

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
 VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
 October 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes
 Zoom
 2:30pm – 3:30pm

FACILITATOR Jerry Craig					
NOTE TAKER Amy Kelsey - Administrative Specialist 1 - Clackamas County Social Services					
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL					
P	Jerry Craig	E	Tracy Bogard		
P	RB Green	E	Scott Southard		
P	Paul Edger	E	Casey Curry		
P	Laurie Kimmell	E	Ben Heir		
P	Adam Khosrobadi	E	Ian Newland		
P	Larry Moseley				
CLACKAMAS COUNTY STAFF					
P	Gus Bedwell	P	Tito Mendoza		
P	Erika Silver	P	Amy Kelsey		
P	Felicia Ridings	P	Janette Christensen		
GUESTS					
O	Commissioner Paul Savas				

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

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
Meeting Called to Order	Jerry Craig called the meeting to order.	
Minutes	A quorum was unable to be established, therefore the minutes from September 23, 2021 will be adopted during the November 18, 2021 VAC meeting.	
Chair's Report	Jerry Craig spoke of the Council's efforts to show support for Afghan War Veterans. The Council took a moment to review a letter written To Our Veterans of Afghanistan by Adam Khosrobadi.	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>Laurie Kimmell has agreed to review the letter for any grammatical corrections, Adam will sign the letter and the following behavioral health resources will be added to the letter.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clackamas County Crisis Line 503-655-8585 2. Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 press 1 or text 838255 to receive 24/7 confidential support. 3. Portland Vet Center 503-688-5361. 4. Signing up for the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs newsletter; https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDVA/subscriber/new <p>The letter will be sent to Gary Schmidt, Clackamas County Administrator for a final review and approval before sending to the Board of County Commissioners for further endorsement.</p> <p>Meeting date for November Jerry Craig mentioned to the Council that the next VAC meeting date will fall on a holiday and proposed a new meeting date of November 18, 2021.</p> <p>Veterans Survey - Clackamas County wants to know how we can support veterans! Clackamas County provides a number of services and supports to military veterans, including helping veterans and their families get the benefits they have earned, job training, housing assistance, and more.</p> <p>With over 28,000 veterans in Clackamas County, we are always looking for the best way to serve veterans and their families. If you are a Veteran, are a family member to a veteran, or are simply interested in supporting veterans, please share your feedback with us in this short, anonymous survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClackamasCountyVeteransSurvey</p>	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>For printed copies of the Veterans Survey, please contact Amy Kelsey by email akelsey@clackamas.us or phone 503-650-5643.</p> <p>The Clackamas County Veterans Advisory Council invites you to forward this survey to your networks.</p>	
<p>Veterans Service Office Update</p>	<p>The Clackamas County Veterans Service Office has a new Human Services Supervisor, Gus Bedwell. Gus an Army veteran comes to Clackamas County with 20 plus years of experience doing veteran service work in connection with a variety of veteran related agencies focused on employment and education for veterans, their families and dependents.</p> <p>Gus will be reaching out to the Veterans Advisory Council to learn more about each member and how Gus can best be of service to Clackamas County as a whole.</p> <p>Gus Bedwell Email: GBedwell@clackamas.us Cell: 503-407-6956</p>	
<p>Veterans Housing Update</p>	<p>Erika Sliver, Clackamas County Human Services Manager for Housing POD and Veterans, stated, as of October 28, 2021 Clackamas County Social Services Division has 4 veteran housing programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless Veterans Outreach – Case Manager, Matt Furlow, Marine Veteran • Veterans Rapid Re-Housing – Case Manager, Aaron Henry, Marine Veteran • Housing our Heroes – Case Manager, Keagan Miller, Navy Veteran • Veterans Rental Assistance Program – Case Management Team, Tito Mendoza, Marine Veteran & Sam Mongkhounsavath, Army Veteran (All VRAP Clients are not only experiencing homelessness, they are also experiencing at least one diagnoses of a serious and persistent mental issue. 	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>Clackamas County works together in a coordinated approach with variety of provider's and partners from outside agencies. The team meets monthly to ensure the known homeless veterans in Clackamas County are staffed and the most vulnerable are housed and provided services as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Erika shared with the Council a heartfelt testimonial written by a client under Tito's caseload. The letter of thanks was written in direct reflection to the care and dedication shown by Tito, Sam and RB Green.</p> <p>Erika spoke of the importance of the VAC as it relates to implementation of services to veterans, their families and dependents living and working with in Clackamas County.</p> <p>Tito mentioned two, possibly three veterans will be housed next month through the Veterans Rental Assistance Program. Also several VRAP clients went back to school and are thriving, eager to hit the work force</p> <p>Paul Edgar asked if the veteran outreach team goes into Newell Creek Canyon to locate known veterans. Erika shared that Clackamas County in connection with Park & Rec, the Forest Service, Metro, ODOT and Law Enforcement all make many visits to Knoll Creek Canyon.</p>	
Director's Report	<p>Brenda Durbin, Director of Clackamas County Social Services shared a winter warming shelter and rent assistance update. Over the past 10 years Clackamas County has supported winter warming shelters. Shelters open when freezing temperatures are forecasted. This year the county will see an expansion to the number of shelters provided expanding services in more rural parts of Estacada, Canby and Sandy pending successful negotiations.</p>	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>Volunteer coordination is needed around the provision of behavior health services in warming shelters. Based on need, county staff and facilities may be called upon to provide surge coverage. County resources will be used to cover expenses should community partners not have resources available. Winter shelters will be transitioning Extreme Weather Shelters moving forward and will also provide cooling shelters in the summers and clean air shelters during poor air quality events.</p> <p>Rent Assistance is being funded with two pots of monies totaling \$20 million dollars. At this time the Oregon Law Center is helping to identify individuals in eviction court, and the county rent assistance program is working to get assistance out the door to help families avoid the pending eviction and clear any negative rental history. At this time clients can receive help with up to 12 months of back rent.</p>	<p>Amy will send out resources on how and where to apply for rent assistance.</p>
Member Updates	<p>Laurie Kimmell has requested to be added to the agenda for November to discuss Legislative Senate Bill 218 and the ways in which it will impact the veteran’s treatment courts. Brenda invited Laurie to attend the November 3rd VAC Exec meeting to share thoughts with the group and come up with a synopsis of information to share during the November VAC meeting.</p> <p>Paula Edgar suggested establishing a mailing list of all veterans in Clackamas County to provide more effective outreach in the community.</p>	
Public Comment	No Public Comment	
Next Meeting	<p>Veterans Advisory Council November 18, 2021 from 2:30pm-3:30pm via Zoom</p>	