

Clark County Veteran's Resource Committee
Clark County Public Service Center
1300 Franklin St, 6th Floor, Ste #679
Vancouver, Washington
October 26, 2011

Chair: Morris Giesler
Secretary: Michael Gibson

Vice Chair: Robert Nichols
Contract Service Officer: CRMHS

Meeting Called to order by Morris Giesler @ 1404

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 Keese
Elisa Cotton
Darren Wertz
Robert Nichols
Michael Gibson
George Hunt
Richard Alvarez
Bruce Maas
Lou Baste
Jenny McCullough
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
Gary Dowler
Richard Alvarez
Skip Benge
Jerry Keen

CLARK COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Whitley, Rebecca Royce

GUESTS

Youri Archer and Misty Pellagali – CRMHS; Todd Boyd – DAV #4; Jim Moore – AL #44

Meeting Minutes: Thomas Dombeck motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 26, 2011. Motion seconded by Elisa Cotton and passed.

Community Presentation

Misty Pellagali distributed the quarterly report for the CRMHS program created through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) they are now entering data into. Misty clarified that the quarterly numbers are accurate, but the year-to-date numbers only include veterans since they started

using the new program, not from the beginning of the year. Misty also gave an update on the program. She mentioned different outreach efforts that Yuri has been making including attending job development meetings and job fairs, the Coalition of Service Provider meetings and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) training. Misty also informed the committee that several veterans have gained employment through direct referrals to partner agencies and some veterans have obtained housing through referrals to HUD and the VHA. In November, a veteran will begin volunteering with the program for 5-8 hours per week. Misty also explained that they are continuing to see an increase in requests for assistance each week. Because of the increase in services, CRMHS is projecting a shortfall in their budget and is requesting an additional \$50,000 to finish the 2011 year. Sam requested Misty send her an updated budget with the changes to the funding. She also explained that if the additional funding is not approved, it will impact service to the veterans. There was discussion on how the budget was forecasted and the amount of reserves the fund should keep on hand. The committee also inquired how the additional \$50,000 would be spent; on direct services or staff costs. Misty did not have the information available, but will get an answer as soon as possible. The committee would also like to see if there is a way to find out how many current active duty service members will be returning at the end of the year. Sam will contact the WDVA to see if that information is available. The committee decided to table the discussion and decision until the November 9th meeting.

During this discussion, the VRC requested website addresses for the Resource Guide created by the Council for the Homeless, <http://www.icfth.com/ccrg>, the Clark County Veteran Resource Guide, <http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans/index.html>, and other veteran links collated by Clark County, <http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans/vetlinks.html>.

Bob Nichols discussed how the Veterans Assistance Center is doing. He reviewed the September report explaining that 61 veterans were assisted and 30 volunteers donated time. Jerry Keen mentioned that the Hunting with American Heroes event will be held this coming weekend. He will provide an update at the next meeting. Jerry also shared a story about a soldier who lost his leg in Afghanistan and was going to return from Walter Reed to his mom's house in Vancouver during his recuperation. His mother's home needed to be remodeled to accommodate his needs. A variety of people came together to do the work and donate money for this project in East Vancouver. There will be a greeting committee to meet the veteran at the airport.

Bob mentioned that the Stand Down was successful. They had over 200 volunteers and assisted nearly 200 veterans. Bob said that there are still some areas that need improvement. They are looking at doing the event earlier next year, July or August, to reduce the risk of scheduling the same day as other Stand Down events. Bob should have an After Action Report with more information at the next meeting.

Committee Reports

Appeals: Ray Saranto informed the group that there were three appeals; all were approved.

Nominations: Bob mentioned that he has only received one nomination. Ron Brandon nominated Lou Baste for the Chair position. During the meeting, Jerry Keen nominated Mike Gibson for Secretary. Executive committee members must be the primary representative for their post. Elections will be held in December.

Policies & Procedures: Jerry mentioned that there have been no new proposed changes. Morris requested the committee review the P&P for areas of clarification that were brought to the committee

at the September meeting.

Contractor Reports: Samantha Whitley distributed several reports for September. CRMHS served 141 veterans for a total of just over \$39,000. The packet also included a list of denials, outreach, the case management report and the HMIS quarterly report.

Sam also handed out the Free Clinic Dental Services report. Eleven veterans received services for a total value of \$3,360. The total billed to the VAF for September was \$938. Jerry asked if it was possible to raise the income eligibility to 200% of the poverty level for this program. Sam will look into this, but it would require a change to the Code. Jerry will work with the P&P committee to put together a formal proposal to bring back to the VRC at the November meeting.

Finally, Sam mentioned that the fund balance is \$753,000 through September. The next allocation of property taxes will be in October. Sam clarified that the board training fee should not be billed to the VAF and will have that corrected.

Old Business: Tom Dombek asked the committee for resources to help veterans that are living in vehicles. Jerry Keen mentioned there are two RV parks that will allow older trailers into park; however, they are in less desirable areas of the County. Jerry Keesee recommended speaking with David Moore with Council for the Homeless and Emily Stoutsenberger mentioned the VA has 30 HUD VASH vouchers. Tom is concerned because this gentleman is not interested in asking for assistance. Roy Billings asked Tom look into the options discussed and put a formal proposal together for the VRC to review.

New Business: No new business.

Open Forum:

- ◆ Mike Gibson informed the committee that Clark College is looking for any veterans that would be interested in a free dental screening. No services will be provided. All information gathered will be used to estimate what types and how many dental services veterans need in Clark County. The event will be held at Clark College on November 3rd from 1300-1600 hours. Contact Mike at 360-992-2711 for more information or to schedule an appointment.
- ◆ Samantha mentioned that the Veteran Housing Summit will be held on Wednesday, November 9th in Longview. She will forward the agenda as soon as she receives it.
- ◆ Emily informed the committee that there is a Progressive Musical Dinner Saturday, November 12th as a fundraiser for the Veterans Therapeutic Court. Tickets are \$30 per person. See Jerry Keen if you are interested.
- ◆ Some of the Veterans Day events mentioned include: Service at the cemetery at 1100 hours, Change of Command at the Reserve Center at 1600 hours and VFW 7824 grand opening starting at 1100 hours.
- ◆ There will be a dinner at the Elks on November 8th.
- ◆ The American Legion is hosting Service Officers training at the Camas Police Department, date subject to change.

Meeting adjourned at 1544 hours.

Next meeting: November 9, 2011 at 1400 hours.