

**Veterans Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date/Time/Location:** April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019/10:00 a.m. /Veterans' Conference Room, Whatcom County Health Department

**Members Present:** Wes Weston, Andrea Vance, Allan Jensen, Richard Conoboy, John Mitchell, Ward Nelson, Lynne Graham, Paul Pelot

**Members Absent:** Robert Hines

**County Staff:** Elizabeth Harmon-Craig, WCHD Veterans Specialist; Anne Deacon, WCHD Human Service Manager; Anne Beck, WCHD Human Services Supervisor; Samantha Murdoch, WCHD Coordinator;

**Guests:** Gene Goldsmith, DAV; Nathaniel Davis, OPPCO; Mike Parker, OPPC

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<b>1. Call to order</b>	Meeting called to order by Chair Paul Pelot	Paul Pelot
<b>2. Roll Call/ Introductions</b>	Roll call, quorum present.	All
<b>3. Review/Approval Dec, 2018 minutes</b>	Minutes of Dec, 2018 reviewed. Motion made (Ward) and seconded (John) to approve minutes as presented. A vote was held and the motion passed.	<b>Motion:</b> To approve the December, 2018 minutes as presented. <b>Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1</b>
<b>4. New Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Whatcom County Code 2.150 and 2.152 “veteran” definition and</b></li> </ul>	<p>We would like to reference the RCW instead of defining the word “veteran” in the county code. The purpose would be so that if any county code or RCW changes occur it will keep up to date on this such as what we do with indigent. The state has two RCW’s, and we would like to reference both as an “or” so that it can apply as needed allowing a broader spectrum of inclusion. When the federal shutdown occurred we had veterans and active duty unable to meet their needs despite having the full time job and showing up for work. Border Patrol fell under RCW 73.08.005.5, but the Coast Guard did not. The County Prosecutor did not have a legal issue serving Coast Guard under RCW 41 due to the medals assigned for many of the applicants. If we have the option for “or” it allows us to serve those who are classified under RCW 41 and not just RCW 73. At the ACHS it was suggested to use RCW 73 for funding and RCW 41 for employment purposes for scoring. We could also go to the county council to allow us to include active duty according to “b” section under RCW 73. Due to the restrictions of the RCW we are limited on providing support to active duty. Supportive Service for Veterans and Families has already made this adjustment to meet these needs.</p>	<p><i>Liz</i></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> To approve the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RCW 73.08.005.5.C.i v.b discussion</b></li>   <li>• <b>2019 Veterans Survey Discussion</b></li> </ul>	<p>Ward moves to approve discussion number 1 basing definition of “veteran” as reference to state definition in RCW. AI seconded.</p> <p>The second discussion is part b of RCW 73, the state leaves it up to the local legislature authority.</p> <p>Suggestion to amend adding “and in conjunction with coordination with local chartered veterans organizations and/or agencies.”</p> <p>This is an intention to expand on what eligibility we want to use at a local legislature level. If we choose to vote today it would be on specific language. The term of 180 days of active duty was used because of other standards that are of similar expectations.</p> <p>The general public does not see active duty as a veteran and the county will likely bring this up. Getting all the information and public input together including from the county council and then bringing this back to discuss further.</p> <p>We are keeping the survey as short as possible to assist in completion of survey. Our purpose with this survey is to understand needs of the veteran’s community and how to prioritize.</p> <p>Email us to let us know of any specifics to add to the list before the end of April.</p>	<p>December, 2018 minutes as presented. <b>Aye: 8, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1</b></p> <p><i>Liz</i></p> <p><i>Ann B</i></p>
<p><b>5. Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fund Balance</b></li>   <li>• <b>Veterans Specialist Report</b></li> </ul>	<p>The veterans fund balance is \$662,412.64</p> <p>34 VSO Claims in December and January</p> <p>Geri Pitts at Veterans Center started a steering committee to help assist on meeting community needs, Liz volunteered to participate.</p>	<p><i>Liz</i></p> <p><i>Liz</i></p>
<p><b>6. Good of the Order</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled American Veterans is struggling to find drivers for their van, if they do not make a trip it impacts many other counties too.</li> <li>• Veteran Education Summit is going to be June 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> at Semiahmoo.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Next meeting will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019</p>	
<p><b>8. Adjourn</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Paul</i></p>