

Veterans Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: February 12, 2018/10:00 a.m./Veterans' Conference Room, Whatcom County Health Department

Members Present: John Mitchell, Paul Pelot, Richard Conoboy, Christopher Brown, Bob Hines, Heather Mueller, Al Jensen

Members Absent: Ward Nelson, Wes Weston

County Staff: Elizabeth Harmon-Craig, WCHD Veterans Specialist, Chris D'Onofrio, WCHD Human Services Clerk; Anne Deacon, WCHD Human Services Manager

Guests: None

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Call to order	Meeting called to order by Chair Paul Pelot	Paul Pelot
2. Roll Call/ Introductions	Roll call, quorum present. Introductions commenced for new member Heather Mueller Heather introduces self to board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originally from Iowa, joined Navy after high school and worked on planes • Medically retired • Recently graduated from Western Washington University • Completed internship at WHCD with Liz Harmon-Craig • Currently works at Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is working to add veteran's assistance program there to connect with care and other services 	All
3. Review/Approval August, 2017 minutes	Minutes of December 11, 2017 reviewed. Motion made (John) and seconded (Al) to approve minutes as presented.	Motion: To approve the December 11, 2017 minutes as presented. Aye 4, Nay 0, Abstain 3, Absent: 2
4. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair and Vice-Chair positions • Presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John motions that Paul be reappointed as Chairperson, Bob seconds the motion, all approve • Paul motions that John be reappointed as Vice-Chair, Bob seconds the motion, all approve • Liz will be presenting an overview of the Veterans Program and proposing 	Motion: Paul Pelot be appointed as Chairperson of board Aye 7, No 0 Motion: John be appointed as Vice-Chair of board Aye 7, No 0

<p>on Veterans Program to Health Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with legislative aids from Rep. Larson's Office • Presentation to Health Committee • Adjusting Eligibility for Veteran Support 	<p>the change of eligibility requirements to access the program before the Health Committee this week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Veterans Advisory Groups is invited to attend and show support for the proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two aids from Representative Rick Larson's office came to meet with Liz and discuss VA healthcare challenges, especially relating to the Choice program, the frequent delays in service delivery, and the DAV van limitations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lack of providers for the Choice program in Whatcom County has made access difficult, but there is a chance of re-instituting the mobile van that could improve access out to more rural parts of the county • Liz provided a preview of the presentation she will be giving to the committee and gave board members a chance to provide input ahead of the presentation. A copy of the presentation is available online. • The board unanimously agrees that 60% AMI is a good place to set the income threshold for services from the Whatcom County Veterans Office 	
<p>Fund Balance</p>	<p>The veterans fund currently has \$668,863.54 cash on hand</p>	<p>Liz</p>
<p>Good of the Order</p>	<p>Al tells board that there is an energy-focused career prep night sponsored by Shell on April 10th. The fair is intended to attract veterans and prepare them for careers in the energy sector. Contact Al for more details.</p> <p>Rotary Club of Bellingham is presenting a Veteran's Employment Seminar featuring HR professionals and advertising positions on February 27th from nine to noon at the Bellingham Country Club. The jobs range from administrative and accounting to maintenance and mechanical jobs. There will be support for building resumes and practicing interviews.</p>	<p>Al Jensen</p> <p>Paul Pelot</p>
<p>8. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Next meeting will take place on April 9, 2017 from 10:00-11:30</p>	<p>Ongoing homework assignment: submit to Liz for discussion at next meeting ideas to engage veterans in activities they like to do.</p>
<p>9. Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 	