



Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: August 8, 2022 / 10:00 a.m. / Hybrid Zoom Meeting – WCHD, Girard St & Zoom
 Committee Members Present: Allan Jensen, Joseph Shepherd, Lynne Graham, Paul Pelot, Richard Conoboy, Robert Wilson
 Committee Members Absent: Andrea Vance, Christopher Brown, Wes Weston
 Whatcom Co. Health Dept. Staff/Guests: Liz Witowski, Amanda Burnett, Ashley Geleyne / Teri Bryant, Melissa Nyberg, Adam Beardwood

Agenda Item	Discussion
1. Call to order	Meeting called to order by Lynne Graham.
2. Roll Call	A quorum was present.
3. New Business Review/Approval of April 2022 Minutes	Paul Pelot moved to approve the April meeting minutes. Al Jensen seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion passed. Robert Wilson was not present for the vote. Aye: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
Open Public Comment	There was no public comment.
4. Reports/Discussion	Teri Bryant, Whatcom Homeless Service Center Director, shared the highlights in each section of the ... report. The board asked questions regarding funding sources and eligibility.
Opportunity Council Veterans Housing Presentation	Opportunity Council has hired a new housing case manager in their community services division to work specifically with veterans. They are a veteran, and their first day on the job will be the 16 th . This position will help fill the gap by assisting veterans who are not SSVF eligible. Additionally, a new landlord liaison as been hired which will be a huge asset to VAF and SSVF clients. Jessica Brown of Opportunity Council will be at the October meeting to speak more specifically about the new contracted position.
Updates from WCHD Staff: WDVA Contract, VSO Update, Puget	Liz Witowski provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WDVA contract was awarded to VVA. VVA will hire a VSO to work out of the Vet Center full time.

<p>Sound Urgent & Emergency Care, PACT Act, Fund Balance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Geleynse is now a fully accredited VSO and will be assisting Liz with aid & attendance claims part time. Andy and Kara are also part-time VSOs. VSO capacity is slowly expanding with soon to be two full time VSOs and three part time. • The VA published information for how to access urgent and emergency care in the Puget Sound Region. This information has been added to the county website. Small cards will be made up so veterans can keep in their wallets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras. In order to file a claim, veterans must have a DD-214 and a diagnosis. More information can be found at VA.gov. • The current VAF balance is \$1,158,133.54.
<p>5. Good of the Order</p>	<p>AI has been fielding more questions lately about Camp LeJeune. There has been no change to the legislation, but an increased in PR. The claims process for Camp LeJeune veterans remains the same.</p> <p>There will be a tri-county job fair in Skagit County next to the college on August 30 from 3:00-6:00. Fifty employers have signed up to be there so far. Paul will email a flyer out to the group.</p>
<p>6. Next Meeting</p>	<p>The next meeting will be held Monday, October 10, 2022 on Zoom.</p>
<p>7. Adjourned</p>	<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.</p>