help women veterans find employment through information and referrals about services and job opportunities. In 2010, the VWP assisted 34 women veterans with 17 finding employment. So far this year, 26 women veterans have been assisted with 17 finding employment. Pam distributed a proposal to the VRC for review.

Sam informed the board that the Budget Committee will review the funding requests by both programs and submit their recommendations for a vote at the September meeting.

**Old Business:** Morris asked the committee to continue the discussion from the July meeting regarding the VRC meeting date/time and location. He had a request from a VRC member to move the meeting to the VA campus. Karla mentioned that the Columbia Room might be available, but she would need to check. There was also concern about the lack of parking. Emily Stoutsenberger had mentioned at the July meeting that the new PIC offices had a large conference room that was available. The group also discussed moving the meetings to the second Wednesday of each month so that there would not be meeting conflicts with scheduled holidays. Tom Dombeck motioned to move the meeting to the second Wednesday, seconded by Ray Saranto and approved. This will start in October. Tom Dombeck then motioned to move the meetings to the PIC offices, seconded by Mark Woods. There was discussion regarding parking problems and centralized location. Sam requested the County confer with the prosecuting attorney to verify there would not be a conflict of interest if the VRC met at PICs offices due to the funding request. The motion was amended by Ray that the move is dependant upon the review by the County Prosecuting Attorney; seconded by Mark Woods and approved. The committee then voted on the original motion to move the meetings to the PIC office, including the amendment, and was approved.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

#### **Open Forum:**

- ♦ Tom Dombeck discussed the Red Cross Veterans Resource Book. He recommended that each post distribute them to their local police and fire departments along with their service officers. Julie Berger is the contact at the Red Cross to obtain the books. Sam mentioned that she would pick up several books and bring to the next VRC meeting.
- ♦ Jerry Keen mentioned that they are looking for more veterans to take on the hunting and fishing expedition.
- ♦ Bruce Maas informed the group that he attended the memorial service for Dale Beacock, a Navy veteran.
- ♦ Emily Stoutsenberger reported that PICs job fair was a great success. They had 405 participants attend the event with 25 employers.

- ♦ Jerry Keen asked the posts to consider having a table at the POW/MIA service. It is open to any organization. Please contact Anne Marie Murphy in the gymnasium building across from the new museum. Phone: (360) 737-1441, Email: Anne.Murphy@va.gov.

**Meeting adjourned at 1537 hours.**

**Next meeting: September 28, 2011 at 1400 hours.**