

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
Veterans' Affairs Committee
April 13, 2016

- I. Call to order by Chair, Michael Quinn at 8:03 AM

- II. Roll Call
Attendance: Bill Becker, Tom Burton, Michael Quinn, Chad Dillon, Michael Jones
Others: Commissioner Michael Seals, Dr. Gillian Stoltman, Beth Ridge, Mike Hoss, Courtney Davis, Lauren King, Brien Brockway

- III. Review of previous month's minutes
Motion made by M. Quinn to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 9, 2016.
Seconded by T. Burton. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- IV. Citizen's Time. Chair M. Quinn opened the floor for citizen's time. No comment, issue or discussion was brought forward. Citizen's time was closed.

- V. Financial Review
Budget as shown- \$16,000 has been moved from the burial benefit to the Soldiers and Sailors Relief. Even moving \$16,000, 23.9% of the budget has been used which is on target for the expected 25% for the first quarter.

\$500 moved to employee training, \$500 moved to rent due to paying for half of the space for L. King. Salaries will have to be updated at a later date. Everything is on track.

B. Ridge went over the budget for The Veterans Stand Down and what the projected costs would go towards. The budget is higher for 2016 due to the timing of the event. In 2015 it was held in May so no flu shots were given. The budget this year is back at \$1800 due to the event being held in September. It will be held at the Salvation Army.

M. Seals asked about the event being held by the Salvation Army May 2016. M. Hoss said they asked if we wanted to participate so we will have a table there.

G. Stoltman let the board know that we are currently working on the budget.

B. Ridge let the committee know that she has created an alternate budget for if the millage passes.

B. Ridge wants to emphasize the positive outcomes of allowing veterans to split their food vouchers into two trips. She has seen receipts with more fresh fruits and vegetables. She has also noticed by allowing them to split their vouchers between two stores veterans are able to get their fresh items at one place and get their canned goods and paper products at



a store where they are less expensive. This is allowing the veterans to be able to stretch their vouchers. M. Seals asked if the Kalamazoo Farmers Market could be added to the list of vendors if veterans are interested in fresh vegetables. They would be able to increase the amount of vegetables they can get for their vouchers. C. Davis said it is a controlled vendor situation and could be done. G. Stoltman directed M. Hoss to speak with Environmental Health because they have experience with the Farmers Market.

M. Quinn brought up the financial limit on the Burial Benefit. Can the board exempt the agency from the \$40,000 limit on assets? Is that a constraint on assisting veterans? B. Ridge said we are not seeing many people who are applying that have assets that disqualify them. B. Ridge also stated that if the millage passes and we exempt ourselves from the indigence status for burial benefits the millage will not be allowed to be used for any burial benefits. B. Ridge would be concerned that the commissioners would force a choice between SSRF and burial benefits. M. Hoss brought up that the \$40,000 is only for a veteran with a spouse. If it is proven that the next of kin had the funds to bury the veteran they are disqualified for the benefit. The office receives several phone calls regarding the sympathy letters that get sent out to family members that do not qualify.

VI. New Business

Veterans Service Office Report

M. Hoss addressed that the work load has not decreased. He would prefer adding a Service Officer if personnel were to be added. Mondays continue to be busy.

KCVSO will be participating in the Salvation Army event this spring. He has also been asked to speak to several groups, no firm dates at this time. M. Hoss will be attending the Michigan Association of County Veteran Service Officers, B. Brockway will not be attending due to being accepted to law school. National Convention in May will be attended by both M. Hoss and B. Brockway. The national convention is required for their national certification. L. King will be in the office during both of the conventions.

M. Hoss clarified that the Salvation Army event is a smaller version of a stand down. The board would like to be e-mailed the dates. It is similar to what we do with the Stand Down. M. Seals said they would be focusing on hygiene and on homeless veterans.

VII. Commissioner's Time.

M. Seals asked for clarification on the salaries category. B. Ridge explained the salary will have to be adjusted later because L. King came in higher than budgeted because she did not come in as an A on the scale. M. Seals suggested that when working on the next budget that any additional desired personnel be added.

VIII. Executive Session.



Motion was made to move into Executive Session by T. Burton. Seconded by B. Becker.
Motion Carried.

Committee Moved into Executive Session.

Attendance: M. Quinn, T. Burton, B. Becker, C. Dillon, Commissioner Seals, G. Stoltman, M.
Hoss, B. Brockway

Motion was made to adjourn from Executive Session by T. Burton. Seconded C. Dillon.
Carried.

Committee adjourned Executive session.

- IX. Adjournment. Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Seconded and Carried. Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 11:20 am.

