



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: March 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 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 Speaker.** “Scooter” Lewis” - Permission to Start Dreaming Bill Martin
- 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

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. Next Meeting April 9, 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**



2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget

As of February 28, 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	7,390.51	14.9%	42,245.49
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	74.25	12.5%	517.75
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	562.28	14.8%	3,234.72
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	673.28	16.2%	3,478.72
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	19.36	17.9%	88.64
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	1,425.00	16.7%	7,125.00
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	53.18	100.0%	(53.18)
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%	-
5451/5454	Long-Term Equip & Leases/Short-Term Equip & Oper Rentals	1,500.00	869.39	58.0%	630.61
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	44,523.50	7.1%	581,426.50
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	4,858.00	6.1%	75,142.00
	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	IFIS Service Charges	3,711.00	309.25	8.3%	3,401.75
5913	IFIS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	138.33	8.3%	1,521.67
5914	IFIS Fleet Recovery	306.00	38.33	12.5%	267.67
5922	IFIS Projects	460.00	25.50	5.5%	434.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	967.75	25.0%	2,903.25
	Expense total	804,700.00	61,927.91	7.7%	742,772.09
	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	\$7,390.72											\$14,508.44
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	\$1,108.00											\$5,150.80
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90											\$22,534.90
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90											\$1,883.76
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00											\$240.00
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00											\$725.19
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	\$4,600.00											\$10,900.00
Sewer													\$0.00
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water		\$257.00											\$257.00
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,828.82
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													12.13%

Activity	February	YTD
Total Application	15	35
Total # Of New Application	7	21
Applications Accepted	14	31
Applications Denied	1	4
General Discharges	0	1
Total Unduplicated	27	53
Total Payout	23,850.52	53,828.82
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	1
Auto Repair	\$ 7390.72	6
Burial	\$ -	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$	0
Dental	\$ 1108.00	2
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 9,751.90	5
Food	\$ 422.90	4
Gasoline	\$ 120.00	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$	0
Medical	\$ -	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$	0
Rent / Move In	\$ 4,600	5
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ 257.08	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 200.00	2

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025
MONTHLY REPORT: FEBURARY 2025
SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

Demographics	February	YTD
Veteran	20	50
Dependent	0	0
Widow	1	2
Gender		
Male	19	45
Female	1	6
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	1	2
31 to 60 yrs. old	16	36
60 yrs. old and over	4	14
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	20	50
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	1	6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	16	40
Other Race	0	0
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	3	5

February Program Highlights

- Safety Stand Down Talks & Email Blast For Veterans
- The Importance of Veterans Knowing VHOG during Housing Visits At KCR

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 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
February 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:35 PM.

Announcements: Jayme DeGooyer 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 and seconded to approve the February agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The December, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: Ron Demaris, Donor Engagement and Gifts Officer for Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) provided an excellent update on the organization's ongoing efforts in the Puget Sound region. He described STEP's mission to enhance financial wellness as a way to combat critical issues such as food insecurity, homelessness, mental health challenges, suicide, and other crises. STEP achieves this through counseling, education, and financial support for enlisted service members, veterans, and their families.

An overview of STEP's efforts includes:

Individualized counseling – Intervention

Social workers certified in finance counseling
Solution Focused, Strengths Perspective
Families empowered to create solutions
Change Management process

Financial Grants can be issued to stop loss

\$2.8m in grants issued since 2012
STEP paid to stop 672 evictions since 2012
547 Restored or retained family utilities
590 Halted or reversed auto repossessions

8,545 families served

92% success rate of counseling
95% do not return for additional support
97% of cases come from personal referrals

Agile and Effective Mission Driven & Privately Funded

84% of expenses directed to programs.

Ron discussed a testimonial that described in real terms how STEP assists service members. A young Marine mom contacted STEP because she was relocating within the same community due to a domestic violence situation. With only one income, her finances were stretched to the

max, she was behind on rent on the new place, and her car payment, and she needed diapers and food. After completing the first session with the social worker, she made a visit to the warehouse for food and baby supplies and received a grant of \$1027 to help get her payments current. With the financial counseling, she was able to say, "Thank you STEP, you've helped me understand how I can do this on my own. I can do this and keep me and my baby safe."

Reports.

a. Rick Becker provided a brief update on the financial reports, noting a bump in the January numbers when compared to 2024. It's much too early in the fiscal year to draw any conclusions. Demand on the program from those applying remains stable with an increasing number of veterans who have never used the program before.

b. Marqus Ellis, Administrator of the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF), presented an overview of the program's expenditures, highlighting the fund's strong emphasis on eviction prevention this year. He recommended that the board consider setting limits on how often individuals can request assistance for food and personal hygiene supplies. Marqus pointed out that some recipients are not fully utilizing available community resources, and many requests do not meet the criteria for emergencies. He suggested that reallocating funds from these categories could allow for a more effective use of resources in areas like housing and transportation. Rick Becker proposed that the Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) continue discussions on this issue in the coming months and incorporate any policy changes into the next update of the Policies and Procedures, with Marqus' input.

c. Committee Reports.

Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness. Matt reported that outreach efforts at nursing homes have identified several nursing home residents who are veterans and need help filing claims. Veteran service officers from VFW Post 2669 will be reaching out to assist them. He also provided an update on proposed legislation affecting veterans, noting that it remains uncertain which, if any, will move forward for a vote.

Public Affairs and Social Media. Brian Davis thanks everyone for referring content for posting to the Friends of the Veterans Advisory Board Facebook page. The site is receiving quite a few views each month as content is refreshed.

Special Event Support.

- **Spring 2025 Stand Down:** Mark Lowe announced that planning for the Spring 2025 Stand Down is progressing well. The planning group will start meeting weekly. VAB members are encouraged to attend and participate. He reminded the group that the April 26 event will need their support at the registration table. More details will follow.
- **Run to Tahoma:** As of today, the medical examiner has not identified any unclaimed veterans to be honored. However, the planning committee remains dedicated to moving forward with the event. Rick Becker confirmed that the event permit has been filed with the Port Orchard City Clerk, and the required fee has been paid. Meanwhile, Mark will work with the medical examiner to set a reasonable cutoff date, allowing ample time for potential participants to prepare.
- **Military Appreciation Day:** The VAB will host a table at this event. All are encouraged to attend.



Veteran Education. Tatiane reported that veteran student enrollment for the winter quarter and the veteran service center continues to be an added value to students as well as other veterans in the area.

- **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. He is also working with local groups to make veteran suicide a priority in the county.
- **Veterans Garden.** Jason Reis is reaching out to members for help. Planting will start soon.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin mentioned a number of job fairs in the coming months. Look to the Friends of the Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board for new announcements.
- **Women’s Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer is confident that the Women’s Circle at the 26 April Stand Down will be well stocked with needed item .
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond regularly attends veterans court and continues building relationships with program participants. He is working this initiative alone however and asked for assistance from others to be involved.

Old Business –

a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker shared that he sees an average of two veterans per day. While hourly appointments are available, he noted that many veterans require extra time to navigate their complex questions. Overall, feedback from those he serves has been positive.

b. **Veterans Advisory Board Bylaws Review.** Rick Becker presented a draft of the proposed bylaws, incorporating member feedback gathered after the January meeting. The most significant change, aside from reformatting for improved readability, is the addition of a residency or employment requirement in Kitsap County for appointment to the VAB. The draft also clarifies VAB meeting attendance requirements. A motion to accept the document as written was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Rick Becker will now finalize the document for submission to the county commissioners for approval.

c. **2025 Work Plan Review.** VAB members may contact Rick Becker to update their items. See Attachment A.

New Business – Rick Becker reviewed proposed revisions to the Veterans Assistance policies and procedures manual, submitted by VAB members over the past month. The updates affect paragraphs 3.2.1, 3.11.6, and 3.11.7, clarifying the limits on fund distribution for clean and sober housing and eviction prevention. These changes ensure readers have a clear understanding of the financial support available in these areas. A motion to approve the revisions as written was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Rick Becker will now prepare the document for submission to the county commissioners for final approval.

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, March 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 7:15pm.

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. Approved by the VAB on 12 February.
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
Present Jayme DeGooyer (I) Mark Lowe (I) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Matt Shillingburg (I) Bill Martin (Z) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Phil Sauer (I) Dan Kampman (Z) Ron Valencia (Z) Jason Reis (Z)		Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Ron Demaris, STEP (I)	Doug Washburn (Z) Rick Becker (I)
Absent / Excused Harry Gilger (E) 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

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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.