

Veterans Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: February 8, 2016/10:00 a.m./Veterans' Conference Room, Health Department

Members Present: David Scattum, Gary Lysne, John Mitchell, Ward Nelson, Bob Wilson

Members Absent: Christopher Brown, Kathy Kershner, Jennifer Walters

County Staff: Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager, Liz Harmon-Craig, Veterans Specialist; Vicki McClure, Human Services Clerk

Guests: Paul Pelot, Worksource; Ann Beck, WWU; Bill Adamek, Worksource; Lisa Brown

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Call to order	Meeting called to order at 10:39 AM by Ward Nelson.	
2. Roll Call/ Introductions	Introductions deferred. Quorum present.	
3. Review/Approval December 14, 2015 minutes	Minutes reviewed. Motion made and seconded to approve minutes as presented.	Motion: To approve the December 14, 2015 minutes as presented. Aye 5, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent: Chris Brown, Kathy Kershner, Jennifer Walters
<p>4. New Business</p> <p>Fund Residency Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran Survey • Veteran Stake Holder Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The one-year state residency eligibility requirement has been removed and county residency eligibility requirement can be waived for school or work. VASH and SSVF have no residency requirements. SSVF can be used up to six months for rental subsidy. SSVF clients have been provided with VAF rental subsidies at the end of their six months.. Some of these clients have long-term barriers to employment and will never be self-sufficient. Should the three-month VAF funding limitation be waived in individual cases if continuation is an investment in the client's future? The current funding level of VAF to the Opportunity Council is adequate for program continuation for these clients, but funding will be reduced over time, at which point their services will need to be discontinued. • Ann Beck provided current results of a Google survey created for community input. Survey continues through the end of February, and provides a good starting point for discussion topics at the Veteran Stake Holder Meeting. • Will be held March 22, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM in the Viking Union at WWU. Parking available and bus convenient. Additions to list of invitees: MH and SUD agencies, WAHA, Interfaith, BIA, manufacturing, churches. 	<p>Liz will review county code and research number of veterans served, length of time in service, and dollar amounts involved and will report back at April 11 meeting.</p> <p>Generally, all members stated that the goal of VAF assistance should be temporary, not long term subsidies. Get names, affiliations, contact info and additional suggestions to Anne/Liz.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans Stake Holder Meeting (con't) • Board Member vacancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft agenda reviewed. Will utilize “call to action cards” where attendees will indicate area of interest and level of commitment (facilitator, participant or stay informed). Discussion groups will be designed to have representation from different areas of interest to stimulate conversation. • There is one board vacancy and we have three applicants. A nominating committee will meet immediately after today’s meeting. 	
<p>5. Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund Balance • Assigned Counsel • Veteran Specialist Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$580,721.71 as of 2/8/16. • Whatcom County Office of Assigned Counsel screened 293 applicants for legal counsel between 12/1/2015 and 12/31/2015. Three reported veteran status; one not qualified. Whatcom County Office of Assigned Counsel screened 319 between 1/1/16 and 1/31/16 with five reporting veteran status; all qualified. • Liz has been working on contract updates with Law Advocates, who works with veterans with at least one year’s residency on any civil legal issues they may be facing. <p>A new Veterans Outdoor Group through the Bellingham Vets Center, meets at 4:00 PM every other Friday for people of various skill levels and currently comprises 44 members of diverse abilities. Contact Tom Renteria at 733.9226 if interested. https://www.facebook.com/groups/433716850166082/</p>	
<p>6. Good of the Order</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne provided information on HB 1213 expanding eligibility and inclusion of indigent eligible family members, eliminating time of service for those service members killed in the line of duty for veterans assistance funds. • Dr. Lisa Brown, past board member, has a blog addressing wellness and well being. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sijMbChsuM&feature=youtu.be • Liz will be a member of a panel of women vets presenting at WWU on March 1, 2016 from 3:30-5:00 PM • Bill Adamek provided fliers for a Worksource job fair to e held February 23, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Luke’s HEC. 	
<p>7. Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 11, 2016 unless one is needed before due to planning for the Veterans Stake Holder Meeting. 	<p>Ongoing homework assignment: submit to Liz for discussion at next meeting ideas to engage veterans in activities they like to do.</p>
<p>8. Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM</p>	

Next Meeting	April 11 , 2016 Whatcom County Health Department 509 Girard Street Bellingham, WA	
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