

Clackamas County Veterans Advisory Council

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
 VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
 November 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 In Person at CCC Veterans Village
 12:00pm – 1:00pm

FACILITATOR RB Green					
NOTETAKER Janet Braman					
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL					
	Paul Edgar		Tracy Bogard		Gregory Freetage
	Laurie Kimmell		John Budiao	P	Janet Braman
	Larry Moseley	P	Betty Fish-Ferguson	P	RB Green
P	Carol Bernhard		Don Hedlind		
	Tawnya Lege	P	Thomas McAlarney		
CLACKAMAS COUNTY STAFF					
	Brenda Durbin		Amy Kelsey	P	Joey Johns
P	Ken Bietschek		Aaron Henry		Tito Mendoza
P	Gus Bedwell				
GUESTS					
	Don Stockton		Commissioner Paul Savas		Adam Khosrobadi

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

12:00 PM RB called the meeting to order & intros made.

A quorum could not be established so previous meeting minutes were not approved

Discussion/Review of DRAFT Work Plan Goals

Building a Strong Advisory Council: The Clackamas County Veterans Advisory Council plays a critical role in ensuring that Veterans living in Clackamas County are fully supported.

- Metrics
 - By (date) the Veterans Advisory Council will have full membership
- Activities
 - Work with VAC to identify actions/activities we can take to increase membership

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- VAC recruitment
- Potential for 19 members, currently have 12 members so room for 7 more
- Recruitment is challenging
 - Recommend VAC flyer be shared w/VAC members via PDF
- VAC member approval process takes a long time
- More members are needed to carry out the planned work
- Need Accountability for attendance at meeting
 - Consider changing date of meeting
 - Time—meetings during working hours can be a barrier
 - Consider an employer letter asking if an employee volunteers for VAC could be paid for the time spent attending meetings or possibly VAC activities
- Lacking representation from younger veterans/Gulf War/Afghan Vets
 - What are barriers to applying/joining
- VAC Recruitment social media options
 - KOIN 6 news is running short segments/Veterans Voices
 - Would any VAC members be interested in recording a short video of VAC members
- **RB:** CCC Student Club meeting week of 11/20. Has one student who may be interested
- **Gus:** Holding onsite VAC meetings/tours (like the one today at VV) are invaluable to see the direct impact of what we do and what the need is

Ensure that every Veteran living in Clackamas County knows about the County Veterans Services Office, understands how to access those services, and feels that they belong: Many Veterans and their family members are not accessing all of the Veterans Administration benefits that they earned through their military service.

- Metric
 - Identify some measurable outcomes.
- Activities
 - How do we achieve those measurable outcomes?
- **Discussion:**
 - **Paul:** Outreach to the 24K veterans out there—many live in Mollalla, Mulino, etc.

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- **Consider inviting key elected official to an event**—need to ensure they are non-political. Focused on a specific initiative they are sponsoring
- Social media is likely the key for younger Veterans

Host a Veterans Expo This event will bring together providers, Service Members, Veterans, and their families to share and access resources and make connections so that Clackamas County Veterans and their supporters understand the services available, and how to access them. Potential Theme: Connecting those who served to those who serve. Event will be broken in two parts; Vender education and connection in the am and Military and Veteran Community connecting to venders in the afternoon.

- Metrics
 - Event held by November, 2024
 - Website includes X number of resources and receives X number of hits/month
 - X number of attendees
- Activities
 - Identify steps to event and leaders for the steps.

Gus: Led discussion about sponsoring Stand Down which serves a very small # of people vs. more broad, applicable to a larger audience. Lot of work for a small # or % of people who could be served.

~24K veterans in Clackamas County

~56 chronically homeless

Expo Concept:

- **Discussion:**
 - **General:**
 - This would be a VAC event that is county supported
 - **ACTION ITEM:** RB to check w/CCC for availability of space/date
 - Consider onsite meeting at CCC w/VAC members to tour the space: March 2023 meeting?
 - Must move away from the terminology of Stand Down
 - **Promotion of Expo:**
 - All agreed an Expo Website would be necessary

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- PGA could manage
- Important to utilize social media
- **Preliminary Logistics/agenda:**
 - Start w/ meeting of just vendors both non-VA Vendors + VA Vendors
 - Review of Veteran Culture
 - Allow vendors to meet each other know who's in the room, what do they have to offer
 - Then open doors to the attendees (Veterans/Families)

CHAIR NOMINATIONS: Still under consideration

MEMBER UPDATES: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

Next VAC meeting in January 2024