

Veterans Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: August 13, 2018/10:00 a.m. /Veterans' Conference Room, Whatcom County Health Department

Members Present: Richard Conoboy, Al Jenson, John Mitchell, Ward Nelson, Paul Pelot, Wes Weston (phone in)

Members Absent: Christopher Brown, Robert Hines

County Staff: Elizabeth Harmon-Craig, WCHD Veterans Specialist, Anne Deacon, WCHD Human Services Manager; Emily West, WCHD Clerk III

Guests: Lynne Graham, VSO & Intern; Bob Mortensen, US Dept. of Veterans Affairs

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.	All
3. Review/Approval June 11, 2018 minutes	Minutes of June 11, 2018 reviewed. Motion made (Paul) and seconded (Al) to approve minutes as presented. A vote was held and the motion passed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liz clarified from the last meeting that the Whatcom Allied Veterans Council is singularly focused on Memorials. They don't do any projects for Veterans. 	Motion: To approve the June 11, 2018 minutes as presented. Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 2
4. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy Hockenberry presents the CHA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy gave a brief orientation of the Community Health Assessment report and what we are doing as an agency for next steps. • The CHA is a comprehensive look at the health of Whatcom County residents • The aim of the assessment is to answer how healthy are we as a community and what is our communities ability to adjust the most pressing health issues in our community. • Over 160 data indictors were pulled and spoke with community to create this report. • Reviewed information and gave key findings (page 2). • Discussed what's next: a smaller, place based assessment is to be conducted to look at how health is experienced across 7 smaller communities (page 4) • The community health assessment is required every 5 years for public health agencies – this is a best practice 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Mortenson from Dept. of Veterans Affairs • Board Vacancies • Veterans Services Officer Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob with US Dept. of Veterans Affairs spoke about his primary role working across the nation with states, non-profit sectors, veterans, and family members to connect them with the right resources. • There is a Community Veteran Engagement Board networking event on Sept. 7, 2018 in Spokane, WA. The goal of the CVEB Networking event is to promote networking among CVEBs, share best practices and lessons learned, create a network of support, and connect resources across local communities. • Liz is to get Bob an email of concerns for him to pass on to Pritz; this is the first step to get an expert to our location. • Heather’s resignation has been tendered. • Liz would prefer another woman on the board to make it diverse like the community; replacement to be minority. • Anne made the recommendation to create a nominating committee of 3 to go over applicants to see who has the most diversity • Motion made (Ward Nelson) and seconded (Paul Pelot) to create a nominating committee consisting of Al, Dick, and Paul to go over the applicants. A vote was held and the motion passed. • Liz reports that she is in the process of getting her accreditation from the WDVA and will be able to take 1 claim per week as that is all her workload will allow. • Del Harden was never notified by the VVA that he had accreditation. He is currently working on getting accredited by the VVA Aux. Del is uncomfortable with submitting claims to the VVA and is waiting for accreditation from the VVA Aux to submit. Once accredited, Del could do 1 claim per week • Del has asked for a stipend for VSO services • A stipend or contract was discussed to reimburse out of pocket costs to volunteer VSO’s as incentive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A: Zero payment by vet; can be paid by organization/agency B: 40 hrs. a week of VSO’s service needed C: Mileage; out of pocket with cost reimbursement – Contract with VSO’s 	<p>Motion: To create nominating committee. Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 2</p> <p>Liz</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realistically to get caught up with the back log, we could support a full-time VSO; however, there is no money in the budget to fund at FTE position. Liz's goal is to have 1 paid position to file claims. In order to do this Administration needs recommendation from this board. 3 contracts for VSO's will give ammunition to the board to get a FTE position. Motion made (Paul Pelot) and seconded (Ward Nelson) to pay for VSO Services. Motion made to amend the motion to support looking at a contract for VSO services. A vote was held and the motion passed. 	<p>Motion: To look at a contract for VSO services. Aye 6, Nay 0, Abstain 0, Absent: 2</p>
Fund Balance	The veterans fund currently has \$668,863.54 cash on hand	Liz
Good of the Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project homeless worked well John Moysuik (Moose) brought up surplus military supplies to hand out to Vets; this opened communication with the County and Work Source with Vets that had previously had bad experiences. 	Liz
8. Next Meeting	Next meeting will take place on October 8th from 10:00-11:30	Ongoing homework assignment: submit to Liz for discussion at next meeting
9. Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 	