



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

Minutes of
Regular Meeting of Kalamazoo County Veterans' Affairs Committee
July 25, 2018

I. **Call to Order by Chair**, Bob Hencken at 9:01am.

II. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Mike Quinn, Bob Hencken

Others: Lauren King, Celia Bañuelos, Jim Rutherford, Beth Ridge, Mark Fletcher, Juan Gonzalez, Ronald Kendall

III. **Review of previous month's minutes**

Chair B. Hencken requested clarification regarding the MOU referred to in the minutes. J. Rutherford provided clarification. Stated MOU is for CMH staff to have an office at HCS' new location on Alcott prior to the transfer. Stated MOU is on the list for Corporate Counsel to work on. M. Fletcher stated he attended accreditation training and is working on obtaining accreditation.

Motion made by M. Quinn to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 27, 2018. Seconded by Chair B. Hencken. Motion carried.

IV. **Citizen's Time.** Chair B. Hencken opened the floor for citizen's time. Nothing at this time.

V. **Old Business**

Nothing at this time.

VI. **For Consideration**

A.) **Financial Review**

Financial Analyst, Beth Ridge

Financial report ending June 30, 2018 reviewed. B. Ridge stated the top half of the report, concerning operations, will appear until October 1, 2018. Stated operations budget is close to target.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Veterans Service Office

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Soldiers and Sailors

B. Ridge and B. Hencken asked J. Rutherford for the status of the request to add \$15,000 back to SSR. J. Rutherford stated he did not have any updates. B. Ridge projects SSR running out of funds by early to mid-November.

Burial Benefits

B. Ridge stated burial budget is slightly over target. Stated there was some clean up from previous claims that were not previously submitted.

B.) Veterans Service Office Report

L. King stated SSR was pretty low. Staff calendars are currently booked through August 9th. Calls are being returned within three to five business days. Staff will be attending a training August 3rd-August 5th to obtain cross accreditation with the American legion, Veterans and Family Expo on August 11th, MACVC training on September 6th-September 7th, Military/Veteran Cultural Competency Training on September 25th. Also announced the Kalamazoo County Stand Down on September 21st from 9am-1pm.

C.) County Board Task Force

Chair B. Hencken states he has not seen any progress in regards to filling the board vacancies. Stated he saw a draft of the intergovernmental agreement and he doesn't consider it satisfactory. Stated it is unknown if draft is outdated and he would like to speak with the people working on the intergovernmental agreement. Stated there may be additional committee members and would also like to consider their opinions. Stated he was told by Tracie Moored that the appointment committee was going to meet yesterday, July 24th. J. Rutherford confirmed the appointment committee did meet yesterday and interviews would be scheduled in the next few weeks. Chair B. Hencken expressed his interest in attending the interviews. J. Rutherford stated he was unsure if that was possible. Chair B. Hencken stated he expects to see full committee seated by next meeting.

Chair B. Hencken asked Mark Fletcher, KCMHSAS Veteran Services System of Care Manager, for his input regarding the merger. M. Fletcher stated he has only been told the agreement is in the hands of the attorneys. He expressed his appreciation for Chair Hencken and M. Quinn's passion for the veterans. He spoke about the Adapt program. Stated it's a 14 week class for veteran parents that have experienced deployment to increase their strength and resilience. Chair B. Hencken asked if the grant for the program was received before or after the talks of the transition. M. Fletcher stated the grant was written last year and funds are currently available. Stated CMH received funding for Juan Gonzalez, Veteran Navigator, to do outreach with homeless veterans and with jail diversion to the Veteran Treatment Court.

J. Gonzalez described his role as a veteran navigator. Stated he assists veterans in finding solutions to their issues and referring them to the appropriate agencies.

Chair B. Hencken asked J. Rutherford if he had any new updates. J. Rutherford stated no and he has not seen the intergovernmental agreement. Stated the plan is the two current employees move

over to CMH. Stated HCS moving next week and will reopen August 6th. Stated moving forward without formal MOU.

VII. Any other items

Nothing at this time.

VIII. Commissioner's Time

Nothing at this time

IX. Adjournment

Chair B. Hencken announced the next meeting be held on August 29th at 9am at HCS and requested an invite also be sent to Mark Fletcher and Juan Gonzalez.

J. Rutherford requested "CMH Update" be added to the agenda

Chair B. Hencken intends to introduce new members at the upcoming meeting and provide them with a loose leaf binder.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, motion carried. Chair B. Hencken adjourned the meeting at 9:37am.