

## **THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD**

### MEETING MINUTES

November 25, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mimi Fields, Robert Nakamura, Sean Smith, Thom Stoddert, Robert Thompson, Casey Wegner, and Gary Walker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Aaron Washington, Michael Wilson, Joe Worsley and Linda Loyle

Gary Walker called the meeting to order.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

The advisory board members suggested that Robert Nakamura e-mail to Linda days in the month he is available to meet. Linda will then e-mail to the board members possible meeting dates. A new meeting date is being looked at so that all board members are available to attend. Disabled American Veterans meet Thursday nights and American Legion Post 94 meets Friday nights.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of October 14, 2013 were unanimously approved.

### **Budget**

The Proposed Financial Plan for the Veterans Assistance Fund was reviewed. If changes in revenue and or expenditures are not made in 2014 beginning 2015 the fund will be in the hole. Treatment Sales Tax funds will be used for the Incarcerated Veterans program in 2014. There is no guarantee these funds will be available beyond 2014.

A request was made to double the levy in 2014, but that option was turned down. Recommendations are needed now for next year's budget. Funding from other sources will be researched. Multiple approaches will need to be used to address the deficit. Three in-kind staff members are assisting with the program. Volunteers, interns and work study positions are being recruited.

Sean will forward a contact for a grant writer. The January agenda shall include a brainstorming session regarding ideas on how to fill in the gaps. Suggestions at this meeting included linking up with WDVA and other counties; show collaboration for grants; consider other services for homeless veterans; include recommendations if no additional revenue is provided; include conference follow-up; look at projections from the last couple of years, reality is difficult decisions will have to be made; January agenda shall include a discussion of recommendations; suggest having a February or March meeting to

continue with recommendations; consider option for decreasing expenditures; and consider another levy request.

Next meeting discuss the values the board wants to support. Suggested values may include immediate need more than outreach, job placement, etc. Incarcerated Veterans' program, it is a small amount of financial assistance, is it worth funding? Are veterans tapping into other resources? Consider coordination with other organizations/resources including a one-stop with the Thurston County Veterans' Council. Consider the average length of time on the Veterans' Assistance Fund. Perhaps consider a sunset on assistance. Review burials and cremation assistance.

#### **Shelter Contracts 2014**

The shelter contracts being considered for 2014 include a contract with The Salvation Army in the amount of \$10,000 and a contract with Catholic Community Services SW in the amount of \$37,200.

**MOVE TO CONTINUE FUNDING OF SHELTER CONTRACTS IN 2014. RECOMMEND THAT EXPENDITURES IN 2014 BE THE SAME AS THE 2013 EXPENDITURES. THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PASSED.**

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

As follow-up to a previous discussion, Tacoma AmVets does not provide transportation. The vehicle seen in this area is a mobile office that a service officer and driver use to go out into the community. Gary talked to Faith who is with DAV providing transportation coordination at American Lake. She said they would like to secure a van for Thurston County. They need a secure place to park the van and volunteer drivers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,  
Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager