



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 indigen veterans and their families

Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

DATE: March 11, 2026

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: 814 9194 3375

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 scorcoran@kitsap.gov.

*Action items

1. Call to Order – Bill Martin
2. Online Announcement
3. Welcome to attendees and new board members
4. Introduction of Attendees
5. Approval of Agenda *
6. Approval of February 11, 2026, VAB Minutes *
7. Guest Speaker: Matthew Shillingburg – Legislative Session
8. Reports
 - a. Veterans Assistance Fund – Steve Corcoran (Attachment A)
 - b. Update on KCR – Marqus Ellis (Attachment B & C)
 - c. Committee Reports
 - Housing & Homelessness/Aging Veteran Services – Matt Shillingburg/Emily Buster
 - Public Affairs and Social Media – Brian Davis/Carlos Trujillo

- Special Events/VAB Support – Jack Cahoon
- Veteran Education – Tatiane Simons
- Veteran Health Care – Jayme DeGooyer
- Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs – Vacant
- Veterans Garden – Jason Reis/ Jay Bonner
- Women’s Veteran Services – Jayme DeGooyer/Emily Buster
- Veteran Employment and Employment Opportunities – Bill Martin
- Veteran Court Mentorship – Vacant (Are we going to fill?)
- Tribe Outreach - Emily Buster

9. Old Business

- a. Randy Johnson’s Community Assistance Proposal – Bill Martin
- b. Veteran’s Advisory Board Vacancies – Steve Corcoran
- c. Kitsap County VSO position – Steve Corcoran
- d. Military Appreciation Day – Steve Corcoran
- e. Unforgotten Run to Tahoma – Jack Cahoon
- f. Guest speakers for 2026

10. New Business

11. Public Comments

12. Good of the Order/Announcements

13. Next Meeting

14. Adjourn

Minutes of the Kitsap County Advisory Board February 11, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was conducted via ZOOM and in-person and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:41 PM.

Announcements: Mark Lowe reviewed 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 additional attendees.

Approval of Agenda. The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Jay Bonner to approve, with a 2nd from Harry Gilger to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes. January minutes were reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Ron Valencia, with a 2nd from Matt Shillingburg. The minutes were approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker. Guest speaker Bob Middlebrook gave a presentation on his company Sound Works. Bob provides help with resumes and provides support for veterans seeking employment. Ron Desmaris gave a presentation on STEP (Support the Enlisted Project)

Reports

- A. Veterans Assistance Fund Report – Steve Corcoran reported eviction notices/rental assistance is number one line item for support. Olympic College Resource is busy, averaging 3-4 clients a day.
- B. KCR Assistance Fund Expenditures – Marqus Ellis reported total for January 2026 was \$34,831.51. Expect the need to help veterans will increase as the year progresses. Added Winco as a new vender for vouchers.

Committee Reports

- **Housing & Homelessness/Aging Veterans Services** – Matt is supporting KAVA preparing for April standdown. Continue to help Kitsap County Assisted Living facilities.
- **Public Affairs and social media** – Brian Davis is advertising KAVA April standdown event and additional events on social media. Brian is always asking for additional information to share.
- **Special Event/VAB support** – Jack reported VAB is supporting Military Appreciation Day, March 14th, KAVA standdown April 25th, and the Unforgotten Run to Tahoma, May 23rd.
- **Veteran Education** – Tatiane reported MVP Center is busy. Awaiting dates for Seattle VA visits in March.
- **Veteran Health Care** – Jayme stated February is Heart Health month.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs** – No report.
- **Veterans Garden** – Jason and Jay are looking to have a working party at the garden late March or early April.
- **Women’s Veteran Services** – Jayme and Emily are preparing for the Spring KAVA event and are gathering donations for the Woman’s Circle room.

- **Veteran Employment and Opportunities** - Bill advertised the Vet Tribe event at Western Red Brewing, February 18th. Bill also spoke of various job/hiring fairs happening soon.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship** – No report.
- **Tribe Outreach** – Emily plans to visit the Suquamish Vet Center soon.

Old Business

- **2026 Work Plan - Completed** and submitted to BOCC.
- **Randy Jackson’s Community Assistance Proposal** – Bill Martin will be the point of contact for this proposal.
- **Veterans Advisory Board vacancies** – Wendy Robinson was approved unanimously to fill a position. Steve Corcoran will submit nomination to BOCC.
- **Kitsap County VSO update** – Steve stated interviews were conducted Wednesday, February 11th. He hopes to select a candidate very soon.
- **Guest speakers for 2026** – Mark Lowe asked board members to seek speakers for the year.
- **Military Appreciation Day** - All set for March 14th.
- **Unforgotten Run to Tahoma** - Plans still happening for May 23rd event. Next meeting March 4th at American Legion post 149, 1800.

New Business – None

Public Comment – None

Good of the Order/Announcements – None

Next meeting – March 11th, 2026.

Adjourn – Motion was made by Ron Valencia to adjourn; a 2nd was made by Jay Bonner. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Members’ attendance at the February meeting:

Mark Lowe - present
 Bill Martin - present
 Jay Bonner - present
 Emily Buster - present
 Jack Cahoon - excused
 Brian Davis - ZOOM
 Jayme DeGooyer - present
 Harry Gilger - present
 Danny Piper - Absent
 Jason Reis - ZOOM

Phil Sauer – ZOOM

Matthew Shillingburg – present

Tatiane Simons – present

Ron Valencia – present

Steve Corcoran (County Staff) - present

Guests:

Bob Middlebrook – Sound Works

Wendy Robinson

Ron Desmarais – STEP

Marqus Ellis - KCR

2026 Fund Balance Report Veteran's Program

February 28, 2026

| Account Title | Budget | Year to Date | Percent | Balance |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Beginning Fund Balance | - | \$1,000,000.00 | | |
| Current Revenue | | | | |
| Real & Personal Property | \$850,000.00 | \$25,481.57 | 3.0% | \$ 824,518.43 |
| Investment Interest | \$4,000.00 | \$378.52 | 9.5% | \$ 3,621.48 |
| Other Revenue | \$3,054.00 | 517.15 | 16.9% | \$ 2,536.85 |
| Revenue total | \$ 857,054.00 | \$ 26,377.24 | 3.1% | \$ 830,676.76 |
| County Staff Charges | | | | |
| 5101 - Regular Pay | \$ 116,780.00 | \$ 10,185.72 | 8.7% | \$ 106,594.28 |
| 5201 - Industrial Insurance | \$ 990.00 | \$ 79.42 | 8.0% | \$ 910.58 |
| 5202 - Social Security | \$ 8,934.00 | \$ 771.18 | 8.6% | \$ 8,162.82 |
| 5203 - PERS Retirement | \$ 6,516.00 | \$ 558.94 | 8.6% | \$ 5,957.06 |
| 5209 - WA Family & Medical Leave | \$ 254.00 | \$ 32.88 | 12.9% | \$ 221.12 |
| 5229 - Employer Benefits Costs | \$ 24,624.00 | \$ 4,104.00 | 16.7% | \$ 20,520.00 |
| 5311 - Office Supplies | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 5352 - Small Tools and Equipment - Trackable | \$ 500.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 500.00 |
| 5421 - Telecommunication and Web Services | \$ 1,000.00 | \$ 53.20 | 5.3% | \$ 946.80 |
| 5425 - Mailing, Shipping, and Courier Services | \$ 150.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 150.00 |
| 5431 - Employee Mileage Reimbursement | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 1,500.00 |
| 5451 - Long-Term Equipment Leases | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ 149.03 | 9.9% | \$ 1,350.97 |
| 5452 - Short-Term Software and Cloud Subscriptions | \$ 300.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 300.00 |
| Total County Staff Charges | \$ 164,048.00 | \$ 15,934.37 | 9.7% | \$ 148,113.63 |
| Contracted Services | | | | |
| Management Consulting | | | | |
| KCR | \$ 625,950.00 | \$ 44,281.85 | 7.1% | \$ 581,668.15 |
| NW Justice League | \$ 80,000.00 | \$ 6,902.00 | 8.6% | \$ 73,098.00 |
| Standdown | | | | |
| 5413 - Employee Healthcare Services | \$ 4,000.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 4,000.00 |
| 5441 - Legal Notices and Advertising Services | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 2,000.00 |
| 5454 - Short-Term Equipment and Operating Rentals | \$ 950.00 | \$ 865.00 | 91.1% | \$ 85.00 |
| Veteran's Garden | \$ 1,200.00 | \$ - | 0.0% | \$ 1,200.00 |
| County Charges | | | | |
| 5912 - Interfund IS Service Charges | \$ 3,862.00 | \$ 643.66 | 16.7% | \$ 3,218.34 |
| 5913 - Interfund IS Program Maintenance and Dev | \$ 1,645.00 | \$ 274.16 | 16.7% | \$ 1,370.84 |
| 5914 - Interfund IS Fleet Recovery | \$ 400.00 | \$ 66.66 | 16.7% | \$ 333.34 |
| 5922 - Interfund IS Projects | \$ 304.00 | \$ 50.66 | 16.7% | \$ 253.34 |
| 5996 - Interfund Indirect Cost Allocations | \$ 7,363.00 | \$ 1,840.75 | 25.0% | \$ 5,522.25 |
| Total Expense | \$ 891,722.00 | \$ 70,859.11 | | |
| Total 2026 Blance (Income minus Expense) | \$ (34,668.00) | \$ (44,481.87) | | |
| Estimated ending Fund Balance | \$ 965,332.00 | \$ 955,518.13 | | |

Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program - Summary of Direct Emergency Assistance During 2026

Total Direct Service Budget 2026- \$476,867

| Activity | Jan-26 | Feb-26 | Mar-26 | Apr-26 | May-26 | Jun-26 | Jul-26 | Aug-26 | Sep-26 | Oct-26 | Nov-26 | Dec-26 | Total 2026 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Appliances | \$969.70 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Auto Repair | \$5,023.77 | \$6,003.86 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Burial | \$1,500.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bus Pass | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bus Ticket Home | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clean & Sober Housing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clothing | \$1,017.68 | \$950.44 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dental | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eviction Relief Funding | \$15,097.97 | \$19,348.15 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food | \$4,171.32 | \$5,468.74 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gasoline | \$808.12 | \$537.63 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heating Oil | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies | \$833.99 | \$838.93 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Motel | | \$851.79 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical | \$41.42 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Natural Gas | \$330.21 | \$395.73 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Occupation Certification | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Phone | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Propane | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PSE | \$4,495.65 | \$2,995.33 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Move In Assistance : 1st / Last Month | | \$3,200.00 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sewer | \$541.68 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Union Dues | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water | | \$41.10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waste Management | | \$572.24 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wood for Heat/ Pellets | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | \$34,831.51 | \$41,203.94 | \$0.00 |
| Balance | \$442,035.49 | \$400,831.55 |
| 2026 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00% |

| Demographics | Jan-26 | Feb-26 | Mar-26 | Apr-26 | May-26 | Jun-26 | Jul-26 | Aug-26 | Sep-26 | Oct-26 | Nov-26 | Dec-26 | Total 2026 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|
| Veteran | 41 | 43 | | | | | | | | | | | 84 |
| Dependent | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Widow | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 38 | 37 | | | | | | | | | | | 75 |
| Female | 3 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | 9 |
| Other Gender | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| 2026 Applications (Services) Per month | 70 | 93 | | | | | | | | | | | 163 |
| 2026 New Clients served YTD | 11 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | 27 |
| 2026 Clients denied | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 2026 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #) | 41 | 27 | | | | | | | | | | | 68 |
| 2025 Applications (Services) Per month | 20 | 15 | 26 | 17 | 18 | 28 | 16 | 32 | 28 | 26 | 24 | 26 | 276 |
| 2025 New Clients served YTD | 14 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 15 | 149 |
| 2025 Clients denied | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 14 |
| 2025 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #) | 27 | 16 | 25 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 201 |
| 2024 Applications (Services) Per month | 15 | 12 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 14 | 19 | 18 | 21 | 20 | | 190 |
| 2024 New Clients served YTD | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | | 61 |
| 2024 Clients denied | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | | 12 |
| 2024 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #) | 10 | 9 | 19 | 23 | 18 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 20 | 17 | | 193 |
| 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 |
| 2017 Applications Per month | 37 | 30 | 49 | 43 | 36 | 48 | 48 | 55 | 38 | 49 | 48 | 47 | 528 |
| 2017 New Clients served YTD | 8 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 13 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 110 |
| 2017 Clients denied | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 15 |
| 2017 Total Clients Served | 37 | 29 | 48 | 41 | 36 | 46 | 48 | 54 | 37 | 46 | 46 | 45 | 513 |
| 2016 Applications per month | 36 | 45 | 37 | 36 | 36 | 41 | 50 | 40 | 33 | 37 | 35 | 32 | 458 |
| 2016 New Clients served YTD | 10 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 101 |
| 2015 Applications per month | 38 | 35 | 46 | 45 | 39 | 22 | 48 | 41 | 42 | 34 | 40 | 42 | 472 |
| 2015 New Clients served YTD | 11 | 13 | 19 | 12 | 8 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 15 | 144 |

Attachment C

| Activity | January 2026 | YTD |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Total Application | 43 | 84 |
| Total # Of New Application | 16 | 27 |
| Applications Accepted | 16 | 26 |
| Applications Denied | 0 | 1 |
| General Discharges | 1 | 3 |
| Total Unduplicated | 27 | 85 |
| Total Payout | 41,203.94 | 76,035.45 |
| Applications In Progress | 0 | |
| | | |
| Activity | Amount | Services Delivered |
| Appliances | \$ | |
| Auto Repair | \$ 6,003.86 | 4 |
| Burial | \$ | |
| Bus Pass | \$ | |
| Bus Ticket Home | \$ | |
| Clean & Sober Housing | \$ | |
| Clothing | \$ 950.44 | 12 |
| Dental | \$ | |
| Eviction Relief Funding | \$ 19,348.15 | 11 |
| Food | \$ 5,468.74 | 25 |
| Gasoline | \$ 537.63 | 12 |
| Heating Oil | \$ | |
| Motel | \$ 851.79 | 1 |
| Medical | \$ | |
| Natural Gas | \$ 395.73 | 1 |
| Occupation Certification | \$ | |
| Phone | \$ | |
| Propane | \$ | |
| PSE | \$ 2,995.33 | 6 |
| 1 st Month Rent / Move In / Security Deposit | \$ 3,200 | 1 |
| Sewer | \$ | |
| Union Dues | \$ | |
| Waste Management | \$ 572.24 | 4 |
| Water | \$ 41.10 | 1 |
| Wood for Heat/ Pellets | \$ | |
| Hygiene / Household / Cleaning Supplies | \$ 838.93 | 12 |

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2026

MONTHLY REPORT: February 2026

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS



VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2026 WORK PLAN

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

Advisory Group Staff: Steve Corcoran scorcoran@kitsap.gov 360-396-337/4811/360-227-9093

Advisory Group 2025 Chair/Co-Chairs: Chair – Mark Lowe, Co-Chair – Bill Martin

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

| 2026 Goal | Status % Complete | 2026 Priority Level | Comments/Coordination |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY | | | |
| 1. Establish 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, Emily Buster |
| 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, Bill Martin |
| 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. Jack Cahoon |
| 4. Kitsap County Veterans Home Support | 0% | High | Randy Johnson of Randy’s Heating and Cooling, 360-979-9429/360-621-6915 POC. Chairperson required from VAB to assist with this endeavor. This program will help low-income veterans with home improvements for little or no cost. Entire VAB |

| 2026 Goal | Status % Complete | 2026 Priority Level | Comments/Coordination |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| 5. 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 |
| 6. 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 |
| 7. 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, Mark Lowe. |
| 8. Provide guidance, support, and resources to newly hired Kitsap County VSO. | 0% | High | The Board will offer institutional knowledge, local context, and strategic insight into veteran needs across Kitsap County; assist with onboarding through introductions to community partners and service providers; and provide ongoing feedback on emerging trends, service gaps, and best practices. Through regular communication, shared resource development, and coordinated outreach efforts, the Board will help ensure the Veteran Service Officer is well-equipped to effectively serve veterans and their families while strengthening continuity and impact across the county's veteran support network. Veterans Program Coordinator, Entire VAB |
| | | | |

TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY

| 2026 Goal | Status % Complete | 2026 Priority Level | Comments/Coordination |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|--|
| <p>1. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans. Work with other Veteran organizations, groups, and individuals to determine what needs are not being met in Kitsap County and if we can find appropriate solutions.</p> | <p>0%</p> | <p>Moderate</p> | <p>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. We will do this by connecting with more veterans to determine what needs are not being met. 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. Bill Martin / Mark Lowe</p> |

TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY

| | | | |
|---|----------------|------------|--|
| <p>1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>Low</p> | <p>Determine if Blueberry park is still the right location for the Veteran’s garden and consider moving the garden activities to the Retsil veterans’ home to help with garden care. Jason Reis/Jay Bonner</p> |
| <p>2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | <p>Low</p> | <p>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 ensure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe, Entire VAB.</p> |

VAB Events 2026

January 7 – Begin Run to Tahoma planning meetings.

January 14 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic **Homelessness, Dan Piper (re-Scheduled)**

February 11 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: **Sound Works, Bob Middlebrook**

March 11 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: Matt (Legislative session)**

March TBD - Military Appreciation Day, Kitsap County Fairgrounds Pavilion

March/April TBD - Veteran Garden prep

April 8 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: Permission to Start Dreaming FDN and Warrior PATHH Program - Scooter Lewis – 360.602.9589 (Bill Martin)**

April 25 – Spring Stand Down, Sheridan Park Community Center

May TBD – Veteran Garden Working Party

May 13 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic:**

May 22 – The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma; transfer Veteran remains from the Medical Examiner to the County Administration Building lobby.

May 23 – 1000, The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma

June 10 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic: County VSO program brief (Jason VA brief)**

July TBD – 1000 – 1200, Veteran's Garden Working Party

July 8 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting– **Topic:**

August TBD – Veterans Garden Working Party

August 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting. – **Topic:**

September 9 - 1730, VAB Monthly Meeting – **Topic:**

September TBD - 1830- 2000; World Suicide Prevention

September 26 - Fall Stand Down; 1000 - 1400 (set up, vet registration, and tear down)

October TBD - Veterans Garden Working Party

October 14 – 1730 VAB monthly meeting – **Topic:**

November 7 - 0900 - 1400, VAB Retreat (no monthly meeting)

November 11, Veterans Day

December 2, Unforgotten Run initial meeting,

December 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – **Topic:**