



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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting attended by	Richard Marcelynas and Owen McCurty
Date	May 21, 2015
Time	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location	American Legion Post #10 – 208 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee, WA
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Owen McCurty Invocation by Owen McCurty Pledge of Allegiance by Richard Marcelynas
Welcome & Introductions:	<p>Owen McCurty made the welcome and introductions of VAAC Member present at the Town Hall Meeting</p> <p>Alfie Alvarado-Ramos – WDVA Director gave an agency update. 1) Groundbreaking for the Walla Walla Veterans Home – July 1, 2015 – it will be an 80 bed facility and will be up and operating Fall of 2016, 2) Governor, House & Senate versions of the Capital budget includes funding to conduct a feasibility study for a possible second state veteran cemetery, 3) Collaborating with private and public sector and non-profit organization for prevention of homeless veterans and eventually ending homelessness. During the 1 Night Point in Count – there were approximately 1,500 homeless veterans in our state, 4) Military Transition Council – partnerships between public and private sector that enables outgoing service members to successfully transition into the civilian community. The council's vision is closely aligned with the Governor's Results Washington Goal 2 – increase employment rate of veterans from 67% to 70% by 2015 and the increase of state agency's utilization of certified veteran-owned business by 5% in year 2017, 5) During this current legislation, there were 13 veterans bill signed into law – info can be found at: http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/legislative-updates</p> <p>Frank Kuntz (Mayor of Wenatchee), Bob Godde (Mayor of Chelan), Jeff Gomes (Mayor of Cashmere) welcomed everyone and thanked the VAAC for conducting one of their town hall meetings in their town.</p>
Presentations	<p>Employment – Eileen Boylston (Local Veterans Employment Representative)</p> <p>As part of Eileen's job she works closely with employers and encourages them to hire veterans. Services provided by her office are: job referrals, employment counseling, job search workshops and referrals to training programs. Worksource also refers veterans and eligible spouses to specialized training programs through the Workforce Investment Act. If approved, limited vocational training is provided at no</p>

	<p>cost. Her office offers free classes every first and third Tuesday of each month – the class covers areas from resume writing, health care, education, financial, etc. Eileen covers 5 counties in eastern Washington.</p> <p>Hope Source – Chad Larson Hope Source is a non-profit organization that provides the following services to veterans: Provide outreach to veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, provide housing, provide intense navigation to agreed upon services, provide support through case management to increase skills and income of participants, provide free legal services that lead to stable housing, provided skilled staff to help with obtaining and changing both VA and disability benefits and may also provide financial support that directly leads to housing. To access these services veterans must meet eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Behavioral Health – Sue Dickinson Sue is the contracted mental health counselor both for WDVA and USDVA. She has been providing mental health counseling for veterans and family members in the Wenatchee area for the past 3 ½ years. Veterans are referred to her from various veterans organizations as well as from private and public sector. She has expertise with wide range of issues including PTSD, marriage counseling, parenting and depression/anxiety, anger and life transitions. The clinic that she works for, offer variety of mental health counseling, variety of support groups, facilitated by counselors i.e., Men’s PTSD group, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan group, Women’s group for wives of partners with PTSD and other issues that veterans or their family members may face i.e.; depression, anxiety, anger management and career and family problems. The counseling and consultation services provided are often at no cost to the veterans and their family members.</p>
<p>Issues Discussed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing for homeless veterans – length of time for a homeless vet to be housed especially those with family and veteran with offense/law violations 2. Communications among service providers in the community – possibility of creating a website with all the information for the 39 counties 3. Outreach to veterans and their family members – information on state/federal benefits they might be entitled to.

