



Kitsap County Veterans Program

Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board

The purpose of the Kitsap County Veteran’s Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and the programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: January 8, 2025
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.



Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting
Meeting ID: 834 6002 9859
Passcode: 116863
Phone: 1-253-215-8782

A G E N D A

* = Action Item

- 1. **Call to Order.** Mark Lowe
- 2. **Online Announcement.** Jayme DeGooyer
- 3. **Welcome to attendees and new board members.** Jayme DeGooyer
- 4. **Introduction of Attendees.** Mark Lowe
- 5. **Approval of Agenda. *** Jayme DeGooyer
- 6. **Approval of December 11, 2024, VAB Minutes. *** Jayme DeGooyer
- 7. **Guest Speakers.** Jake Carter, Habitat for Humanity – Veteran Project Bill Martin
- 8. **Reports.**
 - a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachment A. Rick Becker
 - b. **Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends.** Marqus Ellis
 - c. **Committee Reports.**

Topic	VAB Member
Housing and Homelessness / Aging Veterans Services	Matt Shillingburg
Public Affairs and Social Media	Brian Davis
Special Event VAB Support -	Mark Lowe
Veteran Education	Tatiane Simmons
Veteran Health Care	Jayme DeGooyer
Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs	Rick Raymond
Veterans Garden	Jason Reis
Women’s Veteran Services	Jayme DeGooyer
Veteran Employment and Employment Opportunities	Bill Martin
Veteran Court Mentorship	Rick Raymond

- 9. **Old Business:**
 - a. Veterans Resource Center progress. Rick Becker
 - b. Review Veterans Advisory Board by-laws with regard to residency. Rick Becker

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member
Suquamish Warriors Outreach	Dan Kampman

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. Next Meeting February 12, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

14. Adjourn.

2024 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of December 31, 2024					
Account #	Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
	Beginning Fund Balance	-	658,000.00		
	Current Revenue				
3110.10	Real & Personal Property	800,000.00	815,601.34	102.0%	(15,601.34)
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	3,564.71	178.2%	(1,564.71)
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	3,587.74	132.9%	(887.74)
	Revenue total	804,700.00	822,753.79	102.2%	(18,053.79)
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	46,388.00	46,401.04	100.0%	(13.04)
5201	Industrial Insurance	555.00	484.40	87.3%	70.60
5202	Social Security	3,549.00	3,523.74	99.3%	25.26
5203	PERS Retirement	4,305.00	4,317.84	100.3%	(12.84)
5209	WA State Family Leave	101.00	98.82	97.8%	2.18
5229	Benefit Bucket	7,245.00	7,825.00	108.0%	(580.00)
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	106.34	100.0%	(106.34)
5422	Cellular Telephone	-	478.18	0.0%	(478.18)
5425	Postage	150.00	12.16	8.1%	137.84
5431	Mileage	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5432	Travel	-	-	0.0%	-
5451	Operating Rentals	1,500.00	692.11	46.1%	807.89
5452	Cloud Service Subscriptions	-	270.22	100.0%	(270.22)
5497	Registration & Tuition	-	106.86	100.0%	(106.86)
5492	Other Miscellaneous	-	-	0.0%	-
	Contracted Services				
5415	Management Consulting	-	-	0.0%	-
	KCR	646,410.00	351,107.34	54.3%	295,302.66
	NW Justice League	60,000.00	51,450.00	85.8%	8,550.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	878.00	43.9%	1,122.00
5451	Operating Rentals	-	850.00	100.0%	(850.00)
5499	Other Miscellaneous	14,562.00	163.90	1.1%	14,398.10
	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,319.00	3,318.96	100.0%	0.04
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,542.00	1,542.00	100.0%	-
5922	I/F IS Projects	304.00	303.96	100.0%	0.04
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	5,570.00	5,570.00	100.0%	-
	Expense total	804,700.00	479,500.87	59.6%	325,199.13
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	658,000.00		
	Budget total	804,700.00			

Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program - Summary of Direct Emergency Assistance During 2024

Total Direct Service Budget 2024 - \$553,098

Activity	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total 2024
Appliances			\$899.58										\$ 899.58
Auto Repair	\$ 300.74		\$988.85	\$ 2,763.03	\$ 1,226.20	\$ 7,613.20		\$ 8,228.83	\$1,457.21	\$2,475.77	\$ 2,556.37	\$ 504.37	\$ 28,114.57
Burial		\$ 700.00	\$1,500.00										\$ 2,200.00
Bus Pass													\$ -
Bus Ticket Home													\$ -
Clean & Sober Housing													\$ -
Clothing		\$ 300.00		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 388.05	\$ 242.62		\$294.41	\$ 710.92	\$ 726.01	\$ 1,385.16	\$ 4,447.17
Dental	\$ -								\$ 1,520.00	\$ 198.00	\$ 2,741.00		\$ 4,459.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 3,575.00		\$7,361.30	\$ 5,626.00	\$ 9,433.00	\$ 9,134.75	\$ 9,273.00		\$ 6,685.00	\$ 8,166.90	\$ 9,689.50	\$ 16,397.39	\$ 85,341.84
Food													\$ 2,954.81
Gasoline	\$ 257.14	\$ 300.44	\$370.85	\$ 459.86	\$ 467.40	\$ 150.00	\$ 419.81	\$ 91.75		\$ 170.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 129.92	\$ 3,017.17
Heating Oil			\$312.15						\$ 600.68				\$ 912.83
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 203.80		\$1,151.28	\$ 323.40	\$ 1,089.41	\$ 1,243.72	\$ 874.91	\$ 729.78	\$ 593.87	\$ 2,002.56	\$ 2,481.53	\$ 1,455.94	\$ 12,150.20
Misc.	\$ 465.14	\$ 2,009.03	\$1,921.13	\$ 1,838.79	\$ 471.44	\$ 1,050.24	\$ 537.31	\$ 635.16	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,367.32			\$ 12,795.56
Motel			\$1,384.49	\$ 4,266.67	\$ 468.16		\$ 991.34	\$ 697.24	\$ 2,998.21	\$ 8,805.72	\$ 933.35	\$ 915.19	\$ 21,460.37
Medical	\$ 70.00			\$ 647.84		\$ 505.00		\$ 15.81					\$ 1,238.65
Natural Gas		\$ 179.67	\$335.82										\$ 515.49
Occupation Certification				\$ 60.00									\$ 60.00
Phone	\$ 117.92		\$681.06		\$ 660.41								\$ 1,459.39
Propane		\$ 297.28	\$328.40	\$ 356.24	\$ 356.24							\$ 621.28	\$ 1,959.44
PSE	\$ 1,613.34	\$ 108.89	\$3,017.97	\$ 1,975.89	\$ 5,065.76		\$ 4,180.15	\$ 390.12			\$ 164.59		\$ 16,516.71
Rent - 1st / Last months rent and expenses.	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 1,359.00	\$4,060.00	\$ 6,350.67	\$ 293.00	\$ 2,691.00	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 10,727.11	\$ 5,304.00	\$ 6,798.28	\$ 8,182.42	\$ 6,587.48	\$ 64,077.96
Sewer		\$ 139.04	\$552.74		\$ 231.59								\$ 923.37
Union Dues													\$ -
Waste Management				\$ 267.82	\$ 87.37			\$ 139.23					\$ 494.42
Water	\$ 209.52		\$ 127.22	\$ 66.92			\$ 102.97	\$ 717.40	\$ 1,534.73		\$ 901.36	\$ 81.39	\$ 3,741.51
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 9,337.60	\$ 5,393.35	\$ 24,992.84	\$ 25,203.13	\$ 20,049.98	\$ 22,775.96	\$ 25,822.11	\$ 22,372.43	\$ 23,488.11	\$ 30,695.47	\$ 28,576.13	\$ 31,032.93	\$ 266,785.23
Balance	\$ 543,760.40	\$ 538,367.05	\$ 513,374.21	\$ 488,171.08	\$ 468,121.10	\$ 445,345.14	\$ 419,523.03	\$ 397,150.60	\$ 373,662.49	\$ 342,967.02	\$ 314,390.89	\$ 283,357.96	

Demographics	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total 2024
Veteran	12	7	16	20	17	19	19	19	17	24	20	15	205
Dependent	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Widow	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	13
Gender													
Male	12	6	16	16	15	17	17	16	16	18	17	12	178
Female	0	3	3	6	3	3	2	3	2	5	2	5	37
Other Gender	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Age													
30 yrs. old and under	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	11
31 to 60 yrs. old	2	3	9	16	10	7	11	11	12	17	19	10	127
60 yrs. old and over	9	6	10	9	7	11	6	7	3	5	1	7	81
Ethnicity													
Hispanic or Latino	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	7
Non-Hispanic or Latino	11	9	19	23	18	19	17	17	15	24	19	0	191
Race													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Asian	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Black or African American	3	3	8	5	4	4	5	2	2	4	4	4	48
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
White	9	6	8	16	12	13	10	14	13	20	16	12	149
Other Race	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	7
2024 Applications Per month	15	12	19	18	17	17	14	19	18	21	20	17	207
2024 New Clients served YTD	3	4	6	4	4	5	7	7	6	8	7	7	68
2024 Clients denied	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	12
2024 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	10	9	19	23	18	20	19	19	19	20	17	31	224
2023 Applications Per month	9	15	36	34	38	37	26	6	36	27	17	20	301
2023 New Clients served YTD	0	2	6	6	4	5	8	0	2	13	8	8	62
2023 Clients denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	10
2023 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	9	15	36	9	9	28	10	5	17	14	16	11	179
2022 Applications Per month	52	40	30	48	49	31	55	53	40	38	45	36	517
2022 New Clients served YTD	4	3	3	10	10	4	7	10	5	5	2	5	68
2022 Clients denied	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2022 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	52	19	12	17	28	6	19	22	8	5	6	10	204
2021 Applications Per month	50	40	48	43	41	49	49	51	51	56	57		535
2021 New Clients served YTD	5	5	3	3	0	4	5	3	5	9	6		48
2021 Clients denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2021 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	50	24	19	14	8	12	15	15	13	9	6		185
2020 Applications Per month	50	42	31	33	37	45	49	36	55	59	43	60	540
2020 New Clients served YTD	8	6	5	6	6	9	4	3	6	5	3	8	69
2020 Clients denied	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2020 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	50	22	17	19	16	16	15	8	12	16	8	9	208
2019 Applications Per month	57	39	51	67	58	44	58	48	41	63	43	44	613
2019 New Clients served YTD	7	8	7	9	8	7	10	4	4	11	5	5	85
2019 Clients denied	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
2019 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	56	20	22	31	24	18	21	11	15	18	13	7	256
2018 Applications Per month	41	29	34	38	42	42	43	33	40	37	40		419
2018 New Clients served YTD	7	4	2	5	5	4	5	5	8	9	7		61
2018 Clients denied	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0		3
2018 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	41	16	17	11	18	15	18	11	12	17	22		198

December 2024 Demographics Report

Demographics	December	YTD
Veteran	15	77
Dependent	0	0
Widow	2	12
Gender		
Male	12	161
Female	5	35
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	1	11
31 to 60 yrs. old	10	127
60 yrs. old and over	7	81
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	1
Non-Hispanic or Latino	17	212
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	5
Asian	0	2
Black or African American	4	48
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	12	149
Other Race	0	5
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	6

December Program Highlights

- A LETTER TESTIMONY TRIBUTE TO BE SHARED AMONG VETERANS BOARD TO END THE YEAR. AMAZING WORDS TO END 2024 !!

Activity	December	YTD
Total Application	20	210
Total # Of New Application	20	94
Applications Accepted	15	141
Applications Denied	0	11
General Discharges	0	4
Total Unduplicated	31	166
Total Payout		31,032.93
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$ -	0
Auto Repair	\$ 504.37	2
Burial	\$ -	0
Bus Pass	\$ -	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 1,385.16	7
Dental	\$ -	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 16,397.16	6
Food	\$ 2,954.81	15
Gasoline	\$ 129.92	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$ -	0
Motel	\$ 915.19	1
Medical	\$ -	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$ 621.28	2
PSE	\$ -	0
Rent / Move In	\$ 6,587.48	4
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ 81.39	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1455.94	10

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2024
MONTHLY REPORT: DECEMBER 2024
SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

VAB Events 2025

January 8 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Veteran Project – Jake Carter, Habitat for Humanity

February 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Department of Community Development – Speaker TBD

March 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Permission to Start Dreaming – “Scooter” Lewis

March 15 - Military Appreciation Day, Kitsap County Fairgrounds Pavilion

March/April TBD - Veteran Garden prep

April 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Support the Enlisted Project – Ron Demaris

April 25 – Spring Stand Down

April 26 – Spring Stand Down, 1000 - 1400 (set up, vet registration, and tear down)

May TBD – Veteran Garden Working Party

May 14 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: WA State Legislative Update - Speaker TBD

May 24 – The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma; transfer Veteran remains from the Medical Examiner to the County Administration Building lobby.

May 25 – 1000, The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma, County Administration Building.

June 11 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Homeless Encampments – Derrick Means, HEART Coordinator.

July TBD Veteran’s Garden Working Party

July 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting– Topic: Skoolie Foundation. Builders of mobile shelters for the homeless. Speaker TBD

August TBD – Veterans Garden Working Party

August 13 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting. – Topic: Children and Youth Presentation. Laura Hyde, Program Coordinator, Kitsap County Commission on Children and Youth

September 10 - 1730, VAB Monthly Meeting – Work Source – Nancy Zellers

September TBD - 1830- 2000; World Suicide Prevention

September 27 - Fall Stand Down; 1000 - 1400 (set up, vet registration, and tear down)

October TBD - Veterans Garden Working Party

October 8 – 1730 VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Aging and Long Term Care, Speaker TBD

November 1 - 0900 - 1400, **VAB Retreat (no monthly meeting)**

November 11, Veterans Day – Kitsap Pavilion Table

December 10 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic:



Kitsap County Veterans Program

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2025 WORK PLAN

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; mark-d-lowe@wavecable.com

Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, rbecker@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

Advisory Board Purpose/Mission Statement: Advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to help veterans and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Investigate expanding Stand Down type services to other times during the year.	0%	High	Stand Downs occur twice each year in Bremerton. Investigate options that might offer similar services at other times of the year and in different places that are more convenient to those without reliable transportation. Report options to the VAB in July 2025. Carlos Trujillo.
2. Develop a women's group that meets regularly.	0%	High	The number of women veterans has steadily increased over the years with a corresponding increase in participation at veteran events. Experience at the Women's Circle at Stand Downs has shown there may be enough demand to offer more regular meeting opportunities for women veterans. Investigate options to rally women veterans in Kitsap County as part of their support system. Jayme DeGooyer.
2. Support two Stand Downs.	0%	High	Kitsap Veteran Stand Downs have proven to be a valuable service to the indigent and homeless veterans. Continue the strong partnership with KAVA to plan and execute two Stand Downs during 2025. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
3. Run to Tahoma	0%	High	The Run to Tahoma is a deeply meaningful tribute to honor veterans in Kitsap County who have passed away without family or friends to claim them. Maintain the partnership with veteran service organizations to ensure a touching and impactful event on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Mark Lowe
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	0%	High	This well-loved event celebrates both active-duty service members and veterans, drawing significant community attention. Sponsor a table to share valuable information about the Kitsap County Veterans Program and veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
5. Support Veterans Day Event	0%	High	Dedicated to honoring veterans, this event offers a platform to connect with the community. Sponsor a table to provide insights into the Kitsap County Veterans Program and available veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	0%	High	Develop and implement a plan to convene service providers and stakeholders for a collaborative discussion on creating a systematic approach to support veterans transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Focus on identifying key challenges, sharing resources, and establishing actionable steps to streamline services and improve outcomes for veterans in need. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	0%	High	The Veteran Resource Center is becoming increasingly recognized and used by the local veteran community. Collaborate with the Olympic College administration to expand impactful services, creating a comprehensive in-person experience for veterans in Kitsap County. This expansion will enable veterans to address and resolve multiple needs efficiently and effectively in one central location. Tatiane Simons

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	0%	High	Requests for assistance with VA disability claims remain the most common reason veterans seek support. Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned not only improves their quality of life but also positively impacts county revenue through increased local spending by veterans. Advocate for the establishment of a paid Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position to enhance the support already provided by local accredited service officers. Additionally, back Washington State legislative initiatives aimed at securing funded VSO positions in every county statewide, ensuring consistent and accessible assistance for all veterans. Matt Shillingburg
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	0%	Moderate	Indigent and homeless veterans frequently seek assistance from the Veterans Program Coordinator and Veterans Assistance Fund Administrator to address urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. To better support these veterans in a timely manner, consider implementing a program to provide preloaded debit cards, with a maximum limit of \$100, for immediate relief. Develop a robust security plan to ensure proper oversight and minimize the risk of fraud and misuse. Veterans Program Coordinator
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	0%	Moderate	Ensuring veterans and transitioning active-duty service members are fully informed about the wide range of benefits available to them can significantly enhance their lives and overall well-being. Beyond supporting key events such as Stand Downs, the Run to Tahoma, Military Appreciation Day, and Veterans Day, explore additional opportunities to address the needs of both active-duty personnel and veterans. Potential strategies include expanding social media outreach, participating in more civic events, and fostering deeper collaboration with local veteran service organizations. These efforts can strengthen connections and provide even greater support to those who have served. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.	Ongoing	Low	Look at moving the garden activities to Retsil veterans' home to help with garden care. Jason Reis
2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.	Ongoing	Low	The Veterans Administration once provided local in-person assistance to Kitsap County veterans. Low visitor counts to the office forced the VA to reconsider how they will deliver services to local veterans. The use of “pop up” events is used to address unmet needs in the rural areas of Washington State. Maintain contact with VA staff to assure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe.
3. Consider a change to the VAB by-laws.	Ongoing	Low	The VAB by-laws does not address member residency requirements. Consider inserting a requirement that a VAB members must be a Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
December 11, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order by Jayme DeGooyer at 5:30 PM.

Announcements: The Chair, Jayme DeGooyer, read the required on-line announcement covering the conduct of voting members and guests during the meeting.

Introductions: Jayme DeGooyer led introductions of board members and other attendees.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the December agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The October, minutes were reviewed by members. A regular VAB meeting was not held in November. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Speakers: J'myle Koretz, Legal Administrative Specialist, Seattle Regional Office delivered an informative presentation regarding greater presence of Veterans Administration staff in Kitsap County in the future. J'myle discussed ongoing VA initiatives that support veterans in Kitsap County such as monthly claims assistance and staff event attendance. Claims assistance is offered to veterans at the VA's Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Silverdale. Assistance is offered to veterans on a first-come, first-served basis all day. Watch for announcements about future "claims clinics" offered at the Silverdale CBOC each month. J'myle offered his assistance when needed to resolve urgent matters when other avenues of service through the VA may not be able to respond quickly.

Reports.

a. Rick Becker briefly reviewed the financial reports with the group. Demand and spending approximates traditional spending when reviewing data going back to 2018. Marqus Ellis, the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) Administrator, then reviewed VAF expenditures with the VAB members. He noted that after addressing the veteran's most urgent needs, most clients are referred to other agencies for assistance to address non-emergent needs and long term solutions. Inflation factors in the economy are driving more to ask for assistance, especially those on fixed incomes. Rent continues to lead all expenditures. More emphasis is being placed on eviction prevention as a way of helping provide a long term solution to financial difficulties sooner rather than later. Marqus noted that keeping someone in their home is generally less expensive than paying to move someone. He also commented that a full assessment is done to assure veterans can afford the place they are renting. Encouraging the veteran to move to a less expensive home is often done to help the veteran access more disposable dollars to meet other needs.

b. Committee Reports.

- **Aging Veterans Services.** Matt will be meeting with the Kitsap County Long Term Care Ombudsman to find a way to help assess long term care facilities for veterans. He continues work on a program to reach out to the residents of long term care facilities to assure veterans and their families are aware of veteran benefits.
- **Housing and Homelessness.** No report.

- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Keep content flowing to Brian Davis so we can keep local events and news current.
- **Special Event Support.**
 - Rick Becker commented the Whole Health day event was well-attended. Community Service representatives encountered many visitors. Rick say about 20 visitors who asked a variety of questions about benefits and local services.
 - Spring 2025 Stand Down planning will resume in January. The next Stand Down will be held on April 26th.
 - Run to Tahoma planning will start on December 4th. Watch for an announcement from Mark Lowe. All VAB members are invited to help.
- **Veteran Education.** Tatiane announced that veteran student enrollment for the fall quarter is excellent. The Veteran Resource center has seen steady traffic from both students and local veterans alike.
- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Rick Raymond is working with a planning group on the September 2025 Suicide Awareness event.
- **Veterans Garden.** No report.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin announced a job fair to be held at Work Source in Silverdale on December 23rd. Encourage attendance and watch for future announcements.
- **Women’s Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer commented that there is new interest in the community to support the women’s circle by gathering women veterans more consistently through the year. More information will be coming out about how the community can support women at the Stand Downs.
- **VAF Client Assessments.** No report this month.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond explained that he still attends veterans court and is building relationships with program participants.

Old Business –

- a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker reported visits during the quarter are increasing to about two visits per day. He noted that with the complexity of the issues people bring to him, the maximum number he can see during his four hour session is about 3.
- b. **Work Plan Review.** Rick Becker presented the 2025 workplan to the group for discussion one more time before he submits the plan to the commissioners. The work plan is displayed as Attachment A. There was no further discussion about the 2025 goals or 2024 accomplishments. A motion was made and accepted to send the work plan to the commissioners for review and approval. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Policy and Procedure changes.** Rick Becker reminded the group that the commissioners approved the most recent changes to the program policies and procedures on 28 October. The new policies and procedures are available to the public on the Veterans Services website at [Policies and Procedures 2024 Revision FINAL 10 2024.pdf](#)

New Business –

- a. **Veterans Advisory Board By-laws review and proposal.** Rick Becker pointed out that the advisory board’s by-laws currently do not include a residency requirement for board members. He expressed concern that this omission could lead to board positions being held by individuals who are unable to attend meetings due to relocating outside the area. This, he warned, could hinder the board’s ability to achieve a quorum, making it difficult to conduct official business.

To address this issue, Rick recommended that the board adopt a policy requiring members to reside in Kitsap County. A motion was made and seconded to adopt this change. During the ensuing discussion, members noted a potential scenario: an appointed individual might move to a neighboring county while continuing to work in Kitsap County. Ultimately, the motion was defeated. The discussion then shifted to revising the proposal to allow board appointments for individuals who either live or work in Kitsap County. Rick offered to draft updated language for the by-laws and promised to present it at the next meeting. Before concluding, Rick reminded the group that any amendments to the Veterans Advisory Board's by-laws would require approval through a resolution by the county commissioners.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

a. Jayme DeGooyer was congratulated by members for her recognition as Kitsap County Volunteer of the Year for 2024 by the Kitsap County Commissioners. Jayme was recognized for her dedicated service to veterans in the county as well as her special efforts to bring services closer to women veterans.

b. Jayme DeGooyer welcomed two new board members, Phil Sauer and Dan Kampman, to the group who will start their service on the 1st of January.

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be held at Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129 and will also be available through Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Task Tracker

Date	Name	Task and Goal for Completion	Progress
December 11, 2024	Rick Becker	Recommend changes to the VAB by-laws that establishes a residency requirement for board membership.	

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS	GUESTS	STAFF
<p><u>Present</u> Jayme DeGooyer (I) Richard Raymond (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Harry Gilger (I) Brian Davis (Z) Ron Valencia (Z) Matt Shillingburg (I) Bill Martin (I) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Dan Piper (I)</p> <p><u>Absent / Excused</u> Peggy Roy (E) Jason Reis (E) Mark Lowe (E) Branden Davis () Samantha D'Anella () Andrew Magallanez ()</p>	Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Phil Sauer (I)	Rick Becker (I)

Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused



Kitsap County Veterans Program

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2025 WORK PLAN

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg. 4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; mark-d-low@wavecable.com

Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, rbecker@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

Advisory Board Purpose/Mission Statement: Advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to help veterans, and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Investigate expanding Stand Down type services to other times during the year.	0%	High	Stand Downs occur twice each year in Bremerton. Investigate options that might offer similar services at other times of the year and in different places that are more convenient to those without reliable transportation. Report options to the VAB in July 2025. Carlos Trujillo.
2. Develop a women's group that meets regularly.	0%	High	The number of women veterans has steadily increased over the years with a corresponding increase in participation at veteran events. Experience at the Women's Circle at Stand Downs has shown there may be enough demand to offer more regular meeting opportunities for women veterans. Investigate options to rally women veterans in Kitsap County as part of their support system. Jayme DeGooyer.
2. Support two Stand Downs.	0%	High	Kitsap Veteran Stand Downs have proven to be a valuable service to the indigent and homeless veterans. Continue the strong partnership with KAVA to plan and execute two Stand Downs during 2025. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
3. Run to Tahoma XIV	0%	High	The Run to Tahoma is a deeply meaningful tribute to honor veterans in Kitsap County who have passed away without family or friends to claim them. Maintain the partnership with veteran service organizations to ensure a touching and impactful event on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Mark Lowe
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	0%	High	This well-loved event celebrates both active-duty service members and veterans, drawing significant community attention. Sponsor a table to share valuable information about the Kitsap County Veterans Program and veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
5. Support Veterans Day Event	0%	High	Dedicated to honoring veterans, this event offers a platform to connect with the community. Sponsor a table to provide insights into the Kitsap County Veterans Program and available veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	0%	High	Develop and implement a plan to convene service providers and stakeholders for a collaborative discussion on creating a systematic approach to support veterans transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Focus on identifying key challenges, sharing resources, and establishing actionable steps to streamline services and improve outcomes for veterans in need. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	0%	High	The Veteran Resource Center is becoming increasingly recognized and used by the local veteran community. Collaborate with the Olympic College administration to expand impactful services, creating a comprehensive in-person experience for veterans in Kitsap County. This expansion will enable veterans to address and resolve multiple needs efficiently and effectively in one central location. Tatiane Simons

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	0%	High	Requests for assistance with VA disability claims remain the most common reason veterans seek support. Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned not only improves their quality of life but also positively impacts county revenue through increased local spending by veterans. Advocate for the establishment of a paid Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position to enhance the support already provided by local accredited service officers. Additionally, back Washington State legislative initiatives aimed at securing funded VSO positions in every county statewide, ensuring consistent and accessible assistance for all veterans. Matt Shillingburg
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	0%	Moderate	Indigent and homeless veterans frequently seek assistance from the Veterans Program Coordinator and Veterans Assistance Fund Administrator to address urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. To better support these veterans in a timely manner, consider implementing a program to provide preloaded debit cards, with a maximum limit of \$100, for immediate relief. Develop a robust security plan to ensure proper oversight and minimize the risk of fraud and misuse. Veterans Program Coordinator
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	0%	Moderate	Ensuring veterans and transitioning active-duty service members are fully informed about the wide range of benefits available to them can significantly enhance their lives and overall well-being. Beyond supporting key events such as Stand Downs, the Run to Tahoma, Military Appreciation Day, and Veterans Day, explore additional opportunities to address the needs of both active-duty personnel and veterans. Potential strategies include expanding social media outreach, participating in more civic events, and fostering deeper collaboration with local veteran service organizations. These efforts can strengthen connections and provide even greater support to those who have served. Mark Lowe
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.	Ongoing	Low	Look at moving the garden activities to Retsil veterans' home to help with garden care. Jason Reis
2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.	Ongoing	Low	The Veterans Administration once provided local in-person assistance to Kitsap County veterans. Low visitor counts to the office forced the VA to reconsider how they will deliver services to local veterans. The use of “pop up” events is used to address unmet needs in the rural areas of Washington State. Maintain contact with VA staff to assure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe.
3. Consider a change to the VAB by-laws.	Ongoing	Low	The VAB by-laws does not address member residency requirements. Consider inserting a requirement that a VAB members must be a Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

GOALS COMPLETED OR DELETED			
Goal	Status	Year	Comments
New Veteran's memorial in Administration Building	Completed	2021	New memorial wall panel was installed that recognizes all those who have been honored as part of the Run to Tahoma.
Conducted The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma	Completed	2021	Despite COVID restrictions the Run to Tahoma was successfully held.
Updated Policy & Procedures Manual	Completed	2021	Policy and Procedure manual was updated and ultimately approved in March 2022.
Conducted The Unforgotten Run to Tahoma	Completed	2022	In-person event. 200 attended.
Conducted Spring Grab and Go in place of a Stand Down due to Covid restrictions.	Completed	2022	Covid event. About 125 attended.
Conducted Spring Stand Down	Completed	2022	Traditional Stand Down with over 100 attending. (37 registered veterans.)
Update the County Veterans Website	Completed	2022	New formatting. Updated links and content throughout.
World Suicide Prevention Event	Completed	2022	Rick Raymond from the VAB spearheaded event. Will move to Mental Health organization in 2023. VAB will lend support.
Process VAF Assistance Applications	Completed	2022	225 unduplicated applicants served.
VAB increase social media presence in 2022 to reach more veterans.	Completed	2022	Facebook more widely used to announce events. Name changed to “Friends of the Veterans Advisory Board.”

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
VAB Women Resources. Maintain Women Veteran resource line. Hold Woman's circles Stand Downs.	Completed	2022	Dedicated phone line maintained. Woman's circle held at the Fall Stand Down. Women's services were delivered at Abraham House during the Grab and Go.
Maintain Drug/Alcohol transition housing benefit administered by KCR	Completed	2022	Service will be funded through Emergency Direct Services as the money allocated for this purpose has been reprogrammed due to lack of demand.
Reviewed Policy and Procedures Manual	Completed	2022	No changes needed.
Organize two Stand Downs in cooperation with Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance (KAVA)	Completed	2023	Supported two stand down events with 128 registered veterans. Several VAB members participated in planning and one raised donations.
Process applications for temporary emergency assistance	Completed	2023	KCR processed several hundred applications for services in 2023. Delivered over \$230K in services to indigent and homeless veterans.
Organize the Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma, Ceremony which receives the remains of unclaimed veterans from the County Coroner and delivers them to the Tahoma Veterans Cemetery for internment. Update protocol.	Completed	2023	Three veterans were honored in 2023 during a ceremony at the Administration Building. The honored veterans were escorted by over two hundred participants to Tahoma National Cemetery.
Update and revise Veteran Assistance Policy and Procedure Manual	Completed	2023	Information was received from KCR to help update policy and procedure documents to improve decision making and application processing.
Provide and monitor NWJP legal contract providing civil legal services	Completed	2023	Over \$50K in legal services were delivered to veterans and their family members.
Maintain outreach program for Veterans incarcerated in the Kitsap County Jail	Completed	2023	KCR representative visited the jail as requested by the Sheriff's department to provide information and services to eligible inmates and in some cases, to their family members.
Maintain VAB Committee for Women Veteran Issues to keep VAB updated and informed	Completed	2023	The VAB Chair kept the VAB members informed of initiatives and activities at each VAB meeting.
VAB Women Resources. Maintain Women Veteran resource line. Hold two Woman's circles per year at the April and September Stand Downs.	Completed	2023	VAB members provided services to women at each of the Stand Downs. Comfort items were inventoried and replenished after each Stand Down. New efforts to promote the services were completed. Fliers were updated.
Update to County Veterans Website	Completed	2023	Web site updated as required to keep information current.

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	Completed	2024	Participated in Veterans Day, Military Appreciation Day, County Fair, Silverdale Whaling Days, and other community events through the year. Staffed information tables at events and provided Veterans Assistance Program maximum exposure to not only veterans in need but to community members who may know of veterans in need.
Establish a concept, scope of operations and estimated annual operating cost for a Kitsap County Veterans Center.	Completed	2024	The long-term goal is to establish a veteran service center in the county where veterans can come and obtain information, claims assistance, resources, and attend events. Opened on a trial basis a Veteran Resource Center at Olympic College that is staffed two days per week.
Support two Stand Downs with KAVA.	Completed	2024	Planned and executed two Stand Downs with the Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance hosting over 200 registered veterans.
Plan and execute the Run to Tahoma XIII.	Completed	2024	The VAB Chair and Vice Chair led activities with key VAB members to plan the ceremony and collaborate with local veteran motorcycle groups to escort honored veterans to Tahoma National Cemetery. Over 200 veterans participated in the event.
Veteran Garden	Completed	2024	VAB members expanded garden operations in 2024 by locating to a significantly larger plot. The harvest was shared with local food banks.

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
VAB involved with Kitsap County Mental Health & Suicide Prevention committee established by County – have one VAB board member as representative. Participate in annual Mental Health/Suicide Prevent Event	Completed	2024	Rick Raymond represented the VAB at committee meetings and advise the VAB on needed assistance. The VAB hosted a table at a Suicide Awareness Event on 14 September
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
VAB increase social media presence to reach more veterans.	Completed	2024	Social media lead with VAB members posted applicable information more frequently with relevant information about local activities.
Maintain presence at Veteran’s Day and Military Appreciation Day events.	Completed	2024	VAB members supported the Veterans Day table at the Kitsap Pavilion.
Increase Outreach for Veteran Garden including social media and newspapers	Completed	2024	New flyers were developed and distributed to the community at events and through social media.
Continue Veteran Program web site improvements.	Completed	2024	The VAB Coordinator in collaboration with the Human Services Department Office Manager maintained the site with current information for the public.

Revision Date – 11/25/2024