

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services
Veterans' Affairs Committee
December 14, 2016

- I. Call to Order by Chair, Michael Quinn at 8:00 AM

- II. Roll Call
Members Present: Michael Quinn, Bill Becker, Tom Burton, Mike Jones, Chad Dillon
Absent:
Others: Beth Ridge, Charlotte Smith, Commissioner Mike Seals, Lauren King, Mike Hoss, Thom Canny, John Faul, Commissioner Gisler, Robert Hencken, Daniel Harasim, Jevin Weyenberg

- III. Review of previous month's minutes with corrections
*To be discussed at January meeting with Thom Canny.

- IV. Citizen's Time. Chair M. Quinn opened the floor for citizen's time.
Introductions were made. Daniel Harasim introduced himself as the new Veterans Service Specialist. He also introduced our other new employee, Sarge.

- V. Certificate Presentation to Hazard and Friends
Hazard and Friends are a group of individuals that provided 14 veterans and their families with Thanksgiving meals. He is looking forward to working together again in the future.

- VI. Financial Review
Financial Analyst, Beth Ridge
The official budget adjustments have been done other than the salaries. There are a few things still coming in for this month, but we are on track. We are under budget for salaries.

Soldiers and Sailors
Budget requested at \$30,000, it has been decreased to \$25,000. We are over that but will deal with it. T. Burton requested a gas card inventory to be included in the financial report.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
No activity at this time.

Burial Benefits
There should be funds leftover.

- VII. New Business
Veterans Service Office Report

M. Hoss and D. Harasim are working together to complete unfinished and inaccurately done files from previous employees.



D. Harasim and Sarge are a welcome addition to the office.

VIII. Memorandum of Understanding

John Faul

There was a small group of commissioners (Rogers, Tuinier, Seals, McGraw, Provancher and Quinn) that created a task force in order to establish how the county and the board can work together to best serve the veterans. The scope of the office has increased since its creation. The Memorandum of Understanding is to clarify the working relationship and roles of the county and the veterans board.

Thom Canny

We need to find a compromise between the two positions. The goal is to find something to agree on that works for everyone. The agreements needs to comply with the law, county policy and labor council's advice.

Comments:

M. Seals wanted to make sure that the board would stay informed of any issues that arise in the veterans service office regarding staff so in the case of employee termination they have been aware since the issues started.

B. Becker suggested outsourcing the VSO to a different community organization. Discussion ensued about why that is not currently a viable option.

C. Smith made it clear that the goal is to try to get to the place where we can all work together. That is the purpose of the MOU and it didn't exist until now. The committee and the VSO need to move forward from this point.

The board decided to extend the meeting to discuss the MOU after the rest of regular agenda.

IX. Intake vs. Survey

We are having issues collecting this information from clients. Adding the survey requires them to turn the paperwork in after their appointment which some people do not like to take the time or they forget to turn the form in. We are losing demographic information in the attempt to get the survey information. The office is looking for input on a solution to this issue. Suggestions include: getting a third party involved, adding an e-mail address to the form, and having the VSO direct filling out the form.



X. Other Items:

M. Jones has moved out of the County of Kalamazoo and is resigning from the board effective for January. He reports he has enjoyed his time on the committee but is working towards a new direction in his life.

XI. Commissioner's Time

M. Seals

There is a new County Administrator, Tracey Moorehead.

The new HCS building has been voted on and the Illinois Envelope Factory building has been chosen.

911 Millage will go on the ballot.

XII. Adjournment

Unknown

