

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

### **MEETING MINUTES**

January 26, 2015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mimi Fields, Sean Smith, Thom Stoddert, Gary Walker, Casey Wegner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Nakamura, Robert Thompson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Linda Loyle, Lou McElroy, Joseph Worsley

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

Homes First presentation will be at another time.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of December 16, 2014 were unanimously approved by the VAB.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Casey inquired and it was explained that the two year rule for assistance was approved in the county budget. A letter from Gary Walker was sent to any veteran affected by this change.

### **CONFERENCE PLANNING**

Gary provided background information regarding the conference. The L&I auditorium has been reserved for June 16<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be able to purchase lunch from the L&I cafeteria. The conference will focus on two topic areas, a one-stop for veteran services and veteran health services in our community.

A draft conference invitation has been created. Mimi and Casey provided input. Casey suggested that the vision and goal of the conference be stated on the invitation. It was clarified that the conference will not be a military resource fair. Facilitators for the two conference discussion groups will be Sean for one-stop services and Casey for crisis services. The WDVA will be asked how they would like to participate in the event.

It was also suggested that Gary and Linda visit RallyPoint6 in the near future. Linda explained that the VAF will be providing services to veterans at the Lacey Veterans Services office. This space is being provided by SPSCC in cooperation with the City of Lacey. The space will be shared with the Tacoma and Federal Way Vet Centers.

### **NON-PROFIT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The subcommittee is learning more about partnering with organizations that have non-profit status. The group wants 100 percent of the donated funds to go to veterans; 10 percent to the partner agency and the remainder to veterans. The VAF would provide overhead costs. Both American Legion Post 94 utilizing the Auxiliary 501-C19, the Thurston County Veterans Council and American Legion Post 100 are approachable as potential partners. Tom will research with the Secretary of State's office regarding veteran organizations with 501-C19 tax status.

Linda will contact PHSS director and prosecuting attorney's office to find out what if any county process must be followed for the VAB to partner with another organization to solicit funds for veterans. If a partnership is developed the committee recommends that there not be a separate advisory board overseeing this activity.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The AmeriCorps program at SPSCC contacted Gary regarding the placement of a service officer at the school. Gary will follow-up with this request.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Submitted by,

Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager