

Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board
Lacey Veterans Services Hub
16 July 2018 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Walker, Sean “Smitty” Smith, and Casey Wagner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert “Bob” Clark, Matt Huot, William “Bill” Adamson, and Cesar Morales

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Looker, Liza Narciso, Steve Kirkman, Mark Moffett

Meeting opened at 6:09 pm by Chair “Smitty” Smith

Introductions were made. This will be added to future agendas.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

There was not a quorum of board members. No vote was taken on 16 April 2018 minutes nor 2019 emergency shelter contracts. Gary was asked to send out board member contact info to the board membership.

JBLM brief: this was deferred to Bill Adamson’s absence.

Lacey Veterans Services Hub Update: Keith Looker provided an update on what has been happening and shared some data on its services.

- Housing of homeless veterans is increasing. Majority of veterans are from out of county and Keith is working with neighboring counties to help get their programs up.
- Employment – Worksource, Operation Goodjobs, Thurston County Economic Council and DSHS voc rehab program
- Nutrition – 30-40 people are given “no cook” meals each month. DSHS mobile operations will be at the Hub on 29 October 2018.
- Healthcare – working on getting services of drug counselor at the Hub, caregiver group is being formed, and mediation classes are now being held on Fridays. Several volunteers have completed the mental health first aid certification.
- Van – starting 1 August 2018, it will start on Tuesdays and Thursdays and then expand to Wednesdays taking veterans to American Lake. They will be picked up at Hub and the Rural/Tribal transit terminal.
- VSO – VSOs are there 5 days per week, averaging \$50k in compensation and \$250k in backpay from September 2017 to April 2018. Exploring possibility of having a paid VSO (VA certified) at the Hub.
- Financial – VAF is averaging about 50 veterans per month. Free financial management and pro bono legal assistance is not available.
- Grants are being pursued/investigated for establishment of computer lab.

Future Priorities of VAB

- Re-evaluation of TCVAB and VAF policy and procedures – Smitty is looking at TCVAB to review and make recommendations
- VAF manager is seeing issues that do not fit well into current guidelines and asking TCVAB to consider adjusting the guidelines.

Around the Room:

- Smitty updated board on BoCC presentation to be conducted on 18 July 2018.
- Liza informed that group of the WDVA conference on 1-2 August 2018 and VSO training on 26 September at Emerald Queen Casino.
- Mark informed the group of the biannual meeting of counties veterans' programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16 July 2018 at 6:00 PM and will be held at the Lacey Veterans Services Hub.