

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
 COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
 Monday December 11, 2023 @ 3:00 PM
 MPR Room Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs Building

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance Meeting called to order @ 3:00 pm by Commission Chairwoman, Holly Collins. All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Holly Collins, Chairwoman; Dr. Dan Kinney, Member; Jim Murray, Member; Andrew Dewey, Ex-Officio Member; Office Personnel Peggy Becker, Administrator; Sam Pettit, Caseworker II; Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker II; and Rebekah Adair, Administrative Assistant
- Additions - Donations
- BOS Updates – none
- Commissioner Updates - none

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the minutes for Regular Monthly Meeting November 13, 2023 – Motion to approve made by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member; seconded by Jim Murray, Member. All in favor, 3 Aye, 0 Nay, Motion Carries
- Approval of assistance given for November 2023: 1 request reviewed, Update of outcome given by Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker II: Motion to approve made by Jim Murray, Member; seconded by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member. All in favor, 3 Aye, 0 Nay, Motion Carries
- Budget 2021-2022: Should be @ 42% currently @ 36%. On target.
- Federal County Assistance Report for November 2023

	November	Previous Month October
Walk Ins:	237	205
Calls:	467	449
Total:	704	664

County	State	Federal
New Clients /Calls 12	Driver License Application 1	Total Fed Forms 182 of these were
Pantry/Clothing 8	License Plate Application 2	Benefit Application 40
Grave Marker 1	Hunting/Fishing License	Intent to File 17
E/Mail I/O 121	MTE/DMTE 1	Headstone Application 2
Appointments 59		Home Loan Certificate 1
		SF-180 2

FACILITIES UPDATE:

- MPR Usage: Routine usage by VFW, other County Departments and Community Agencies

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Veterans Treatment Court: Joshua Howell, Coordinator – Local veterans visit the Valley Hope facility for substance abuse treatment. Staff have made connections with Offutt, including active military as well as veterans. They have made a healthy relationship with the VA; the intensive program has been the most popular referral. Currently lacking residential referrals from the VA. The typical wait is 30 days; the waiting time and locations of services can be an impediment. They are working with the VA for new referrals. Veteran Treatment Court has 6 participants and new staff have been employed. 3 mentors have signed up with more applications to review.
- FY 25 Budget Review/Approval (Peggy) – Motion to approve made by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member; seconded by Jim Murray, Member. All in favor, 3 Aye, 0 Nay, Motion Carries
- Building Usage Application Review/Approval: Iowa Veterans Foundation – No changes have been made for 2024. Motion to approve made by Jim Murray, Member; seconded by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member. All in favor, 3 Aye, 0 Nay, Motion Carries.
- Website Usage: (Peggy/Andrew) – Andrew Dewey, Ex-Officio Member, reports that the county has been using Google analytics. The reports provided include individual department webpages and overall county data. Location data analytics are generic.
- Policy/Guideline Changes: (Peggy) – Have been submitted to the county attorney for review because of the addition of an income limitation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Building Usage Rules and Regulations Changes/Approval: (Peggy) – Does not require legal review as we are only adding a timeframe based on who is using the building (3 year usage option has been added). Approval will go to the BOS tomorrow. Motion to approve changes made by Jim Murray, Member; seconded by Dr. Dan Kinney, Member. All in favor, 3 Aye, 0 Nay, Motion Carries.

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- Veterans Day @ the Capitol: (Peggy) <https://legiscan.com/gaits/search?state=IA&keyword=veteran> – An email was sent to the Association and Iowa VA but no response has been received. Numbers are pending in the legislature.
- GDX (Geographical Distribution of VA Expenditures) & Department of Veteran Affairs Stakeholders Comparison Report Federal FY2021 vs FY2022. – This (GDX) does not include spouses or survivors. BOS Member Brian Shea – question about the numbers, what is the cause for the severe decrease in number of veterans. Peggy Becker, Administrator – older generations of veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam are passing.
- Donations – The American Legion have donated gift cards. Our office handed out gift cards in October for Operation Greenlight to every veteran who came in for an appointment. Gift cards were also handed during the week of Thanksgiving to veterans who came in for a pantry and will be handed out again during Christmas to veterans in need of a pantry. Recently, there was a significant donation made for the pantry. This money will be spent on hygiene products and food storage containers. The containers will assist veterans with meal prep and food storage so the pantry items will last longer.

Public Comment (3-minute limit) Dr. Dan Kinney, Member, reports that the numbers show that our organization is working and our staff is doing their jobs. BOS Member Brian Shea reports that the courthouse renovations are moving along and that Hubert Houser has passed. Brian Shea also commented on how well Peggy Becker has been leading the office. Peggy Becker reported that Veterans Day at the Capitol is January 17, 2024. Also, there has been frustration from veterans that Veterans Affairs is on the side of our building, but we are not affiliated. Our purpose and operations are unclear. It has been explained that we are in the process of updating our signage to reflect our change to VSO. Holly Collins, Commissioner, asked to set a date for the annual Christmas party. VSO staff have requested that the party be during the afternoon and held at the VSO. The date and time was set for Thursday, December 28, 2023 from 2:30pm-4:20pm.

**CLOSED SESSION AS ALLOWED PER CODE OF IOWA CHAPTER 21.5, 1(A) December ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
0 Request for Assistance**

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURN

NEXT MEETING January 8, 2024

GDX Comparison Expenditures in \$000s Top 5 Veteran Population Across the State

County	Population FY2021	Population FY2022	Total Funds FY2021	Total Funds FY2022	Comp & Pen FY2021	Comp & Pen FY2022
Polk	26,225	24,779	296,122	350,765	121,845	151,816
Linn	15,147	14,226	113,171	130,879	48,874	59,063
Scott	11,933	11,842	101,035	113,589	48,231	58,092
Black Hawk	7756	7407	57,383	65,483	30,894	35,978
Pottawattamie	7329	6351	75,317	83,261	34,478	40,838

Stakeholder Comparison Veteran Like Population Expenditures in \$000s

County	Veteran Populati on FY21	Veteran Populat ion FY22	Veterans In Receipt FY21	Comp & Pen FY21	Veteran s In Receipt FY22	Comp & Pen FY22	Survivor s In Receipt FY21	Survivo r Benefit s FY21	Survivor s In Receipt FY22	Survivo r Benefit s FY22
Black Hawk	7756	7407	1,618	30,894	1,635	35,978	213	2,880	232	3,450
Pottawattamie	7329	6351	2,118	34,478	2,134	40,838	216	3,284	217	3,477
Woodbury	6552	5746	1,393	22,991	1,440	26,349	148	1,970	160	2,425
Dubuque	6022	5300	1,210	24,072	1,216	28,868	135	2,079	140	2,244
Johnson	5520	5818	1,239	22,170	1,266	27,725	104	1,614	115	1,792