



STATE OF WASHINGTON
VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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Meeting Minutes

Meeting attended by (VAAC Member)	Charles Wharton, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Joe Jimenez & Michele Love
Date	November 15, 2018
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Location	7 Cedars Casino – Totem Room – 270756 Highway 101, Sequim, WA
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Sharon Kirkpatrick Invocation by Al Fletcher Pledge of Allegiance led by Charles Wharton
Welcome & Introductions:	Welcome and Introduction – Sharon Kirkpatrick
Presentations	<p>WDVA Update – Gary Condra</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• US DVA Secretary Wilkie visited Washington State – WDVA Director had a tele with the Secretary to convey WDVA’s vision and mission and how our agency is always ready to assist• US DVA Undersecretary for Benefits, Dr. Paul Lawrence also visited our state and visited our King County Office. Alfie shared with Dr. Lawrence how our agency partner’s with various Veterans Service Organizations as well as counties in assisting veterans in filing for claims/benefits earned• Walla Walla Veterans Home – is open and is an 80 bed facility with dedicated memory care unit.• Opening of a 40 bed transitional housing at Roosevelt Barracks located at Washington Soldiers Home in Orting – will start accepting application December 17, 2018 for admittance• Looking for another state veterans cemetery site in Tri-Cities Area <p>Community Update – Tammy Sullenger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 in every 4 individuals that lives in Clallam County is a vetera• Bill ringing in the town square is held monthly to commemorate veterans that have passed away that month – held last Friday of the month• Westport Shipyard donated scrap woods to created wood boxes for flags and presented to the family• Stand Down is held 3 times a year• SARGE Place and Camp Selda – provide housing for homeless veterans• NW Vets Resource Center undergone a major overhaul 3 years ago

Employment – John Ferguson

You may qualify for special services if you served in the military

Here in Washington state, [WorkSource helps thousands of military veterans - including disabled veterans](#) - find jobs each year.

As a veteran, you can get priority access to WorkSource services. This includes priority referrals to jobs that are listed with WorkSource, as well as other employment services.

WorkSource centers offer [veterans and their spouses](#):

- Job listings, job referrals and hiring events.
- Resume, application and interviewing assistance.
- Use of computers, photocopiers and phones.
- Skill assessments and referrals to training and other resources.

On the [WorkSource website](#), you also can identify yourself as a veteran to make it easier for vet-friendly employers to find you, and you can search for job openings where employers are giving veterans priority over other applicants.

Most WorkSource centers have [veteran employment specialist](#) whose sole job is to help military veterans with disabilities and other severe employment barriers. They'll assess your skills and interests and put together an employment plan that's right for you.

To learn more, visit a [WorkSource center](#) today.

Other programs include the YesVets hiring initiative – www.yesvets.org

WDVA Veterans Services Division – Paul Cruz

WDVA is a full service state agency that assist veterans and their families or survivors. We advocate and aggressively pursues all federal and state benefits earned. Our office is staffed with qualified serviced officer to assist veterans and their families in accessing their benefits earned: VA Disability Compensation Claim, VA Pension or Widows Pension, Aid and Attendance, Health Care Benefits. Using a case management approach, our staff attend to the needs of veterans by providing behavioral health counseling, referral services.

VA Puget Shound – Katherine Hollman

Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA). This program began to cover non-VVA care for eligible veterans entrolled in VA Healthcare. Veterans have option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or if specialty care is not available at the VA. This program is designed to supplement the care the veterans received at a VA facility not replace or limit the care. Use of this program is totally voluntary - no veteran will be required to seek care in the community using the card. Any veteran currently eligible for VA care will retain that eligibility even if he/she will use the CHOICE program to obtain care in the community.

For more information visit the Choice Website at: www.gov.opa/choiceact

CHOICE Billing Questions/Collectoin Issues: 877-881-7618

CHOICE Line: 866-606-8198

Veterans Assistance Fund – Jeff Reyes

Behavioral Health – Peter Schmidt

The Washington Department of Veterans Affairs maintains a one of a kind, state funded outreach/counseling program designated to provide counseling services to Washington state veterans and their family members. Services provided include: individual, couples, family and group counseling. Eligibility to access this program are: Honorably discharge war era (any of the nation's war or peacekeeping periods) veterans and their family members, WA State National Guard or Military Reserves members deployed in support of the nation's war and peacekeeping missions and their family members, Veteran does not need to e suffering from or diagnosed with PTSD but should be able to demonstrate significant post war adjustment issues to warrant outpatient care, No VA service connected disability for any condition is required for this service within the WDVA PTSD Program, services are free to qualified veterans and priority is given to those most vulnerable or having no other reasonable options for care.

[http://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ 12%20Dec%202018 PTSD Provider List 1.pdf](http://www.dva.wa.gov/sites/default/files/12%20Dec%202018%20PTSD%20Provider%20List%201.pdf) (Current Provider List)

Peer to Peer Mentorship – Bryan Bales

Veterans have a need for support services, including peer-to-peer interaction and connections. Some veterans need to talk about their experience in the service or other situations experienced during their time in the military. Often, there is no better individual to talk to about these things than with a fellow veteran. This is what a Veteran Peer Corps does. A Veteran Peer Corps member is a veteran or a family member who receives training and certification and then serves a peer mentor by facilitating meetings and activities.

If interested or would like to know more about this program – contact Bryan Bales at bryan.bales@dva.wa.gov or 360-725-2237

Veterans Assistance Fund – Jeff Reyes

The program provides limited emergency assistance to eligible veterans their dependents. Types of assistance:

- Food
- Rent/housing
- Utilities
- Medical/Prescription
- Referral to other services

Eligibility:

- Must meet income criteria, residency requirements and employment and employability restrictions per Clallam County Policy 950
- Veteran, widow, widower, domestic partner or dependent of veteran
- Veteran must have honorably served on active duty for more than 180 days for other than training purposes
- Must have completed first enlistment or medically discharged under honorable conditions
- Veteran must have resided in WA State for the last 12 months and currently resides in Clallam County

Office is located at the Courthouse – 223 E. 4th St Room 150, Port Angeles, WA

Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB)Mortenson

Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB) are independent community based organizations that are comprised of a collaborative network of veterans advocates, resources and other stakeholders who organize in the local community to improve outcomes for veterans, service members and their communities to create a Veteran Friendly Communities. Ultimate goals for CVEB are: enable veterans, service members and their families, caregivers and survivors the opportunity to voice their opinions and provide feedbacks, enhance the veterans experience, improve outcomes, develop local solutions, ease access to all resources available to veterans within their respective communities, engage US DVA to better understand and implement strategies for local communities.