

**Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
*An advisory board to the Clark County Council*

June 13, 2024

**Chair: Bob Nichols**

**Vice Chair: Megan Anderson**

**Secretary: Bruce Maas**

**Meeting called to order.**

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

**POST**

40 et 8

American Legion #14

American Legion #44

American Legion #168

American Legion #176

American Veterans #6

DAV Chapter #4

Korean War Assoc. #321

Marine Corps League #826

VFW #4278

VFW #7824

Vietnam Vets #512

Members at Large

**PRIMARY**

*Bob Brennan*

*Gene Couture*

*Darren Wertz*

**Bob Nichols**

**Michael Gibson**

**John Lovejoy**

**Bruce Maas**

*Earl Edwards*

**Steve Slegers**

*Shannon Roberts*

**Greg Gilbertson**

**Greg Whitson**

**Kelly Jones**

*Bryan McGillis*

**Tonya Wark**

**Tamara Elam**

**Megan Anderson**

*Eli Gonzalez*

**Michael Langsdorf**

**Lloyd Bowman**

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**

*Charles Ingalls*

*Jonathan Frederick*

*Vanise Pratt*

*Tom Cousino*

*Dixie Hotaling*

*Ron Brandon*

**Dana Difford**

*Nick Herber*

**Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy**

**Guests:** **Lori Pugh** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Judy Russel** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center); **Dale Whitley** (Council for the Homeless), **Scott Thacker** (Council for the Homeless), **Glen Yung** (Clark Co. Dist I Elected Official), **Steve Hamrick** (citizen/veteran)

**Approval of May 9, 2024, meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Steve Slegers that was seconded by Megan Anderson.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** None

**Nominations:** None

**Clark County Homelessness and Veteran's Housing Update** (Dale Whitley and Scott Thacker, Council for the Homeless):

- HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) = Database which compiles data from coordinated entry, outreach, shelter, and housing programs.
  - Uses HUD's definition of homelessness.
- Annual System Number trends on Veteran Homelessness in Clark County
  - In 2022, 6% of people experiencing homelessness, 5% of people calling for rent assistance, 6% of people who asked for shelter, 6% of people who accessed shelter, 10% of people who were housed through

# Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## An advisory board to the Clark County Council

June 13, 2024

diversion, and 7% of people who entered a housing program were Veterans.

- In 2021, 6% of people experiencing homelessness, 5% of people calling for rent assistance, 6% of people who asked for shelter, 7% of people who accessed shelter, 9% of people who were housed through diversion, and 5% of people who entered a housing program were Veterans.
- Veterans counted through outreach projects
  - June 2022-May 2023: 60 total veterans, 31 chronically homeless, 29 non-chronically homeless, 62% 55+
  - June 2023-May 2024: 46 total veterans, 22 chronically homeless, 24 non-chronically homeless, 54% 55+
- Veterans counted in emergency shelters
  - June 2022-May 2023: 51 total veterans, 23 chronically homeless, 28 non-chronically homeless, 63% 55+
  - June 2023-May 2024: 44 total veterans, 21 chronically homeless, 23 non-chronically homeless, 50% 55+
- Veteran By Name List (VBNL)
  - VBNL workgroup meets bi-weekly to discuss how to rehouse each veteran
  - The # of veterans changes monthly due to inflow and outflow
  - Goal is “Functional Zero”: outflow is greater than inflow
  - On Oct 1, 2022 146 veterans were on VBNL with decrease throughout year
  - On May 1, 2024, 72 veterans were on VBNL with slight decrease throughout year
  - VBNL core improvement team: partnership between CCVAC, TPI/SSVF, VA, PIC, and other local nonprofits
- Q&A
  - Q: Is there any info about a 5<sup>th</sup> safe stay community? A: No information yet.
  - Q: Do these numbers account for homelessness veterans seen at the CCVAC? A: Yes, and any disconnect is due to differences in the definition of homelessness between CCVAC and HUD.
  - Q: Do you have someone going out and finding veterans in the community? A: Yes
  - Q: How many outreach programs are there in Clark County? A: Many. CFTH, Columbia River Mental Health, Impact NW, Exchange, etc.

### **April 2024, Contractor & Fund reports**

- CCVAC: 55 Veterans served in April, services totaling \$27,076. 48 male veterans, 7 female veterans, 0 other veterans. 13 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 620 visits to the center for essentials and food, 875 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 38 food boxes provided. 2872 total pounds of food. 813 volunteer hours, totaling \$32,748 in value.
- Free Clinic: 15 Veterans served in April. Services totaled \$3,179 in value; billed \$1,826.43
- VAC Fund: April revenue: \$315,758; expenditures: \$94,162; fund balance: \$716,474

### **Clark County Veterans Assistance Center Update**

- Gala is July 16<sup>th</sup>. A lot of service organizations have not bought tickets or made donations. Hope to see some of all of you there.
- Stand Down: Met new DevOp Lever from WorkSource who will be participating.
- CCVAC has been talking with NAMI about obtaining a collaborative workspace. NAMI needs to move shortly. If they find a space, CCVAC will need to ask the board for \$3,000-\$4,000 more per month for rent. Looking space with ~12,000 sq. ft. with storage, kitchen, and conference room.
- Q: Do you borrow money from anyone and what is your debt? A: No, CCVAC is on reimbursement only.
- Q: Would the board be interested in seeing the total CCVAC expenses beyond just VAF? A: Potentially, CCVAC will need to get this approved by their board.

### **Preparation for Assessor's/ Budget Office visit**

- Deadline for questions Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Send questions to Abby and she will send to Assessor's/Budget Office

### **Old Business**

- Follow up on meeting with David Puente:

## **Clark County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

### ***An advisory board to the Clark County Council***

June 13, 2024

- Veterans Cemetery: 60% of funding for National Veterans Cemetery comes from federal government. Federal govt will not fund cemetery in SW WA due to proximity to Willamette cemetery (75 miles min distance). David is looking into when Willamette cemetery will reach capacity.
  - Q: Can we lease land from another existing cemetery? A: No, because the federal government would want to maintain it and they need a minimum amount of land.
- Veterans Home: Requires feasibility study first and there is not funding for that at this time. State would need to apply for funding (~\$250,000), conduct feasibility study, and then build home based on results of study. Home would cost ~\$50 million to build.
- Update on WDVA HVRP program: has helped 7 veterans and spend \$3000 in the year they've had the grant. Looking at applying for HVRP at Do Good.

#### **New Business**

- Michael Langsdorf prepared packet with summary of financial information to prepare for August meeting. Abby sent electronic copy out to VAB members.

#### **Open Forum and Public Comment**

- Summer events for veterans: baseball games in Hillsboro, OR and county fair during the week of Aug 3-12.
- Suggestion for board members to get table at CCVAC gala.
- Comments from meeting guest about CCVAC, funding utilization, etc.

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting August 8th, 2024.