

Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board  
Lacey Veterans Services Hub  
15 October 2018 Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gary Walker, Sean “Smitty” Smith, Bill Powell, Liza Narciso, Matt Huot, and Casey Wagner.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert “Bob” Clark, William “Bill” Adamson, and Cesar Morales

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Liz Davis, Steve Kirkman, Mark Moffett

Meeting opened at 6:06 pm by Chair “Smitty” Smith

**Introductions** were made. Liz Davis from the Thurston County Department of Health briefed the attendees on her division. The VAF/Veterans Services are part of her division.

**Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes.** The 16 April and 16 July 2018 minutes were approved as posted.

**Emergency Shelter Contracts.** Salvation Army request for four (4) nights and Drexel House request for two (2) nights for a total of \$73k were presented, discussed, and approved. Interfaith Works request was denied after discussion. Mark stated that the contract request will be presented to BoCC the next day (16 October 2018).

**Request for VAF funds to Support Veterans Stand Down.** Gary made the motion that VAF funds not to exceed \$2k be authorized to support the 16 November 2018 Veterans Stand Down. In addition, the motion included provision that this amount would be authorized annually provided that the event was organized by the Veteran Outreach staff at Work Source were organizing the event. The motion was seconded and approved without further discussion.

**Lacey Veterans Services Hub Update:** Keith Looker was not able to attend but provided the following information for the TCVAB:

*Lacey Veterans Services Hub Update  
Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting*

***3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.***

*During this quarter we have added the following services to the Hub.*

*Transportation program*

*Legal Assistance Counseling*

*Financial Management Counseling*

*iRest Meditation classes*

*Due to the increase in services, we have extended our office hours to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*During the third quarter we supported 847 client appointments, registered 225 new clients, and logged 1,294.5 volunteer hours.*

*We have received two grants to fund the establishment of a computer lab in order to support Veteran's employment, VA Benefit, and education opportunities.*

*We have added an AmeriCorps VISTA, a VA Work Study, and four College Interns to enhance the services offered at the Hub.*

*The Lacey Veterans Services Hub has partnered with Hiring our Heroes / U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to assist in establishing a Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone in the Lacey/Olympia/Tumwater area.*

### **Upcoming Events.**

*DSHS Mobile Community Support Office, Lacey Veterans Services Hub, October 29, 2018 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. – offering onsite basic food assistance, cash assistance, medical assistance, and Medicare Savings Program*

*Veterans Stand Down, Olympia Armory, November 16, 2018, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., Homeless services, Thanksgiving Food Baskets, and free turkeys for Veterans and their families, Veteran Job Fair in the afternoon*

### **Future Priorities of VAB**

- VAF funds roll over each year and a small surplus is building.
- The expansion of services available through the VAF should be considered and what those services should be.
- It was agreed that input from the Lacey Veterans Service Hub manager was needed so an informed discussion and decision could occur.
- Liza volunteered to follow up on IT bus passes for use by veterans.

### **Veterans Summit Update**

Liza provided an update on the August 2018 conference in Wenatchee. It was agreed that both VAF staff should be strongly encouraged to attend and participate.

### **Around the Room:**

- Liza informed the attendees that WDVA is working to link their e-records to VA/DoD medical record system.
- Gary shared information about the Veterans Day ceremony in the Capital Rotunda on 11 November 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 14 January 2019 at 6:00 PM and will be held at the Lacey Veterans Services Hub.