



STATE OF WASHINGTON
VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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Meeting Minutes

Meeting attended by	Owen McCurty, Gary Pearson, Bob Schwartz, Lloyd Burroughs, Rob Lougee, Gary Lysne
Date	April 17, 2014
Time	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location	Auburn Senior Center – 809 9 th Street SE, Auburn WA
Call to Order	Meeting was called to order by Owen McCurty – current VAAC Chair. Bob Schwartz gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
Introductions	Owen McCurty did introductions
Welcome	<p>Nancy Backus, Mayor of City of Auburn – Mayor Backus thank everyone for their attendance and for choosing Auburn to hold the VAAC Town Hall Meeting. Mayor Backus mentioned that the City of Auburn has a long history of supporting veterans and their families. The city has robust resources available to assist veterans and their families that live in their community. Also the city hosted Veterans Day parade since 1965. 2014 would be its 49th year and the parade as grown into one of the largest veteran’s day parade in the US.</p> <p>Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, WDVA Director – Alfie thank the Mayor and the Senior Center for hosting the town hall meeting. The City of Auburn can count on WDVA as their partner in assisting the veterans and their families that lives in the community. WDVA is working closely with JBLM in assisting transitioning service member and their families for their smooth transition to the community – assisting them in regards to applying for disability benefits or other benefits they might be entitled to, resume writing, interview skills, etc. WDVA is working with the Navy and Fairchild as well. Starbucks and Walmart had committed to hiring veterans. We are also collaborating with WESTCARE and DOC in assisting veterans in our state. The current unemployment rate for veterans in our state is 1.2% below the current rate.</p>
Introductions	Owen McCurty made the welcome and introductions
Areas Discussed	King County Veterans Services – Bryan Fry (Program Manager) Bryan explained what the King County Veterans Program is all about. The King County Veterans Levy was passed in November 2005 and the purpose is to generate funding to help veterans, military personnel and their families and other individuals and families in need across the county through a variety of housing and supportive services. The program provides professional social services to veterans, military service members and their families seeking financial assistance, support services in order to provide them with the opportunity to achieve a good quality of life. In 2011 King County Voters renewed the levy and levy was split 50-50 with half of the proceeds dedicated to helping

veterans, military personnel and their families and the other half dedicated to helping other individuals and families in need in King County. Direct services are provided in two main offices – Seattle and Renton and also there are 8 satellite offices in King County. At these offices and sites the following services are provided: emergency financial assistance, housing assistance, employment guidance and assistance, case management, life stability, veterans benefits counseling, mental health referrals and other various supportive services. Requirements to access these services are: honorably discharge veterans, national guard and reserves, military personnel and their families maybe be eligible for services subject to residency requirement, length of service standards and income guidelines as well as providing additional supporting documentation. Any questions regarding this program the number to call is 800-325-6165 Ext. 6-7656

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder/Homeless/Incarcerated Veterans Services – Dixon McReynolds (Program Manager)

Dixon informed attendees that WDVA provides the following services for veterans and their families living in King County: 1. Homeless Services – this service address the needs of homeless veterans in King County by providing and connecting them to the services they need; 2: Financial and Housing Support Services – assist eligible veterans in determining their eligibility for housing, financial assistance and their supportive need – we provide referrals for crisis intervention - i.e. alcohol/drug counseling, low income housing, family counseling and job training; 3: Call Center – provide veterans, active duty members, guards and reserves and their families a one stop veterans information, resource and Assistance – one number to call to receive information regarding state and federal veterans benefits; 4. Military Family Outreach – provide prevention and intervention strategies for most at risk and in need to reduce or prevent homelessness; 5. Veterans Court – partner with King County to assist veterans that found themselves in trouble with the law. The court sets specific treatment and case management requirement to ensure that the veteran’s issue(s) i.e. behavioral, substance abuse or other related issues that contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The goal of the program is to help veterans reintegrate into their respective communities through viable employment, safe shelter and reunification with their families.

Employment Security - Worksource - Nick Towne – Local Veterans Employment Representative

Nick informed the attendees on his role as the Local Veterans Employment Representative – he is responsible for promoting the hiring of veterans particularly recently discharged veterans and he provides assistance to those veterans facing significant barriers to getting hired such as resume writing, interview techniques, etc. He also works with local businesses that hold federal contracts to help them recruit veteran candidates to fill vacancies. He provides information and counseling on how to look for a job, referrals to a job opening and labor market information about the type of jobs that are in demand in the

	<p>communities. He provides information about eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits, other types of services available through the local Worksource office and the availability of training and apprenticeship programs and other programs for which the veteran maybe eligible.</p>
Issues Discussed	<p>Joel Estey, Project & Program Manager for King County informed the attendees regarding King County's Regional Veterans Initiative – The goal of this initiative is to develop a coordinated service system that provides a seamless access to a continuum of services and supports for veterans and their families and maximize the use of regional resources, ensure that all information about service, benefits , supports and eligibility is widely and easily available to veterans their families, services providers and other stakeholders, ensures that veterans have a voice in making improvements to the service system and promote opportunities for veterans and their families to realize their full potential.</p> <p>An attendee would like to see a single card (business card type)given to outgoing service members and their families as part of their out briefing packets.</p>