

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
COMMISSION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday May 8, 2023 @ 3:00 PM

MPR Room Pottawattamie County Veteran Affairs Building

AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance Meeting called to order @ 3:00 PM by Chairwoman Holly Collins, all in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Holly Collins Chairwoman; David Hazlewood, Secretary; Mick Gutttau Member; Dr Dan Kinney, Member; James Murray Member; Andrew Dewey, Ex-Officio Member and Lynn Grobe, Ex-Officio Member; Office Personnel Peggy Becker, Caseworker III; Paul Rosenberg, Caseworker II and Sam Pettit, Caseworker II
- Additions: Under New Joshua Howell Veteran Outreach Manager with Valley Hope
- BOS Updates: Jeff Jorgensen BOS liaison attended no updates provided.
- Commissioner Updates: None

OLD BUSINESS

- Approval of the minutes for Regular Monthly Meeting April 17, 2023: Motion to approve made by Mick Gutttau, Member second by David Hazlewood, Secretary All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay Motion carries.
- Approval of assistance given for April 2023 (No assistance provided update given re inquiry)
- Budget 2021-2022: Should be @ 83% currently @ 82%
- Federal & County Progress Report for April 2023

	April	Previous Month March
Walk Ins:	183	172
Calls:	345	353
Total Contacts:	528	525
Website Usage	455 Hits 86% New User	571 Hits 75% New User

County	State	Federal
New Clients /Calls 8	Driver License Application 0	Total Fed Forms 194 of these were
Pantry/Clothing 6	License Plate Application 5	Benefit Application 45
Grave Marker 0	Hunting/Fishing License 0	Intent to File 13
E/Mail I/O 112	MTE/DMTE 1	Headstone Application 13
Appointments 70		Home Loan Certificate 02
		SF-180 01

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

OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Final Salute IA Veteran's Cemetery: The Abandoned Cremains of 7 Veterans and 2 Widows will be given the honors they deserve on June 23rd, 2023, beginning with a funeral service @ 11:00 am and an interment service at the cemetery @ 2:00 pm. All staff and Commissioners were urged to attend.
- FY 2024 Budget Update: Our FY 2024 Budget was approved at the BOS Meeting 4/18/2023.
- Assistance Guidelines Update and Approval: Motion to approve the changes to the assistance guidelines that will be effective July 1, 2023 (FY 2024) made by David Hazlewood, Secretary second by Mick Gutttau, Member All in Favor 5 Aye 0 Nay motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joshua Howell Veterans Outreach Manager for Valley Hope: Veteran Joshua Howell gave a presentation in regard to a local addiction and treatment center they do work with the VAH and Care in the Community to assist Veteran's in getting the fastest possible care when they are ready instead of them having to wait for an opening within the VAH itself.
- Care Facility Reports: Sam Pettit and Paul Rosenberg reported that the care facilities in the area are not receptive, many calls and messages have been left with little to no response back. Independent living facilities seem to have the best response as we can meet with the Veteran and their families. We will keep trying to connect with the Nursing Home facilities.
- American Legion Family Day: Paul Rosenberg represented the office at the American Legion Outreach Event, he reported that everything went well he spoke to about 35 people about benefits and urged them to contact the office.

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- Emergency Action Plan: Peggy Becker Interim Director reported that an Emergency Action Plan has been put into place for the office. She reported that the EAP had already been discussed with and developed by the County Safety Director Garfield Coleman and prior Director Nick Jedlicka. The only thing left was for it to be implemented into the office. Evacuation and Fire Extinguishers maps have been placed around the building and three first aid kits have been purchased and are pending delivery. All staff have read and signed off on the EAP policy and a review and any necessary or required updates t will be completed every year.
- Office Name: The staff have made a request that the name of the office be changed from Veteran Affairs to so something else. It was verified through the State Association that there is no Code or any other requirement that the office be called Veteran Affairs. The change is to hopefully help people to differentiate between the Federal VA and our offices. We get at least 3-5 contacts a week of people seeking medical care or prescription fills. The VA is also planning on placing a primary care clinic in CB by 2025 so with the update to the County logo and such, this is just an opportune time to change things. There is some speculation that if people realize we are not the actual VA they may be more willing to come see us.
- Code of IA Chapter 35b resolution for change: Andrew Dewey Ex-Officio Member is interested in putting together a sub-committee to make Code 35b more specific. Currently the code is very vague about the commission and board of supervisor roles. He is going to contact Mike Mortensen IACCVSO President to determine the best was to go about this.
- Memorial Donation: Our office has been the benefactor of memorials for a young man that passed and had a great passion for Veterans
- Donations Program: With the donations from this current memorial and donations received from others, the immediate needs of our Pantry have been met. Based upon the amount of funds in the budget line a discussion was held about creating an assistance program to help Veterans with those items that are necessary but not considered a basic living need and no other source of assistance is available to them. A rough proposed was presented to the Commission for review and input to hopefully be able to implement the program by the beginning of the fiscal year.
- **Public Comment (3-minute limit)** No Public Comments were made.

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

OPEN SESSION

ADJOURN: Motion to Adjourn Open Session made by David Hazlewood, Secretary second by Mick Guttau, Member
NEXT MEETING: Monday June 12th @ 3:00 PM