



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: February 12, 2025
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.



Join Zoom Meeting

Topic: Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting

To join the meeting online go to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83460029859?pwd=RFBWWDhKRmNxKzZMb2xWZmFoTWsyZz09>

To join by phone call 1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 834 6002 9859

Passcode: 116863

Public Comments. To provide public comment during the meeting, click on the hand icon at the bottom of the screen to “raise your hand.” The chair or designee will call upon the attendee to speak at the designated time. Public comment may also be submitted in advance to be read by staff or the chair during the meeting. Email comments by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting to rbecker@kitsap.gov.

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 January 08, 2025, VAB Minutes. *** Jayme DeGooyer
- 7. **Guest Speakers.** No speaker this month.
- 8. **Reports.**
 - a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachments A and B. 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
Tribe Outreach	Dan Kampman

See attachment C for future VAB supported events.

9. Old Business:

- a. Veterans Resource Center progress. Rick Becker
- b. Review Veterans Advisory Board by-laws with regard to residency and other recommended changes. Rick Becker
- c. 2025 Work Plan Review. See Attachment D. VAB Members

10. New Business:

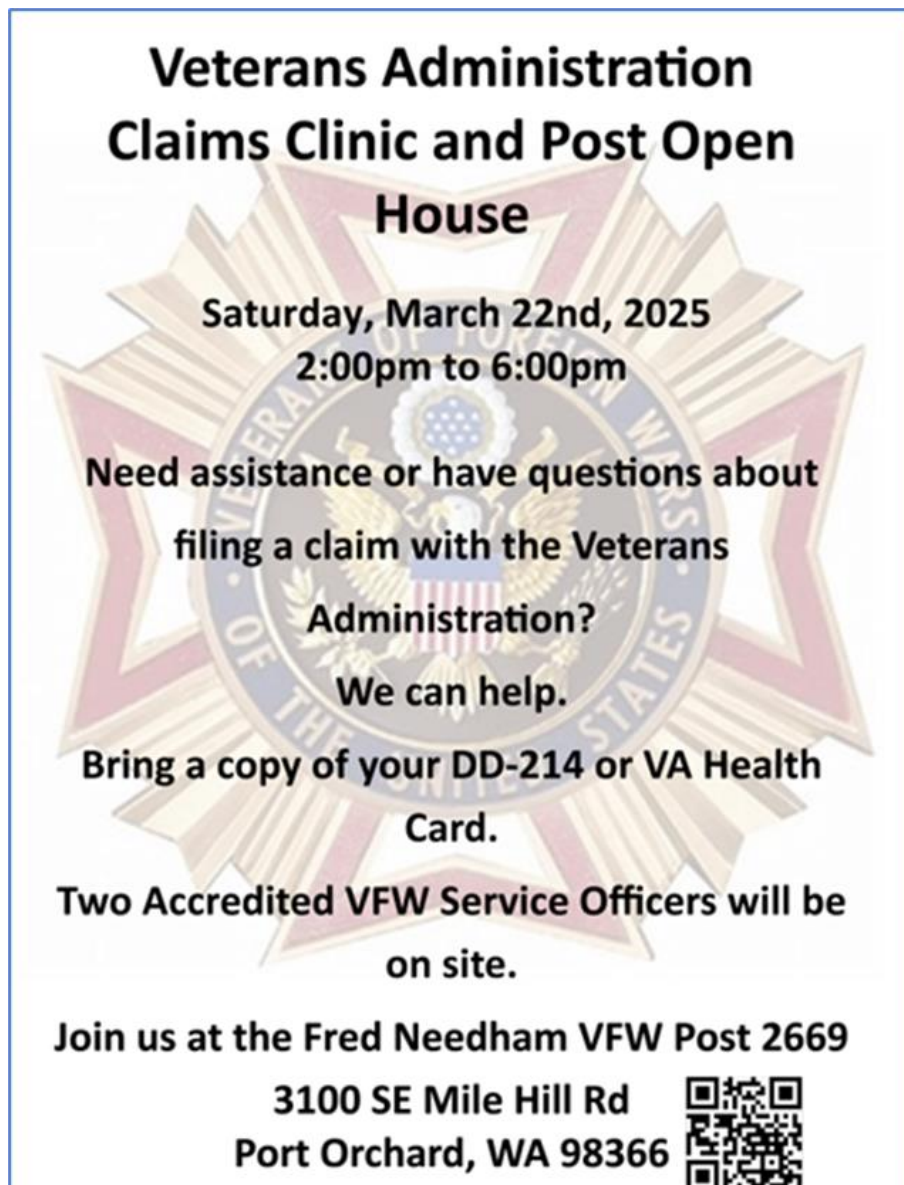
Topic	VAB Member
Policy and Procedure Update (Expenditure Exclusions)	Rick Becker

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

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

14. Adjourn.



**Veterans Administration
Claims Clinic and Post Open
House**


**Saturday, March 22nd, 2025
2:00pm to 6:00pm**

**Need assistance or have questions about
filing a claim with the Veterans
Administration?
We can help.**

**Bring a copy of your DD-214 or VA Health
Card.**

**Two Accredited VFW Service Officers will be
on site.**

**Join us at the Fred Needham VFW Post 2669
3100 SE Mile Hill Rd
Port Orchard, WA 98366**



Attachment A

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of January 31, 2025					
Account #	Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
	Beginning Fund Balance	-	900,000.00		
	Current Revenue				
3110.10	Real & Personal Property	800,000.00	-	0.0%	800,000.00
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	-	0.0%	2,700.00
	Revenue total	804,700.00	-	0.0%	804,700.00
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	3,540.49	7.1%	46,095.51
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	34.75	5.9%	557.25
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	269.92	7.1%	3,527.08
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	322.54	7.8%	3,829.46
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	9.27	8.6%	98.73
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	712.50	8.3%	7,837.50
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	-	100.0%	-
5422	Cellular Telephone	-	-	0.0%	-
5425	Postage	150.00	-	0.0%	150.00
5431	Mileage	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
5432	Travel	-	-	0.0%	-
5451	Operating Rentals	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
5452	Cloud Service Subscriptions	-	-	100.0%	-
5497	Registration & Tuition	-	-	100.0%	-
5492	Other Miscellaneous	-	-	0.0%	-
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting	-	-	0.0%	-
	KCR	625,950.00	-	0.0%	625,950.00
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	-	0.0%	80,000.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
5499	Other Miscellaneous	10,057.00	-	0.0%	10,057.00
	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,711.00	309.25	8.3%	3,401.75
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	138.33	8.3%	1,521.67
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	38.33	12.5%	267.67
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	25.50	5.5%	434.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	-	0.0%	3,871.00
	Expense total	804,700.00	5,400.88	0.7%	799,299.12
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	Budget total	804,700.00			

Attachment B

Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program - Summary of Direct Emergency Assistance During 2025

Total Direct Service Budget 2025 - \$476,867													
Activity	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Total 2025
Appliances	\$338.81												\$338.81
Auto Repair	\$7,117.72												\$7,117.72
Burial													\$0.00
Bus Pass	\$25.00												\$25.00
Bus Ticket Home													\$0.00
Clean & Sober Housing													\$0.00
Clothing	\$1,098.12												\$1,098.12
Dental	\$4,042.80												\$4,042.80
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00												\$12,783.00
Food	\$1,460.86												\$1,460.86
Gasoline	\$120.00												\$120.00
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19												\$525.19
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80												\$166.80
Medical													\$0.00
Natural Gas													\$0.00
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE													\$0.00
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00												\$6,300.00
Sewer													\$0.00
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water													\$0.00
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,978.30
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													7.13%

Activity	December	YTD
Total Applications	20	20
Total # Of New Application	14	14
Applications Accepted	17	17
Applications Denied	3	3
General Discharges	1	1
Total Unduplicated	26	26
Total Payout		33,978.30
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$ 338.81	1
Auto Repair	\$ 7,117.72	5
Burial	\$ -	0
Bus Pass	\$ 25	1
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 1,098.12	7
Dental	\$ 4,042.80	3
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 12,783	5
Food	\$ 1,460.86	9
Gasoline	\$ 120.00	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$ -	0
Motel	\$ 166.80	1
Medical	\$ -	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$ -	0
PSE	\$ -	0
Rent / Move In	\$ 6,300	2
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ -	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 525.19	5

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: JANUARY 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

Demographics	January	YTD
Veteran	31	31
Dependent	0	0
Widow	1	1
Gender		
Male	26	26
Female	5	5
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	1	1
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	20
60 yrs. old and over	10	10
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	31	31
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	5	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	24	24
Other Race	0	0
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	0

December Program Highlights

- **New Policies & Produces For 2025**
- **Implemented New Structures For Food / Clothing / Hygiene Vouchers**

Attachment C

VAB Events 2025

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

February 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic:

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

March 15 - Military Appreciation Day, Kitsap
County Fairgrounds Pavilion

March 22 – VA Disability Claims Clinic,
VFW Post 2669, 3100 SE Mile Hill Dr,
Port Orchard, WA 2pm-6pm.

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:



Attachment D



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-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 Womens 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
January 8, 2025**

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

Announcements: Mark Lowe read the required on-line announcement covering the conduct of voting members and guests during the meeting.

Introductions: Mark Lowe led introductions of board members and other attendees.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Bill Martin and seconded by Phil Sauer to approve the January agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The December, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Bill Martin and seconded by Tatiane Simons to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: Jake Carter, representing Habitat for Humanity, delivered an update on the organization's efforts in Kitsap County. He emphasized the urgent need for safe, affordable housing and highlighted several ongoing projects designed to meet this critical demand.

Acknowledging the challenges of rising construction costs and a shortage of skilled labor, Jake shared how Habitat for Humanity is adapting. While the organization has always thrived on the dedication of its volunteers, they have recently begun integrating skilled carpenters and a building superintendent into their teams. Both professionals are paid by Habitat. This thoughtful balance of volunteer passion and professional expertise ensures that homes are built efficiently, meet rigorous safety standards, and remain accessible to those in need. Thanks to these efforts, a typical home can now be completed in about four months.

In a meaningful call to action, Jake invited the board to consider dedicating a 2025 project to a veteran in need. This initiative would provide a deserving service member with the stability of homeownership while honoring their commitment to our country. His request underscored the power of community-driven support and the impact of working together to change lives. Board members will consider a veteran in need and offer

Reports.

a. Rick Becker provided a concise update on the financial reports, noting that the budget report includes invoice payments through December 31st. However, some invoices from Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) and Northwest Justice Project for December 2024 are still pending and have not yet been processed. As a result, the final accounting of Veterans Assistance Fund expenditures is still being finalized.

To ensure a full picture of December's obligations and provide a meaningful summary of 2024 expenses, Rick encouraged the group to review the December KCR report (Attachment B to the January 8 agenda). This report offers a close estimate of the year's total expenditures and serves as a valuable reference for understanding the fund's overall financial standing.

b. Marqus Ellis, Administrator of the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF), provided an overview of program expenditures, highlighting the fund's strong focus on eviction prevention this year. He emphasized that keeping veterans and their families in their homes is not just about financial assistance—it's about ensuring stability, particularly for families with young children who would otherwise face the hardships of relocation, such as changing schools and losing community support. Marqus expressed concern over the rising costs of eviction prevention, pointing out that by the time an eviction notice is issued, many veterans are already months behind on rent, making intervention more challenging and costly. He urged the group to consider proactive approaches that provide earlier support, helping veterans avoid reaching a crisis point. His message underscored the need for collaboration and innovative solutions to ensure veterans receive the help they need before their housing becomes at risk.

c. Committee Reports.

Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness. Matt shared that he has reached out to local assisted living facilities, requesting that they identify any veteran residents. Once identified, he will personally follow up with each veteran to offer assistance in applying for benefits, ensuring they receive the support they deserve.

Public Affairs and Social Media. Brian Davis highlighted the many recent announcements posted on the *Friends of the Veterans Advisory Board* website. He encouraged members to continue sharing relevant information so that veterans remain informed about important events and resources. Brian also reminded the group that **Naval Base Kitsap will host a job fair on January 23rd** and urged everyone to follow the Facebook page for updates.

Special Event Support.

- **Spring 2025 Stand Down:** Mark Lowe announced that planning for the Spring 2025 Stand Down will begin next week. The event date and flyer are now available on the *Kitsap Veteran Services* website.
- **Run to Tahoma:** Planning for this meaningful event will resume this month. However, as of today, the medical examiner has not identified any unclaimed veterans to be honored. Despite this, the planning committee remains committed to moving forward. Rick Becker reported that the event permit has been filed with the *Port Orchard City Clerk*, and the required fee has been paid. Mark will coordinate with the medical examiner to establish a reasonable cutoff date, ensuring potential participants have enough time to prepare.
- **Military Appreciation Day:** The VAB will host a table at this event.



Veteran Education. Tatiane reported that veteran student enrollment for the **fall quarter is strong**, and the *Veteran Resource Center* continues to see steady traffic from both students and community veterans. She emphasized the importance of maintaining this welcoming space where veterans can access the resources and support they need.

- **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 encouraged participation in the January 23rd

hiring event.

- **Women’s Resource Group.** No report.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond attends veterans court and is building relationships with program participants.

Old Business –

a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker shared that the winter quarter began on January 2nd, bringing a noticeable increase in student activity after a quieter three-week period during the winter break. Staff at Olympic College emphasized the vital role of the resource center in supporting veteran students, helping them navigate their benefits and financial concerns easier and quicker. The center remains a trusted source of assistance, welcoming an average of two visits per day.

b. **Veterans Advisory Board Bylaws Review.** Rick Becker presented a draft of the proposed bylaws, inviting members to review and provide feedback by January 23. During the discussion, members considered a key provision requiring a majority of board members to be affiliated with a nationally recognized veteran service organization. Dan Piper inquired about the necessity of this requirement, prompting Mark Lowe to reference RCW 73.08.035, which mandates it. To ensure transparency, Rick shared the RCW citation with all Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) members for further review.

Key proposed changes include adding a clause requiring board appointees to live or work in Kitsap County, as well as reformatting the bylaws to improve clarity. Rick will compile all feedback and present an updated draft for discussion at the February meeting.

New Business – Dan Kampman shared his commitment to building a strong and respectful relationship with the Suquamish Tribe. He plans to attend tribal events and serve as a liaison between the Veterans Advisory Board and the tribe, fostering open communication and collaboration. Whenever possible, he will participate in tribal meetings and provide thoughtful updates and insights to the board, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of both communities are heard and valued.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements: No announcements.

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 12th, 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 6:45pm.

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.	January 8 th , DRAFT bylaws presented to the VAB for comments due to Rick Becker by 23 Jan 25.
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Mark Lowe (I) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Matt Shillingburg (Z) Bill Martin (I) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Phil Sauer (I) Dan Kampman (Z)		Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Jake Carter, Habitat for Humanity	Doug Washburn (Z) Rick Becker (I)
<u>Absent / Excused</u> Harry Gilger (E) Jayme DeGooyer (E) Ron Valencia () Jason Reis () Branden Davis () Andrew Magallanez ()			
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused			

Attachment A



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 Womens 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
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

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
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

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
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			
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.