

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

November 14, 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**  
  
**Steve Slegers**  
**Shannon Roberts**  
**Greg Gilbertson**  
**Greg Whitson**  
**Kelly Jones**  
*Bryan McGillis*  
**Tonya Wark**  
**Tamara Elam**  
**Megan Anderson**  
**Eli Gonzalez**  
**Michael Langsdorf**  
**Lloyd Bowman**  
**Buck Marr**

**ALTERNATE**

**Steve Slegers**  
  
**Charles Ingalls**  
  
**Jonathan Frederick**  
*Vanise Pratt*  
*Tom Cousino*  
  
**Ron Brandon**  
**Dana Difford**  
*Stewart Bauer*  
*Nick Herber*

**Clark County Representative: Abby Molloy**

**Guests:** **Rebecca O'Brien** (Free Clinic of Southwest Washington), **Judy Russell** (Clark County Veterans Assistance Center),

**Approval of September 12, 2024, meeting minutes**

The minutes were approved following a motion by Bob Brennan that was seconded by Steve Slegers.

**Committee Reports**

**Appeals:** None

**Policies and Procedures:** None, but there will be an update next month.

**Nominations:** Second round of nominations for 2025 positions of chair, vice chair, and secretary. No new nominations were made.

**Free Clinic of SW Washington Presentation, Rebecca O'Brien- Executive Director**

- Free Clinic of SW Washington provides free health care for uninsured adults and are appointment only. The clinic has 300+ volunteers and a staff of 13 employees.
- Dental clinics are held twice a month, majority of treatment is extractions and fillings. Removable dentures and partials are starting to be provided but funding for this is limited. All dental care is done at no charge to the patients, and work is done by community partners.
- 180 patients have been provided care with treatment at a cost of almost \$150,000. Seven sets of dentures have been provided in 2024.
- Veterans Dental Program receives referrals from the Veterans Assistance Center. Twenty-eight veterans have been

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assisted from January-September 2024.

- Q & A:
- Q: Are veteran's family eligible for services through the Veterans Dental Program? A: No, but they can be assisted at the dental clinic.
- Q: How do pharmaceuticals work? A: The clinic can provide vouchers in specific cases. Donations of unexpired medicine are accepted and programs like GoodRx are used to lower prescription costs.
- Q: How is the public made aware of the clinic? A: Word of mouth.
- Q: How are pain medications regulated? A: The Free Clinic does not prescribe narcotics.
- Q: How is the Free Clinic tied to the VA medical center in Vancouver? A: There is not currently a connection between the Free Clinic of SW Washington and the Clark County VA.
- Q: What is the Clinic's biggest need? A: Volunteers, providers, and funding.

### **September 2024 Contractor & Fund reports**

- CCVAC: 38 Veterans served in August, services totaling \$24,810.95. 34 male veterans, 4 female veterans, 0 widows, 0 other veterans. 11 denials, 0 subject to appeals. 603 visits to the center for essentials and food, 978 sack breakfasts/lunches provided and 33 food boxes provided. 3,142 total pounds of food. 1,031.5 volunteer hours, totaling \$52,424.42 in value.
- Free Clinic: 3 Veterans served in August. Services totaled \$1,754 in value; billed \$2,300.47.
- VAF Fund: August revenue: \$17,720.88; expenditures: \$119,091.67 fund balance: \$491,034.93.
- Q & A:
- Q: How was so much money spent? A: Housing, food, utilities, burial, car repair, and more.
- Q: Does CCVAC pay first and last month's rent? A: No, but rent can be paid once in a 12-month period to avoid eviction.

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

- An office space in the County Community Services building was viewed. There were not enough private offices, and it would be difficult to transport the large quantity of donations received.
- CCVAC is geared up for Thanksgiving and has meals ready to be picked up. Christmas preparations are underway.
- Dates for the next two fundraisers are February 2, 2025 and June 21, 2025.

### **2025 Budget Allocation**

- CCVAC is requesting \$883,000 (10% increase). Free Clinic is requesting \$29,700 (same amount). WDVA is requesting \$134,520 (2.5% decrease).
- Approval of the requested budget for 2025 passed after a motion made by Darren Wertz and seconded by Bruce Maas.

### **Old Business**

- County policy documents will be provided to Michael Langsdorf and Darren Wertz.

### **New Business**

- Letters of intent need to be submitted for all members for their agencies by December 12<sup>th</sup> if you would like to be on the board.
  - Chair Nichols will reach out to agencies that have not attended recent meetings.
- Suggestions for speakers for the year
  - Have the county councilors come and attend a meeting and see the board in action.
  - Branch members from the Army, Navy, and Marines.
  - Jeff Williams, astronaut.
- Parking passes need to be requested by next week, contact Abby if you need one.

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**Open Forum and Public Comment**

- Vice-Chair Anderson expressed gratitude to the staff and lung donor that assisted in her brother's double lung transplant.
- Scholarships were issued to 18 POW MIA descendants.

***Meeting adjourned. Next meeting December 12th, 2024.***

***Motion to adjourn by Michael Langsdorf and seconded by Greg Gilbertson. Motion passed unanimously.***