

**Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
December 14, 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
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 Bengé
Jerry Keen

Members at Large

Thomas Dombeck
Kevin Lawson
Emily Stoutsenberger

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Pete Munroe, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

**Youri Archer – CRMHS; Jim Moore – AL #44; Todd Boyd – DAV #4; John Russell – VFW #4278;
Dick DeWald – AL #189; Bill Romine – VFW #12028; Tim Podhora – Clark County District Court**

Meeting Minutes: Jerry Keen motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 9, 2011. Motion seconded by Bruce Maas and passed.

CRMHS 2012 Contract Approval

Samantha Whitley distributed a memo with the budget categories of the CRMHS contract for both 2011 and 2012. She explained that the number of services is expected to go up in 2012. To offset these

additional costs, the office hours and staff time will be reduced to two ¾ time staff operating the office from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. The case management requirement will also be removed from the contract due to the number of veterans seen each month. Jerry Keen motioned to approve the 2012 contract, seconded by Ray Saranto. Emily expressed concern about the removal of case management services. There was discussion regarding reliance on other programs in the community to provide case management along with ideas on tracking clients' use of different programs through HMIS and updating the application. Sam will also update the report showing clients' recurrence to the VAF program that she distributed last year to reflect 2011 data. The motion was approved.

Policies and Procedures Review and Recommendations

Jerry Keen discussed a memo that was distributed by County staff regarding changes to the Policies and Procedures. The first change broadens the types of documentation that can be submitted for proof of veteran status. The second change creates a tiered allocation amount for food assistance based on family size. The current policy allocates \$250 to any family size; the new policy will allow a single person \$100, two person family \$125, three person family \$175 and a four or more person family \$250. Sam also mentioned that she would like to make a slight change to the bus pass policy. The fund currently purchases an All Zone pass that allows riders to go into Portland, however not all recipients need that service. A cheaper alternative is a C Zone pass for all of Clark County. Sam recommends removing the "All Zone" wording from the policy and the service officers will ask each recipient about their individual need. Roy Billings motioned to accept all three changes to the policies, seconded by George Hunt. Motion was approved.

Election of 2012 Officers

Bob Nichols mentioned that there was only one new candidate nominated for any of the officer positions. Lou Baste was nominated for Chair, however he does not feel comfortable taking over that role. Bob volunteered to move into the Chair position and Lou into the Vice-Chair position with Mike Gibson remaining as Secretary. Ray motioned to accept the proposal, seconded by Bruce Maas and approved.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto mentioned that there were three appeals since the last meeting. Two have been approved and one is under discussion, pending more information.

Contractor Reports: Samantha reviewed the October reports. CRMHS served 142 veterans for \$43,035. There was some discussion regarding matching up the services on the spreadsheet with the case management report. Sam explained that she adjusts the spreadsheet so that all the services are on one line for each veteran, even if they came in on separate occasions. She also mentioned that not every veteran's case management notes are in the report.

The Veterans Assistance Center served 53 veterans in October and had 25 volunteers giving 833 hours to the Center. Sam reported that through November, the VAC has accrued over \$130,000 of value of volunteer hours. Also attached to the VAC report is some data from the Stand Down. Approximately 181 people were assisted and 381 meals were served. 200 volunteers helped with the event.

Sam also discussed the dental service report. Thirteen veterans received services from five volunteer dentists with a value of \$5,280, but only \$1,124 was charged to the VAF. The number of veterans served

each month in the dental program seems to be increasing.

Finally, Sam mentioned the VAF balance dropped just below \$820,000 at the end of October. She anticipates the fund to start 2012 with a balance of approximately \$700,000. Sam also distributed a Levy Certification document that shows the amounts of different levies in Clark County for 2012. She has provided information to the executive officers about how to ask the commissioners for an increase in the VAF allocation.

Old Business:

- ◆ Sam informed the committee that she was able to obtain the number of veterans who returned to Clark County from military service in the last 12 months. The WDVA reported 427 veterans returned and they do not expect that number to change significantly in the next year.
- ◆ Several posts have not submitted their Letter of Appointment (LOA). Rebecca will contact the posts before the next meeting as needed. Posts that do not submit a new LOA for 2012 will not have voting rights starting in January. Sam also mentioned that members of the committee cannot represent two separate posts at the same time. There was also discussion on Members at Large (MAL) and their membership with a Clark County veteran's organization. It was determined that Members at Large cannot be a member with any veteran's organization in Clark County and be a Member at Large with the VRC. MAL voting will be held at the January meeting.
- ◆ Bill Romine gave his appreciation for the communication to the posts regarding the AARP Driving Safety Course that was conducted in November.
- ◆ Ron Brandon informed the VRC that he would like to resign from the Policies and Procedures committee. He mentioned that he had previously spoken with Elisa Cotton and she would like to take his place. Bob mentioned that all 2012 committees would be established at the January meeting.

New Business: There was no new business discussed.

Open Forum:

- ◆ Commissioner Mielke stopped by the meeting and asked the group to provide feedback on moving the service officer services to the VAC. He warned that it will take a while to make any decisions on changing the location of the services.
- ◆ Commissioner Mielke said a few words about Morris Giesler and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition for his time as Chair of the VRC. John Russell also thanked Morris for helping him assist veterans when he first moved to Clark County.
- ◆ Morris thanked the board for all of the support they have given to veterans in Clark County. He stressed that it is very important for the committee to help their fellow veterans in need. Morris also mentioned that he is grateful to have been able to serve on the VRC, especially as Chair for the past year.
- ◆ John Russell informed the VRC that he has been working with Jim Moeller on Operation Second Look which trains law enforcement personnel about PTSD and other veteran related issues.
- ◆ Jerry Keesee updated the committee about the Korean War Veterans Association chapter. Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 40 et 8 in the Boxcar Room. He also mentioned that the next Peace Award ceremony is scheduled for June 2012. Veterans who

served in Korea or during the time of the Korean War are eligible to receive the honor. They anticipate awarding over 100 medals.

- ◆ Jenny McCullough informed the group that the VFW #4278 will be hosting a pancake breakfast on December 30th from 0730 to 1030 hours. Tickets are: free for 3 and under, \$2 for ages 4-11 and \$5 for everyone else.
- ◆ Emily asked the posts to look into applying for grants to try and find solutions for homeless veterans during the cold weather.
- ◆ Mike Gibson informed the posts that there is a new education program, VOW to Hire Heroes, which will start in July 2012. The program provides funding for veterans who are employed and going to school, but don't qualify for the GI Bill.
- ◆ Elisa mentioned that the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments are working together to provide care packages. They are in need of toys for approximately 150 families. Donations can be dropped off at the fire departments or Post #27.

Meeting adjourned at 1548 hours.

Next meeting: January 11, 2011 at 1400 hours.