

CLACKAMAS COUNTY
 VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL
 April 28, 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					
E	Jerry Craig	P	Tracy Bogard	P	Betty Fish-Ferguson
P	RB Green	E	Scott Southard		
P	Paul Edger	P	Casey Curry		
P	Laurie Kimmell	A	Ian Newland		
P	Adam Khosrobadi	P	Janet Braman		
P	Larry Moseley	P	Gregory Freetage		
CLACKAMAS COUNTY STAFF					
P	Gus Bedwell	P	Tito Mendoza		
P	Felicia Ridings	P	Amy Kelsey		
P	Heather Miewald	P	Brenda Durbin		
GUESTS					
O	John Budiao				

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	Paul moved to approve amended minutes from March 24, 2022. Laurie seconded the motion; the Council has adopted minutes.	
Chair's Report	Final Call for Executive Officer Nominations - no additional nominations received at this time.	

ITEMS / ISSUES	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	<p>Slate of Nominees for Executive Office:</p> <p>Chairperson – Adam Khosrobadi nominated for the Chair position by Casey Curry. Vice Chairperson – RB Green nominated for the Vice Chair position by Paul Edgar. Secretary – Janet Braman nominated for the Secretary position by Adam Khosrobadi.</p> <p>Paul moved to approve the slate of officers as announced. Tracy seconded the motion; the Council adopted the slate as presented.</p> <p>Upcoming Member Orientation Held via Zoom on Tuesday May 3rd 2:30pm-4:00pm. All members are welcome to attend. The orientation is a time for members to meet one another, receive information about the Council, and ground in this work.</p>	
<p>Veterans Services Office Report</p>	<p>County Veterans Services Office Report around outreach, Agent Orange and Gulf War Presumptive with Felicia Riding and Heather Miewald</p> <p>Heather Miewald, Veterans Services Officer for Clackamas County spoke of recent changes in list of presumptive conditions and the fact presumptive conditions are service connected. The most common presumptive conditions are those derived from Agent Orange. The most recently added presumptive to the list of Agent Orange presumptive are Parkinsonism, Hypothyroidism and Bladder Cancer. Second most common presumptive derive from Particulate Matter for Gulf War Veterans linked to service in the Southwest Asia Theater of military operations, from the use of burn pits to dispose of garbage, chemicals and toxic waste. The added presumptive are Asthma, Rhinitis and Sinusitis. In consideration is the Cost of War Act, which also addresses cancers of the respiratory track.</p>	

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	<p>Proposed changes around the rating scale for Sleep Apnea to reflect current effectiveness of medical treatment.</p> <p>Clackamas County Veterans Services webpage has been updated: https://www.clackamas.us/socialservices/veterans.html</p> <p>Janet – Who to contact to be a part of a study to determine if conditions are service related.</p> <p>Heather – Participants selected through the VA Health System. Environmental Health Coordinated sets up the registries for Agent Orange and the Burn Pit.</p>	
<p>Cont. Veterans Survey discussion on next steps</p>	<p>How to better the process of data collection to generate a greater response?</p> <p>Casey – Online surveys for veterans do not generate a high rate of return and suggested reaching out to RB at Clackamas Community College to have surveys as part of the orientation process. Along with other organizations in Clackamas County who serve veterans such as Fort Kennedy.</p> <p>Adam – Shortening the survey moving forward, providing multiple-choice well-defined questions, fill in the blanks, along with optional open-ended questions.</p> <p>Larry – Move away from the use of Acronym’s spell out Clackamas County Veterans Services Officers.</p> <p>Janet – Shorter, more frequent surveys on the topic of choice</p> <p>Laurie – Text blast surveys similar to the VA</p> <p>Gus – Ask questions to draw awareness to the Veterans Services Office and to get feedback in an effort to do greater work.</p> <p>Gus – Revisited the analysis of survey results</p>	

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	<p>2021-2022 Clackamas County Veteran Survey</p> <p>Purpose: The Clackamas County Veterans Advisory Council created and distributed this survey. The goal was to hear from veterans, veteran family members, and other community members about how the county can better support veterans living in the county.</p> <p>Distribution: The 23-question survey was available electronically and in paper form since Launch in September of 2021. Veterans’ Advisory Council members, the County Veteran Service Office lobby, H3S lobby, on several Clackamas County webpages, and in several signature lines of emails, distributed it.</p> <p>Highlighted Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of the date of this report there are 55 surveys total. • 90% of the respondents identified as white male veteran. Additionally, over 50% identified as middle wage earners and above (\$52,000 or greater). • Overall, the two main themes that resonated in all the answers were need for help applying for assistance (VA benefits, rent assistance, housing, etc.) and obtaining mental health treatment. • On the COVID front, many commented on childcare and schooling related needs. • Twelve individuals responded with contact information and a VSO has made contacted. • Four respondents indicated living outside of the Clackamas County area. <p>Analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With so few individuals (less than 10%) identifying with other demographics besides white and male, one has to ask the following question. a. What avenues could have been, and should be taken in the future surveys to increase responses from a more diverse demographic? • The two main themes identified and concerns expressed around COVID, solidify the work Veterans Advisory Council is doing around our focus areas Outreach, Suicide Prevention, Increasing employment for Veterans, and hosting a Mental Health Summit. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clackamas County specific survey should those who indicated residing outside of Clackamas County be considered? • Several respondents commented on the inability to select multiple answers on the survey. Additionally verbally, staff expressed to CVSO Human Services Supervisor it seemed long at 23 questions. 	
Outreach Committee	<p>Committee Chair: Larry Moseley</p> <p>Members: Paul Edgar, RB Green, Adam Khosrobadi, John Budiao, Felicia Ridings and Gus Bedwell</p>	
Member Updates	<p>Larry – Would like to see more information shared via email in VAC networks.</p> <p>Casey – Requested to list veteran organizations within Clackamas County on the veterans county webpage.</p> <p>Tracy – Requested recruitment to reopen as soon as possible. Recruitment will open Thursday May 5, 2022 and run through Friday June 10, 2022.</p> <p>Paul – Would like to see VAC information shared on Nextdoor</p>	
Public Comment	No Public Comment	
Next Meeting	<p>Veterans Advisory Council May 26, 2022 from 2:30pm-3:30pm via Zoom</p>	