

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES, SPECIALLY SCHEDULED MEETING

December 16, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mimi Fields, Thom Stoddert, Robert Thomson, Gary Walker, Casey Wegner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Nakamura, Sean Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Linda Loyle

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Paul Hannah with the Vet Center said that he will be providing services at the City of Lacey site on Tuesday and plans to add another counselor for Thursday. South Puget Sound Community College plans to begin offering classes at the City of Lacey site, fall 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 20, 2014 were unanimously approved by the VAB.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SHELTER CONTRACTS

The VAB recommended retaining shelter contracts for 2015. The advisory board recommends trying these contracts for one year and then evaluate. The board members commented that the costs for both contracts look reasonable.

Move to accept proposed revisions for the Catholic Community Services SW contract for a period of one year with reevaluation at that time. Motion passed unanimously.

Move to accept The Salvation Army contract as proposed for one year and then reevaluate. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THURSTON COUNTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The advisory board suggested retaining specifics in the policy regarding veterans being safely sheltered.

Recommended to include 'Waiver Recommendations' by the advisory board following receipt of an e-mailed, written, waiver request. Authorized board members will respond within 48 hours.

It was also agreed to include in the policies and procedures a way for veterans to address the advisory board regarding program complaints. It was suggested that the veteran either attend an advisory board meeting or meet with an individual board member. At that time the veteran would state what is wrong and a possible remedy. It was suggested that a complaint form be utilized and the advisory board chair or vice-chair initially respond with a suggested resolution to the matter.

Move to accept policies and procedures with editing #4 (Note #4 is as follows: the assistance provided will primarily be for assistance with rent) as discussed. Motion passed unanimously.

CONFERENCE PLANNING

Labor and Industries has space available in June. Gary is seeking approval to book rooms more than four weeks out. Early in the year save the date notices will be sent out to potential attendees. The advisory board would like the attendees be individuals who can make decisions for their organization.

A timeline for the 2015 conference will be developed. Senator Patty Murray expressed concern with the lack of coordinated crisis services for veterans. This will tie in with the conference agenda.

NON-PROFIT PLANNING COMMITTEE

There are limitations on VA funding and WDVA will probably take a big money hit this next year. The planning committee is working on the proposed structure for the non-profit board. It is suggested that it include the VAF, a representative from JBLM, a grant advisor such as Bob Jones and five working members. The non-profit can stand alone or seek partners. The non-profit board will be responsible for reviewing all activities of the organization.

One decision that needs to be made is whether the non-profit will be a stand-alone or seek partners. It takes 18 to 36 months to process a stand-alone. A decision should be made by spring whether to partner with another organization. It is possible to start with a partnership and then develop a stand-alone. The committee is recommending to proceed with a stand-alone and seek partners at this time. Gary and Thom will contact some possible community partners.

The committee will continue to work on the structure. More information is needed. Linda will provide Thom and Gary contact information for Parks and Recreation and the program intern is available to research contact information for partner organizations.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Submitted by,
Linda Loyle, Community Program Manager