

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sean Smith, Thom Stoddert, Robert Thompson, Casey Wegner, and Gary Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mimi Fields and Robert Nakamura

OTHERS PRESENT: Joseph Worsley and Linda Loyle

Gary Walker called the meeting to order.

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 13, 2014 were unanimously approved.

VALUE/GOAL DISCUSSION

Last month the advisory board started identifying values. This will include recommendations regarding the expenditure of program funds.

Values are as follows:

Basic Direct Services:

1. Outreach	7. Help keep families intact
2. Reduce distress	8. Enhance self-worth
3. Immediate assistance leading to sustainability	9. Increase empowerment
4. Assist with stabilization	10. Increase access to resources
5. Help provide basic needs	11. Client accountability
6. Prevent homelessness	12. Prevent client abuse of system

Indirect Services:

1. Educate about benefits	3. Increase communication and collaboration
2. Increase utilization of resources	4. Fill gaps not otherwise covered

The database should include first time users. Perhaps obtain an intern from The Evergreen State College to assist with the database.

Linda reported that county funds continue to look very tight for 2015. Either an increase in revenue and/or a reduction in expenditures will be needed to balance the Veterans Assistance Fund budget. At this time it is anticipated that the Veterans Assistance Fund will be short \$113,000. This is following the anticipated use of Treatment Sales Tax funds for the Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Services contract

with WDVA. Approval has been given for the VAB to proceed with suggestions to seek donations for services to veterans. Also a letter to PSE is being prepared and other sources of funds are being researched in an effort to obtain additional funding for the program.

Gary provided copies from other county websites.

Goals are as follows:

1. Best Utilization of Resources
2. Seek to Expand Resources
3. Maintain Staffing Levels
4. Outreach
5. Establish Tools for Communication with Other Programs and Groups

Linda will check on how monetary gifts can be accepted including possible options available. Linda will also bring a report showing the budget breakdown.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

1. Review previous meeting discussion.
2. Recommend how future funds will be spent.

The next 'Special Meeting' is Monday, March 17, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager

Draft Planning Document
By Gary Walker
Submitted 2/22/14 via E-mail to VAB Members

Based on the input and brainstorming from our last two meetings, I thought I would try to start capturing the information in an outline form for everyone to review and consider. It isn't formatted for presentation yet - just an outline. So, please review and let me know what you think. We will use this and your comments to build from at our March meeting.
Thanks,
Gary

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Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board

Purpose: To advise the county legislative authority on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

Goals:

1. Best use of all resources
2. Expand resources
3. Maintain veterans program staffing levels
4. Conduct outreach to veterans
5. Establish tools for communicating with other veterans service organizations to reduce overlap of services and minimize gaps in services

Values and Principles

1. Direct Services

- meet basic needs
- Prevent homelessness
- Stability
- Keep families together
- Increase access
- increase self-worth
- Reduce distress
- Increase empowerment
- Client accountability
- Prevent client abuse of services

2. Indirect Services

- collaboration and communication

- Outreach
- Education
- Filling gaps not otherwise covered
- Increase utilization of resources
- Education about benefits
- Community responsibilities to integrate veterans back into the community

Questions Concerning Veterans Assistance Fund and Budget Recommendations

1. How to prioritize fund expenditure
2. What should be included or funds spent on
3. What should not be included or not funded
4. How do we manage the funds
 - a. Monthly allotment
 - b. By category or type
5. What happens when the funds are expended either by allotment or category

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