

CLACKAMAS COUNTY  
 VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
 February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes  
 Zoom  
 2:30pm – 3:30pm

FACILITATOR Adam Khosrobadi					
NOTE TAKER Amy Kelsey - Administrative Specialist 1 - Clackamas County Social Services					
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL					
P	Jerry Craig	P	Tracy Bogard	P	Gregory Freetage
P	RB Green	E	Scott Southard	P	Betty Fish-Ferguson
P	Paul Edger	P	Casey Curry		
P	Laurie Kimmell	E	Ben Heir		
P	Adam Khosrobadi	A	Ian Newland		
P	Larry Moseley	P	Janet Braman		
CLACKAMAS COUNTY STAFF					
P	Gus Bedwell	P	Tito Mendoza	P	Amy Butler
P	Felicia Ridings	P	Amy Kelsey	P	Brooke Gelfand
P	Brenda Durbin	P	Ken Bietschek		
GUESTS					
O	Commissioner Paul Savas	O	Karen Allen	O	Shannon Compton

P-Present, A -Absent, E-Excused, O-Other Attendee

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
Meeting Called to Order	Adam Khosrobadi called the meeting to order.	
Minutes	A quorum was established. The minutes from January 27, 2022 moved to approve as written by Laurie Kimmell, seconded by Jerry Craig and adopted by the Council.	
Chair's Report	Council welcomed new members and visitors.	

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	<p><b>Member - Janet Braman</b> – Registered nurse, daughter of a Navy Veteran, mother of 2 Marines one deployed to Afghanistan.</p> <p><b>Member - Betty Fish-Ferguson</b> – Retired Navy veteran, 37 years Navy participation Active and Reserves. Deployment to Operation Desert Strom, 14 year member of the American Legion, volunteer with Father’s Heart and Love Inc.</p> <p><b>Member - Gregory Freetage</b> – Veteran who served from 2007-2015 in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Sits on the Sandy Net Advisory Board.</p> <p><b>Visitor - Karen Allen</b> with Military One Source</p> <p><b>Visitor - Shannon Compton</b> with National Guard Transitions</p> <p><b>Visitor - Amy Butler</b> with Clackamas County Social Services Developmental Disabilities Program</p> <p><b>Visitor – Brooke Gelfand</b> with Clackamas County Social Services Developmental Disabilities Program</p> <p><b>Expectations around VAC Membership</b>  <b>Adam</b> expressed the importance for all member to step up and become actively engaged in the work of the Council. <b>Adam</b> requested per the Bylaws that all Council members make attendance a priority.</p> <p><b>Attendance expectations per VAC Bylaws</b>  Three absences in any twelve-(12) months determine probable future attendance.  Two unexcused consecutive absences from regularly scheduled meetings of the Council shall constitute automatic resignation by that absent member. Three absences in any twelve-(12) month period, excused or unexcused, by a member will require an Executive Committee review to determine probable future attendance. If termination is recommended by the Executive Committee a two-thirds vote of members at a Council meeting, with a quorum present, shall constitute automatic termination</p>	

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	<p>of that member. Approved leave of absence maybe granted by the Executive Committee and shall not be counted in the above formula.</p> <p><b>Member Recruitment Strategies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Laurie</b> suggested posting flyers in West Linn clinics</li> <li>• <b>Adam</b> mentioned and email or text message campaign</li> <li>• <b>Casey</b> spoke of a small two-sided post cards</li> <li>• <b>Brenda</b> mentioned monies are available to help with marketing expenses and suggested the VAC reach out to Clackamas County’s Public and Government Affairs Marketing Team.</li> <li>• <b>Paul and Larry</b> would like to see an increase in membership from local BIPOC communities and veterans of color.</li> </ul>	
<b>Veterans Service Officer Update</b>	<p><b>Felicia Riding, Veterans Service Officer</b> spoke of the ways the VSO plans to engage veterans during the ongoing pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing informational tear off flyers around the community.</li> <li>• Virtual monthly presentations beginning in February 2022.</li> <li>• Increase efforts to bring awareness to services that are available to veterans who have injuries, presumptive conditions and pension related concerns, along with resources for the spouse and children of a veteran.</li> </ul>	
<b>Director’s Report</b>	<p><b>County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.clackamas.us/recovery">https://www.clackamas.us/recovery</a></p> <p>The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides emergency relief funding to local governments. In May 2021, Clackamas County received approximately \$40.6 million of these funds, and we will receive nearly the same amount after May 2022 (which must be spent by December 2024). Federal government regulations detail <a href="#">how this money can be used</a>.</p>	

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	<p>With these funds, Clackamas County is committed to supporting residents, first responders, businesses, nonprofits and other community partners who have been most impacted by COVID-19. Below, please find the five areas which funds can be allocated toward and their descriptions (as defined by the federal government), and how much of the \$40.6 million we have currently allocated.</p>	
<p><b>Veterans Employment Update</b></p>	<p><b>Ken Bietschek, Clackamas County Job Development Specialist</b> shared with the VAC and overview of the Clackamas County Veterans’ Employment Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded by the County for over 10 years</li> <li>• Customized Case Management</li> <li>• Comprehensive wrap-around approach addressing a wide range of needs and barriers to employment</li> <li>• In-person services – meeting them where they are</li> <li>• Currently the County has 1 Job Developer, but currently hiring additional limited-term staff through new state grant</li> </ul> <p>Statistics gathered during the pandemic in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 for Veterans Employment Services are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 Veteran’s Served</li> <li>• 22 Veterans Employed</li> <li>• \$22,500 in training wage subsidies were provided to Veterans</li> </ul> <p>Clackamas County’s Employment Services also works in connection with the following programs and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>JOBS (Jobs Opportunity and Basic Skills) Program</b> – for families on TANF</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>STEP (SNAP Employment &amp; Training Program)</b> - for individuals receiving SNAP benefits but not TANF</li> <li>• <b>Employment Investment Program (EIP)</b>—Prioritizes those in public housing and those with disabilities, DV or MH.</li> <li>• <b>Employment Training Center-</b> 423 in-person visits for those with technology barriers, FY20-21</li> </ul> <p>Statistics gathered during the pandemic in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 for Clackamas County Employment Services are as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>486</u> Residents Served</li> <li>• <u>273</u> Employed</li> <li>• <u>59</u> received Mental Health &amp; addiction recovery support</li> </ul>	
<b>Member Updates</b>	<b>RB Green</b> shared about Clackamas Community College and the reopening of the College Student Services that will take place on March 7, 2022. The Vet Center will have a grand opening in late May and VAC members are welcome to attend. Additional information to follow soon.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	No Public Comment	
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Veterans Advisory Council</b> <b>March 24, 2022 from 2:30pm-3:30pm via Zoom</b>	