

Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board
17 October 2022
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Bill Powell, Jason Matheney, Brandon Frawley, Heather Miles, Eric Paul, and Lisa Narciso.

Others present: Mark Moffett, Laniece Milam, Ashley Redlevske, and Robin Campbell.

Meeting opening:

The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm.

Bill welcomes all to the forum.

Brandon motioned to approve July's meeting minutes and Heather's second.

July minutes have been approved with no opposition.

Robin Campbell introduced herself and thanked the board for having her.

Bento Proposal Presentation

- Mark introduces the Bento program through screen share with the information slides provided by Bento.
- Mark states that the program can address food insecurities our veterans are experiencing in Thurston County.
- Mark gives a detailed history of the Bento program.
- Mark describes how Bento operates. Highlighting dignity of self when addressing food insecurities.
- Robin discusses her knowledge of Bento and that food insecurity is more than just hunger.
- Robin expresses the program's flexibility and that the board would ultimately articulate how it was set up. I.e., the number of veterans, meals per week, and how and what the veteran can access.
- Mark discusses the program budget. Totaling \$310,000, 12 months, and 100 members.
- Bill questions single versus family needs and an overall need for this program.
- Ashley expresses that she does get requests for food.
- Heather has transportation concerns for receiving veterans.
- Jason has concerns about the price per meal and how that number was created.
- Mark states that this number is from Bento, and if approved, Thurston county can do its market analysis.
- Jason questioned the \$60,000 for case management and the number of case workers.
- Jason also has concerns if Bento has key performance indicators or metrics from past production to detail.
- Robin expresses that we can ask Bento about the past performance of the programs they are running.
- Jason feels that the board needs more intimate metrics on their performance.
- Robin states that she would be happy to ask Bento.

- Lisa agrees with Jason and would like to see Bento's performance metrics.
- Jason thinks scheduling a briefing with Bento for the board would be a good idea.
- Mark and Robin state that this is something they can do.
- Brandon says he can set up the meeting once the date is scheduled.
- Nothing further.

Policy & Procedures Update

- Laniece states they go to the Board of County Commissioners on the 25th on the prior changes.
- Laniece says this is good news and that everything produced will be presented.
- Nothing further.

Heroes Café Update

- Jason states that over 70 community providers are attending thus far.
- They are splitting this into two sessions. A resource fair from 9 am to 11:30 am, lunch provided by the American Red Cross, and an appointment session after lunch.
- Jason says the Lacey Veteran Services Hub is pursuing the dental truck later this week.
- Jason states that we want the veterans to attend and for everyone to share with their network.
- Laniece and Ashley are following up with other community providers to see if they are interested in attending and that process.
- Jason shares that the event location is at the South Puget Sound Community College in Lacey.
- Nothing further.

Around the Room and Adjourn

- Bill hopes the next meeting we will have all nine members involved.
- Ashley states that tomorrow it is on the agenda for the Board of County Commissioners to approve the new members, Ken Borque and Rhonda Sutton, and remove Tang Smith.
- Nothing further.

Lastly

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm by Bill Powell. Brandon Frawley recorded the meeting minutes.