

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

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

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

**Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1402**

**Roll Call:** [Bold script indicates presence at meeting]

<u>POST</u>	<u>PRIMARY</u>	<u>SECONDARY</u>
40 et 8	<b>Morris Giesler</b>	Jan Wojciechowski
American Legion #14	Karla Bean	Peggy Sheehan
American Legion #44	<b>Darren Wertz</b>	Bo Russell
American Legion #168	<b>Robert Nichols</b>	Mark Woods
American Legion #176	<b>Michael Gibson</b>	<b>Philip Yasson</b>
American Legion #189	Clinton Nelson	Charlotte Elznic
American Legion #208	Brad Hunt	Robert Blevens
DAV Chapter #4	<b>Bruce Maas</b>	Michael Riley
Marine Corps League #826	Lou Baste	<b>Ron Brandon</b>
VFW #4278	<b>Stephen Stetson</b>	Robert Hitchcock
VFW #7824	<b>Roy Billings</b>	Ronald Frisbie
VFW #12028	<b>Ray Saranto</b>	
Vietnam Vets #512	<b>Greg Whitson</b>	Jerry Keen
	<b>Members at Large</b>	
	<b>Thomas Dombeck</b>	
	<b>Kevin Lawson</b>	
	Bill Allman	
	<b>Emily Stoutsenberger</b>	

\* Highlighted posts have not returned a completed LOA for 2011, but were active members in 2010.

**CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

**Samantha Whitley, Vanessa Gaston, Commissioner Mielke**

**GUESTS**

**Peggy Sheehan – AL #14; Jerry Keese – 5<sup>th</sup> District; Pat Stryker – CRMHS; Beth Brown – MOAA**

**Community Presentations**

Vanessa Gaston, Director of Clark County Community Services (DCS), presented information about the department. There are several programs that are managed through the department for a total of \$154 million dollars. Most of the funding is state and federal dollars. Vanessa mentioned that there are several organizations located in the Center for Community Health along with DCS, serving 1,300 veterans. She mentioned that there will be cuts to both state and federal funding impacting the programs provided to the community. Due to the cuts, Clark County is working with surrounding counties and organizations

to combine services. Vanessa also explained that Clark County has one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, causing a higher need for social services.

**Meeting Minutes:** Steve Stetson motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 13, 2010. Motion seconded by Bruce Maas and passed.

**2011 Membership:** There are four Member at Large Letter of Appointments that need to be approved by the committee. Steve Stetson made a motion to approve Thomas Dombeck, Kevin Lawson, Bill Allman and Emily Stoutsenberger as Members at Large, seconded by Bruce Maas and approved.

### **Committee Reports**

**Policies & Procedures:** Morris mentioned that he has spoken with Jerry Keen and they discussed updating the by-laws and policies.

**Appeals:** Ray Saranto mentioned that there have been no new appeals so far in 2011.

**Executive Officers Meeting:** Mike Gibson, Bob Nichols, Morris Giesler and Samantha Whitley met and established a 2011 Work Plan that was distributed to the committee. The plan gives a guideline of what the committee's goals and priorities are. Morris went over the draft timeline of events that will be happening at the meetings for 2011. Please note that April's meeting will be at a different location. The Work Plan also lists other important events that will be happening in 2011.

**Committee Appointments:** Morris mentioned that there are several committees that need members. He explained that he contacted members before the meeting to get volunteers. Morris asked if any other members would like to be involved. The following are the committees for 2011: Strategic Plan Review and Update, Policies and Procedures/By-laws, Appeals, Nominations and Elections and Budget Committee. The Budget Committee is closed for the executive members only. The list of committees/members will be emailed to the VRC and is attached to these minutes. Greg Whitson motioned to approve the committees and members, seconded by Ron Brandon and approved.

**Case Management Report:** Samantha Whitley distributed the December report. There were 134 veterans served for a total of \$39,547.29. Also attached are the case management notes and list of denials for the month. This information is included in a year-end Summary of Services 2010 report that includes data on services and denials by month along with denials by category. Services have drastically increased throughout the year. Sam also mentioned that the total payment to CRMHS was \$363,000 with \$317,000 being direct services. The remaining \$56,000 paid for staff and administrative costs including printing, paper, phones, rent, etc.

Sam also distributed the Revenue and Expense report through December. She clarified that the \$7,370.46 charge in the Other category in December is for the Stand Down that was processed. The remaining balance for the fund is \$949,841.41.

Sam updated the committee on the dental services. The first clinic was January 17<sup>th</sup>. Five patients received fillings, one got an extraction and one was referred to Clark College for a cleaning. Two veterans had health problems that need to be resolved before the dental procedures can be completed

and three veterans did not show up for their appointments. A full report from the Free Clinic is due in the beginning of February. Bruce asked if there were costs for those that were referred to Clark College. Sam believes the Free Clinic is working with the college, but said she would verify that information. Sam also mentioned that she heard that the Columbian wanted to do an article on the program. Once it is published, Sam will send it out to the committee.

### **Old Business:**

**VAC:** Morris mentioned that the center is planning to open March 1<sup>st</sup>. The County is working on a contract to pay the rent for one year on the building located at 1701 C Street (Note: the rental agreement for this location has fallen through. A new location at 1305 Columbia is in process.)

Bob Nichols mentioned that the Applebee's on 134<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 99 is hosting a pancake breakfast on March 12<sup>th</sup> from 0800 to 1000 hours. The cost is \$7 each and is a fundraiser for the Veterans Assistance Center. Please pass the information on to your posts.

Morris mentioned that everyone is invited to the VAC meeting on Monday night. Bob also mentioned that the VAC is looking for volunteers to run the center. You can contact Emily Stoutsenberger at Partners in Careers for more information at 360-696-8417.

**Indigency Code Change:** Samantha mentioned that the hearing for the code change occurred yesterday and was approved by the commissioners. The change will take place immediately and will be in effect when the center opens on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The code allows the center to help veterans that document that they cannot meet their needs, instead of providing their past three month's income information that the Veterans Case Manager and the Policies and Procedures require.

**New Business:** There was discussion about the CRMHS contract and the additional funding that was approved in December. There was confusion on what the funds were supposed to be used for; additional staff hours and cost of additional services. Pat Stryker mentioned that the number of services has risen from 55 to 134 per month. Greg mentioned that the fund should be used for basic services and remove the case management aspect. Emily mentioned that over the last month she has received more referrals from the case management officers. She explained that her case management encompasses developing a plan of action. Emily also explained that case management differs for each program and depends on how much work the client wants to put into the program. Sam mentioned that the Strategic Plan, developed by the committee, has case management as a top priority. There was discussion on taking a closer look at what type of case management is being provided versus what the committee would like to see happen. The committee would also like to see how many veterans are utilizing the fund along with how often. Pat and Sam explained that CRMHS has a new reporting requirement to use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which will allow more information to be reported.

Sam asked the committee to approve paying for the meeting space for VFW #4278 in the amount of \$270. Greg Whitson motioned to pay the invoice, seconded by Bruce Maas and approved.

Sam brought up that there are two posts listed on the VRC membership that are located outside the

Clark County limits. She asked for a motion to remove them from the committee. Steve Stetson motioned to remove the posts, seconded by Bruce Maas and approved.

**Open Forum:** Bruce Maas mentioned that several veterans' organizations came forward and provided many events for the veterans at the Vancouver campus in December.

Mike Gibson mentioned that he was approached by a gentleman to start a weekly group for veterans with PTSD. He is looking for a meeting space. If you know a location, please contact Mike Gibson.

**Meeting adjourned at 1610 hours.**

**Next meeting: February 23, 2011 at 1400 hours.**