






STATE OF WASHINGTON
VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PO BOX 41150 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1150 • 360-725-2167

Meeting Minutes

Meeting attended by (VAAC Member)	Jim Sims, Tom Davis & Chuck Wharton
Date	June 8, 2022
Time	10:30 am
Location	American Legion Post #62, 107 E. Prairie Street, Sequim, WA 98382
Call to Order	Jim Sims
Welcome & Invocation	Jim Sims and Invocation by Nancy Welcome from Rep. Tharinger, Rep. Chapman, Commissioner Johnson, and Commissioner Ozias
Presentations	<p><u>VA Puget Sound Health Care System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VA Puget Sound Health Care System Community Care – Renita Walker <p> VA Community Care Presentation + PAO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VA Caregiver Support Program – Michelle Elske <p> CSP VAACP Town Hall + PAO.pptx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VA Community Housing and Outreach Service – Cora Frank <p> CHOS - June 6, 2022.pptx</p>

Outreach – Rochelle Hicklin, JBLM

The following is a checklist that needs to be done by the veteran families when a family member has died. The checklist contains all the information on who, what, when and how things that needs to be accomplish.



Death Notification
Checklist.pdf

WDVA Overview – Steve Gill, WDVA Administrator, Veterans Services Division



WDVA PPT.pptx

Above is an overview of the different services and programs that Washington Department of Veterans Affairs offers to veterans and their families in our state. Services that we offer:

- 4 State Veterans Homes – located in Port Orchard, Orting, Spokane, and Walla Walla (Skilled Nursing Facility that offers long term care for honorably discharged veterans and in some cases their spouse)
- Medical Lake Veterans Cemetery – located in Medical Lake (Offers Interment – In ground or in a columbarium wall)
- Transitional Housing Program – located in Port Orchard and Orting (Provides housing for eligible homeless veterans)
- Claims Assistance – Assist veterans and their families for filing their earned federal/state benefits
- Counseling and Wellness Programs – Various contracted professional located in various places in our state. Below is the list of our providers



Counseling and
Wellness Provider Li

Suicide Prevention and Awareness – Jennifer Pruitt, WDVA Suicide Prevention and Awareness Peer Specialist



WDVA Suicide
Prevention Overview

Above is a copy of the presentation

<p>Presentations</p>	<p>Phone Numbers to call or share with individual in crisis are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 800-273-8255 and press 1 ○ Remain on the line with the veteran and don't leave them alone ○ Be transparent and honest and reassure them that you will be with them every step of the way until the veteran is connected to the resources they need ○ If you come across with any individual who calls for help, please make sure to connect them to the nearest resources in your respective communities ○ Passing of E2SHB - Establishing programs and measures to prevent suicide among veterans and military members <p>Brief Summary of Bill:</p> <p>Provides for various outreach and services related to preventing suicide among veterans and military service members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates the Veterans and Military Members Suicide Prevention Account and a suicide prevention community-based services grant program. • Extends and modifies the Suicide-Safer Homes Task Force. • Establishes a new special vehicle license plate emblem <p><u>Work Source</u> – Jon Ferguson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WorkSource is available to everyone in Clallam County: www.worksourcewa.com ○ Veterans also have priority service by Disabled Veterans Outreach Coordinator or Local Veterans Employment Representatives in the Office. They can help reduce barriers to work by helping with transportation, wardrobe, work-required tools, or other gear. WorkSource also partners with WDVA to provide the Veterans Innovations Program and Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program benefits to veterans who qualify. (More info at www.dva.wa.gov) ○ Other programs include the YesVets hiring initiative – www.yesvets.org
<p>Q & A</p>	