

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mimi Fields, Sean Smith and Robert Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Walker and Casey Wegner

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Clark, Michael Wilson and Linda Loyle

Mimi Fields called the meeting to order.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and plan for the community meeting on June 5, 2013.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Clark said that he works for the Low Income Housing Institute out of Seattle and works with veterans at the Fleetwood Apartments. He worked with Veterans' Fund programs in Wisconsin. He was thankful the program hours have been extended to Monday through Friday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 7, 2013 were unanimously approved.

Planning for Community Meeting

Thurston County Regional Planning may have Fast Facts' information which will show the needs we are trying to meet. If information is received from Regional Planning the data will be sent to advisory board members.

It was suggested that it might be best if the meeting flyer included a percent for the total military connected population instead of a raw number.

Advisory board members discussed registration for the meeting including consideration of a registration fee; response date; and possible certificate of attendance. A low cost registration fee may be reasonable, though the advisory board members are not sure if there should be a fee. Scholarships could perhaps be offered. It was suggested that the discussion regarding a registration fee should go back to WDVA. Drop-ins may attend the meeting.

It was also suggested that the Top Five Needs of veterans may include transportation, health services, mental health and long range financial planning. Break-out sessions should include the Top Five Needs. Include mental health in health services. Once we have the categories facilitators can be assigned.

Suggestions for the agenda include the following: include military affiliation along with the presenter's name; invite facilitators to break-out sessions; no walls; strong moderator; perhaps include legal assistance on agenda; provide a resource list; include next steps; provide feedback to WDVA and Don

Sloma, Director of PHSS, including major recommendations and how to handle next steps; advisory board meet soon after the conference to follow through on recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager