



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
*PO BOX 41150 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1150 • 360-725-2167*

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Meeting attended by (VAAC Member)</b>	Bob Jones, Chuck Wharton
<b>Date</b>	September 21, 2017
<b>Time</b>	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	Armed Forces Reserve Center Vancouver, WA
<b>Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order by Bob Jones Invocation by Chuck Wharton Pledge of Allegiance led by Chuck Wharton
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions:</b>	Welcome and Introduction led by Bob Jones  Representative Vicki Kraft and Council Chair Marc Bolt welcomed guests to the area and shared their commitment to work with community members.
<b>Presentations</b>	<b>WDVA Update – Mary Forbes</b>  WDVA continues to work with our community partners to ensure veterans and their families are connected with their earned benefits.  Mary shared a handout outlining services available in Southwest Washington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Behavioral Health and PTSD Counselors</li><li>• New Max Impact TBI App to help veterans cope with TBI</li><li>• Vet Corps members are available in Clark County to include Timoty McPharlin who is the SW Regional Coordinator</li><li>• The Veterans Conservation Corps is also working to create eco-therapy opportunities and employment opportunities</li><li>• In Clark County alone, there are 35,503 veterans</li><li>• The Veterans Innovations Program has served 10 veterans in the last year and helped with items such as rent, child care and utilities</li><li>• There are homeless veterans services in the area including HUD/VASH Vouchers and 20 Service Intensive Beds through the Longview Housing Authority</li><li>• Debra Proctor is the VFW Contractor in Clark County</li></ul> <b>Veterans Employment – Monique Martin – WorkSource</b>

WorkSource is available to everyone in Clark County.  
[www.worksourcewa.com](http://www.worksourcewa.com)

Veterans also may have priority service by Disabled Veterans Outreach Coordinator or Local Veterans Employment Representatives in the Office. They can help reduce barriers to work by helping with transportation, wardrobe, work-required tools or other gear.

WorkSource also partners with WDVA to provide the Veterans Innovations Program and Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program benefits to veterans who qualify. (more info at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov))

Other programs include the YesVets hiring initiative – [www.yesvets.org](http://www.yesvets.org)

### **Veterans Assistance Program – Samantha Whitley**

The Veterans Assistance Fund is intended to provide emergency assistance to eligible veterans, widows and family members. Funds are generated through a property tax levy. It can provide assistance with rental, food, automobile issues and even dental. The fund is also available to help families with burial expenses. You can access services at the Veterans Assistance Center. 360-693-7030  
[www.clark.wa.gov/veterans](http://www.clark.wa.gov/veterans) [vetfund@ccvac.net](mailto:vetfund@ccvac.net)

### **Vet Corps – Tim McPharlin**

Vet Corps is an AmeriCorps program which provides peer-to-peer mentoring.

There is a new partnership with Heritage Farm and a Vet Corps member stationed at the Farm.

Much of what the Vet Corps program can assist with is connecting veterans with resources.

### **Family Programs – Liz Johnston**

The family program is available to provide support to Washington Guard veterans and family members. They also support each member assigned to the unit and make sure they have the information and resources they need.

Upcoming events include a Retirement Seminar. They also provide assistance to families who need help around the holidays.

They can also help veterans access records such as DD214s at no cost. Ask for assistance and if they don't provide the service, they can refer you to the organization that does.

Liz Johnston 360-604-7303 | 253-355-6239  
15005 N.E 65th St. Vancouver, WA 98682

## **Homeless Veterans Services – David Pennington**

Housing Opportunities of Southwest Washington provides services to veterans through the Veterans Integration Program. They also provide housing vouchers through the VASH Voucher Program and have a Supportive Services for Veterans Families function. [www.hoswwa.org](http://www.hoswwa.org)

Not in Clark County yet, currently operating in Cowlitz and Pacific Counties.

They focus on helping veterans stay in their housing situation if at all possible and partner with many other service providers in the area.

## **CHOICE Program – Chris Combs**

The Veterans CHOICE Program is part of the Veterans access, choice and Accountability Act. The Choice Program covers Non-VA care for eligible veterans enrolled in the VA health care. Veterans have option to receive Non-VA care rather than waiting for VA appointment or traveling to VA facility. Veteran currently eligible for VA care will retain eligibility even if they uses a Choice Program to obtain care in their respective community. A veteran is referred to Choice if it was determined the requested care is not offered at their local VAMC or through an existing referral pattern with another VAMC.

There was a lapse in referring veterans to the Choice Program because funding had not been reestablished by Congress, but the program is up and running again.

The VA is in the process of contracting for a Choice 2.0 contract and are expecting it to be in place sometime in 2018.

[https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/for\\_veterans.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/for_veterans.asp)

[https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/for\\_providers.asp](https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/for_providers.asp)

VA Portland Purchased Care      866-606-8198

Authorization Unit, Care      360-759-1674

Coordination support