

Thurston County Veterans Advisory Board
18 April 2022
Meeting Minutes

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

Others present: Mark Moffett, Laniece Milam, Ashley Redlevske, Keith Looker (Manager, Lacey Veterans Services Hub), Gary Walker, Sean Smith, Thomasina Cooper, and Kristin Mather.

Meeting Opening

Meeting was opened at 6:00 pm.

Jason making a motion to approve January 2022 Minutes and Matt second.

Bill welcomes all in the meeting.

Certificates of Appreciation

- Mark recognizes Gary and Sean for their hard work and dedication. In addition to their efforts in the establishment of the Hub.
- Gary gives a brief background and history into how the Hub materialized.
- Sean gives a brief background and history as well.
- The board thanks Gary and Sean for all they have done and currently doing.
- Thomasina Cooper extends gratitude to Gary and Sean on behalf of Commissioner Ty Menser who is stuck in traffic and could not attend.

New Members

- Laniece Milam introduces herself.
- The board welcomes Laniece.
- Eric Paul introduces himself to the group.
- The board welcomes Eric.
- Bill calls on Tang Smith who is not attending.

Drexel House Veterans Shelter Proposal

- Mark introduces the Drexel House Shelter Bed Proposal.
- Mark States that the TCVAB has been working with Drexel house for the last five to six years. The amount has not changed, it is the same amount per night.
- Mark states the Drexel house is only charging \$45 dollars a night with the overall cost being \$49 per night per veteran.
- Mark continues with the process of payment and criteria for receiving a bed.

- Mark states the veteran must provide a DD214 and the veteran has access to services to help them get their DD214.
- Mark states Catholic Community Service are the only ones to submit a request for proposal and asks if there are any questions.
- Bill inquiries about housing for female veterans.
- Mark states that the Drexel House has a transition building.
- Lisa questions women who self-identify as a veteran and encourages outreach.
- Bill makes a motion to renew the contract and Brandon seconds.

Policy Review & New Initiatives

- Ashley expresses meeting in-person to review the TCVAF policies and procedures. Ashley feels that there being new board members and the effects of Covid, members and policies should be up to date.
- Ashley suggests a review of the income guidelines which were last updated in 2019.
- Ashley and Bill's concern is the increase in rental prices will add to already struggling veterans.
- Lisa expresses the increase in cost of living.
- Brandon suggests using the Hub as a meeting place for the in-person review.
- Keith states that if given a time and date the Hub can accommodate an in-person meeting.

Lacey Veterans Services Hub Update

- Keith states the number of clients the Hub has been seeing has drastically increased. What use to be 20-25 clients a day, recently it has been 35 and with some days seeing as many as 60.
- Keith states that the Hub is constantly trying to expand.
- Keith announces that the hub is working with a customer in South Korea which means the Hub has gone international.
- Keith states that the Hub has developed partnerships with the Pierce and King County veteran service organizations and the JBLM Transition services.
- The Hub received a van from the Intercity Transit which aids them with door to door service for veterans.
- Keith states two new education programs Grand Canyon University and Thomas Edison State University.
- Keith states three new HUD-VASH counselors on site and employment services being offered.
- The Hub has received two grants for their food insecurity program from West Care and The Bob Woodruff foundation.
- Keith asks if there are any questions. (No questions)

Around the Room and Adjourn

- Matt addresses the surplus with an idea of a monthly stipend that he will continue his work on.

- Bill asks Brandon to follow up with a in-person meeting date for the policy and procedure review.
- Ashley reiterates her concerns of veterans being over income.
- Mark thanks Thomasina for the message from Commissioner Menser.
- Mark expresses the budget of 300,000 for the next two years with a pilot program included.

Lastly

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. by Bill.

Meeting minutes recorded by Brandon Frawley.