



Kitsap County Veterans Program

Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board

The purpose of the Kitsap County Veteran's Advisory Board is to advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to local indigent veterans, and the programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 9, 2025
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.



[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Topic: Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting:
 Join by phone: 1-253-215-8782
 Meeting ID: 834 6002 9859
 Passcode: 116863

Public Comments. To provide public comment during the meeting, click on the hand icon at the bottom of the screen to "raise your hand." The chair or designee will call upon the attendee to speak at the designated time. Public comment may also be submitted in advance to be read by staff or the chair during the meeting. Email comments by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meeting to rbecker@kitsap.gov.

A G E N D A

* = Action Item

1. **Call to Order.** Mark Lowe
2. **Online Announcement.** Jayme DeGooyer
3. **Welcome to attendees and new board members.** Jayme DeGooyer
4. **Introduction of Attendees.** Mark Lowe
5. **Approval of Agenda. *** Jayme DeGooyer
6. **Approval of March 9, 2025, VAB Minutes. *** Jayme DeGooyer
7. **Guest Speaker.**
8. **Reports.**
 - a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachments A and B. Rick Becker
 - b. **Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends.** Marqus Ellis
 - c. **Committee Reports.**

Topic	VAB Member
Housing and Homelessness / Aging Veterans Services	Matt Shillingburg
Public Affairs and Social Media	Brian Davis
Special Event VAB Support -	Mark Lowe
Veteran Education	Tatiane Simmons
Veteran Health Care	Jayme DeGooyer
Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs	Rick Raymond
Veterans Garden	Jason Reis
Women's Veteran Services	Jayme DeGooyer
Veteran Employment and Employment Opportunities	Bill Martin
Veteran Court Mentorship	Rick Raymond
Tribe Outreach	Dan Kampman

See attachment C for future VAB supported events.

9. **Old Business:**

- a. Veterans Resource Center progress.
- b. 2025 Work Plan Review. See Attachment D.

Rick Becker
VAB Members

10. **New Business:**


Topic	VAB Member
Veterans Advisory Board Vacancies	Jayne DeGooyer
Discuss VAF Access During a 12-Month Rolling Year	Rick Becker

11. **Public Comments.**


12. **Good of the Order/Announcements.**

13. **Next Meeting** May 14, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

14. **Adjourn.**




Kitsap County
Veterans Advisory Board




Scan for links to Veteran Resources

Presenting
The 2025 Spring Stand Down
for Veterans
and their families



KAVA
Kitsap Area
Veterans Alliance



Scan and learn more about KAVA.

SATURDAY, April 26, 2025 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Donuts and coffee will be served beginning at 10:00 am

Hot meals will be served starting at 11:00 am

Sheridan Park Community Center
680 Lebo Blvd., Bremerton, WA 98310

Bring several copies of your DD214
or discharge papers for faster service

VETERAN ID REQUIRED FOR ENTRY


DD214/discharge papers, or VA, military, retired military, Reserve or National Guard ID. Unaccompanied family members must bring the sponsor's DD214 and proof of relationship.

PLANNED SERVICES

Women Veterans Services / Legal Assistance / Women, Men and Children's Clothing / Dental Screening / Hot Meal / Hygiene Items / Groceries if Qualified / VA Claims and Benefits/Information/ Haircuts/ Employment Referrals / Financial Assistance/ Education Services / Camping Gear if Qualified / Housing Options / And More

Your donations are appreciated, and volunteer service is welcomed.

More Information: Jayne DeGooyer: kavastanddown@gmail.com
Phone: 360-443-7474
Find us at: <https://kava.vfwpost2669.org/>



Attachment A

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of March 31, 2025					
Account #	Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
	Beginning Fund Balance	-	900,000.00		
	Current Revenue				
3110.10	Real & Personal Property	800,000.00	55,850.97	7.0%	744,149.03
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	691.55	34.6%	1,308.45
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	478.42	17.7%	2,221.58
	Revenue total	804,700.00	57,020.94	7.1%	747,679.06
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	11,240.55	22.6%	38,395.45
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	111.67	18.9%	480.33
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	854.65	22.5%	2,942.35
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	1,024.03	24.7%	3,127.97
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	29.45	27.3%	78.55
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	2,137.50	25.0%	6,412.50
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	106.36	100.0%	(106.36)
5422	Cellular Telephone	-	-	0.0%	-
5425	Postage	150.00	-	0.0%	150.00
5431	Mileage	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
5432	Travel	-	-	0.0%	-
5451/5454	Long-Term Equip & Leases/Short-Term Equip & Oper Rentals	1,500.00	892.61	59.5%	607.39
5452	Cloud Service Subscriptions	-	-	100.0%	-
5497	Registration & Tuition	-	-	100.0%	-
5492	Other Miscellaneous	-	-	0.0%	-
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting	-	-	0.0%	-
	KCR	625,950.00	75,832.58	12.1%	550,117.42
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	17,458.00	21.8%	62,542.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
5499	Other Miscellaneous	10,057.00	-	0.0%	10,057.00
	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,711.00	927.75	25.0%	2,783.25
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	414.99	25.0%	1,245.01
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	114.99	37.6%	191.01
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	76.50	16.6%	383.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	967.75	25.0%	2,903.25
	Expense total	804,700.00	112,189.38	13.9%	692,510.62
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	Budget total	804,700.00			

Attachment B

Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program - Summary of Direct Emergency Assistance During 2025													
Total Direct Service Budget 2025 - \$476,867													
Activity	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Total 2025
Appliances	\$338.81												\$338.81
Auto Repair	\$7,117.72	\$7,390.72	\$387.00										\$14,895.44
Burial			\$1,149.18										\$1,149.18
Bus Pass	\$25.00												\$25.00
Bus Ticket Home													\$0.00
Clean & Sober Housing													\$0.00
Clothing	\$1,098.12		\$277.71										\$1,375.83
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00											\$5,150.80
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66										\$43,411.56
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66										\$2,813.42
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00										\$330.00
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65										\$981.84
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96										\$1,153.76
Medical			\$721.81										\$721.81
Natural Gas													\$0.00
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE			\$554.88										\$554.88
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00	\$4,600.00	\$1,050.00										\$11,950.00
Sewer													\$0.00
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water		\$257.00											\$257.00
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85,109.33
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	\$391,757.67	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													17.85%

Activity	March 2025	YTD
Total Application	26	61
Total # Of New Application	11	32
Applications Accepted	10	41
Applications Denied	1	5
General Discharges	0	1
Total Unduplicated	25	68
Total Payout	27,280.51	85,109.33
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 387.78	2
Burial	\$ 1149.18	1
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 277.71	2
Dental	\$	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 20,876.66	8
Food	\$ 929.66	7
Gasoline	\$ 90	2
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$ 986	2
Medical	\$ 721.81	2
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 554.88	2
Rent / Move In	\$ 1050	1
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0

Demographics	March	YTD
Veteran	25	75
Dependent	0	0
Widow	0	2
Gender		
Male	19	64
Female	6	12
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	2	4
31 to 60 yrs. old	16	52
60 yrs. old and over	7	21
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	25	75
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	2	8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	19	59
Other Race	4	4
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	5

Program Highlights

- Safety Stand Down Talks & Email Blast For Veterans
- Application Interview For Veterans Housing Program

Attachment C

VAB Events 2025

January 8 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Veteran Project – Jake Carter, Habitat for Humanity

February 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: STEP Ron Demaris

March 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Permission to Start Dreaming – “Scooter” Lewis

March 15 - Military Appreciation Day, Kitsap County Fairgrounds Pavilion

March 22 – VA Disability Claims Clinic, VFW Post 2669, 3100 SE Mile Hill Dr, Port Orchard, WA 2pm-6pm.

March/April TBD - Veteran Garden prep

April 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic:

April 25 – Spring Stand Down

April 26 – Spring Stand Down, 1000 - 1400 (set up, vet registration, and tear down)

May TBD – Veteran Garden Working Party

May 14 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: WA State Legislative Update - Speaker TBD

May 24 – The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma; transfer Veteran remains from the Medical Examiner to the County Administration Building lobby.

May 25 – 1000, The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma, County Administration Building.

June 11 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Homeless Encampments – Derrick Means, HEART Coordinator.

July TBD Veteran’s Garden Working Party

July 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting– Topic: Skoolie Foundation. Builders of mobile shelters for the homeless. Speaker TBD

August TBD – Veterans Garden Working Party

August 13 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting. – Topic: Children and Youth Presentation. Laura Hyde, Program Coordinator, Kitsap County Commission on Children and Youth

September 10 - 1730, VAB Monthly Meeting – Work Source – Nancy Zellers

September TBD - 1830- 2000; World Suicide Prevention

September 27 - Fall Stand Down; 1000 - 1400 (set up, vet registration, and tear down)

October TBD - Veterans Garden Working Party

October 8 – 1730 VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Aging and Long-Term Care, Speaker TBD

November 1 - 0900 - 1400, **VAB Retreat (no monthly meeting)**

November 11, Veterans Day – Kitsap Pavilion Table

December 10 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic:

Attachment D



Kitsap County Veterans Program

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2025 WORK PLAN

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; mark-d-low@wavecable.com

Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, rbecker@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

Advisory Board Purpose/Mission Statement: Advise the Board of County Commissioners on the needs of local indigent veterans, the resources available to help veterans and programs that could benefit the needs of local indigent veterans and their families.

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Investigate expanding Stand Down type services to other times during the year.	0%	High	Stand Downs occur twice each year in Bremerton. Investigate options that might offer similar services at other times of the year and in different places that are more convenient to those without reliable transportation. Report options to the VAB in July 2025. Carlos Trujillo.
2. Develop a women's group that meets regularly.	0%	High	The number of women veterans has steadily increased over the years with a corresponding increase in participation at veteran events. Experience at the Womens Circle at Stand Downs has shown there may be enough demand to offer more regular meeting opportunities for women veterans. Investigate options to rally women veterans in Kitsap County as part of their support system. Jayme DeGooyer.
2. Support two Stand Downs.	0%	High	Kitsap Veteran Stand Downs have proven to be a valuable service to the indigent and homeless veterans. Continue the strong partnership with KAVA to plan and execute two Stand Downs during 2025. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
3. Run to Tahoma	0%	High	The Run to Tahoma is a deeply meaningful tribute to honor veterans in Kitsap County who have passed away without family or friends to claim them. Maintain the partnership with veteran service organizations to ensure a touching and impactful event on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Mark Lowe
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	0%	High	This well-loved event celebrates both active-duty service members and veterans, drawing significant community attention. Sponsor a table to share valuable information about the Kitsap County Veterans Program and veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
5. Support Veterans Day Event	0%	High	Dedicated to honoring veterans, this event offers a platform to connect with the community. Sponsor a table to provide insights into the Kitsap County Veterans Program and available veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	0%	High	Develop and implement a plan to convene service providers and stakeholders for a collaborative discussion on creating a systematic approach to support veterans transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Focus on identifying key challenges, sharing resources, and establishing actionable steps to streamline services and improve outcomes for veterans in need. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	0%	High	The Veteran Resource Center is becoming increasingly recognized and used by the local veteran community. Collaborate with the Olympic College administration to expand impactful services, creating a comprehensive in-person experience for veterans in Kitsap County. This expansion will enable veterans to address and resolve multiple needs efficiently and effectively in one central location. Tatiane Simons

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	0%	High	Requests for assistance with VA disability claims remain the most common reason veterans seek support. Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned not only improves their quality of life but also positively impacts county revenue through increased local spending by veterans. Advocate for the establishment of a paid Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position to enhance the support already provided by local accredited service officers. Additionally, back Washington State legislative initiatives aimed at securing funded VSO positions in every county statewide, ensuring consistent and accessible assistance for all veterans. Matt Shillingburg
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	0%	Moderate	Indigent and homeless veterans frequently seek assistance from the Veterans Program Coordinator and Veterans Assistance Fund Administrator to address urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. To better support these veterans in a timely manner, consider implementing a program to provide preloaded debit cards, with a maximum limit of \$100, for immediate relief. Develop a robust security plan to ensure proper oversight and minimize the risk of fraud and misuse. Veterans Program Coordinator
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	0%	Moderate	Ensuring veterans and transitioning active-duty service members are fully informed about the wide range of benefits available to them can significantly enhance their lives and overall well-being. Beyond supporting key events such as Stand Downs, the Run to Tahoma, Military Appreciation Day, and Veterans Day, explore additional opportunities to address the needs of both active-duty personnel and veterans. Potential strategies include expanding social media outreach, participating in more civic events, and fostering deeper collaboration with local veteran service organizations. These efforts can strengthen connections and provide even greater support to those who have served. Mark Lowe

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.	Ongoing	Low	Look at moving the garden activities to Retsil veterans home to help with garden care. Jason Reis
2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.	Ongoing	Low	The Veterans Administration once provided local in-person assistance to Kitsap County veterans. Low visitor counts to the office forced the VA to reconsider how they will deliver services to local veterans. The use of “pop up” events is used to address unmet needs in the rural areas of Washington State. Maintain contact with VA staff to assure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe.
3. Consider a change to the VAB by-laws.	Ongoing	Low	The VAB by-laws does not address member residency requirements. Consider inserting a requirement that a VAB members must be a Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
March 12, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:35 PM.

Announcements: Jayme DeGooyer read the required on-line announcement covering the conduct of voting members and guests during the meeting.

Introductions: Mark Lowe led introductions of board members and other attendees.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The February, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: "Scooter" Lewis of Permission to Start Dreaming ([Permission To Start Dreaming Foundation – Providing hope and healing to those who serve](#)) delivered an inspiring and heartfelt presentation about his organization. Dedicated to supporting veterans and first responders across the Pacific Northwest, Permission to Start Dreaming provides meaningful, long-term solutions to help transform Post-Traumatic Stress into Post-Traumatic Growth. Their goal is to empower every veteran, first responder, and their family members to build a fulfilling life within reach of their dreams—while inspiring all Americans to support and honor those who serve and have served. Programs offered by Permission to Start Dreaming include:

- **Heroes Huddle:** Heroes Huddle is a welcoming space designed to bring hope, connection, and a sense of belonging to those who have served. These guided gatherings foster healing, camaraderie, and personal growth, helping participants cultivate a deeper quality of life. Through open conversations and shared experiences, attendees are encouraged to strengthen their mind, body, and spirit. Held monthly, these meetings provide valuable resources that support post-traumatic growth and inspire the belief that **“your best days are ahead.”**
- **Matters of the Heart:** The sacrifices made by the spouses of service members and first responders often go unseen or unspoken. **Matters of the Heart** is dedicated to acknowledging and addressing the unique challenges they face. This program provides a compassionate space for spouses to connect, share their experiences, and find strength in community. By recognizing the complexity of their role, **Matters of the Heart** offers guidance, encouragement, and the reassurance that they are not alone.
- **Struggle Well:** Struggle Well, a prevention-focused initiative by the Boulder Crest Foundation, is built on the science of **Post-Traumatic Growth**. This program partners with first responder agencies and active-duty military units to shift the culture from within—transforming the way individuals and organizations approach resilience, stress, and adversity. By empowering participants with tools for personal growth and strength, **Struggle Well** fosters a mindset that embraces life's challenges as opportunities for growth and renewal.

Reports.

a. Rick Becker briefed the board on the financial reports, noting a decrease in the February numbers when compared January. This is primarily a result of lower Eviction Prevention and Rent demand during the month and a drop in veteran applications. It's much too early in the fiscal year to draw any

conclusions about VAF performance. Year to date spending is at 12.13% of the total 2025 total emergency assistance authorization.

b. Marqus Ellis, Administrator of the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF), presented an overview of the program's expenditures. Eviction prevention and rent continue to lead expenditures.

c. Committee Reports.

- **Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness.** No report.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Brian Davis thanked everyone for referring content for posting to the Friends of the Veterans Advisory Board Facebook page. The site is receiving quite a few views each month as content is refreshed.
- **Special Event Support.**
 - **Spring 2025 Stand Down:** Mark Lowe announced that planning for the Spring 2025 Stand Down is progressing well. VAB members are encouraged to attend and participate. He reminded the group that the April 26 event will need their support at the registration table. More details will follow.
 - **Run to Tahoma:** The run to Tahoma event is cancelled for 2025 as no remains have been identified for transport by the medical examiner this year. We are grateful for the work that the medical examiner does to identify family and friends to accept custody of remains in the county.
 - **Military Appreciation Day:** The VAB will host a table at this event. All are encouraged to attend.
 - **Community Service Provider Conference.** Mark Lowe is exploring options to conduct a conference for community service providers that serve veterans in the county. The goal is to assemble as many providers as possible to help educate and optimize local services for veterans.
- **Veteran Education.** No report.
- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Rick Raymond is working with a planning group to host a suicide awareness event on May 14th. Details will follow.
- **Veterans Garden.** Jason Reis started growing plants in his green house. Planting will start soon.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin promoted a Vet Tribe event at Moment Brewing that will offer professional “head shot” photos for attendees. The Vet Tribe events are excellent networking opportunities for local veteran and their family members.
- **Women’s Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer is noted that planning for the Women’s Circle at the Stand Down is progressing well.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond continues attending veterans court and is building relationships with program participants. Contact Rick if you can assist him with the program.

Old Business –

a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker shared that he sees an average of two veterans per day. Typical visitors ask for help with claims, local resources, and assistance with filing an application for access to the Veterans Assistance Fund. Overall, feedback from those he serves has been positive.

b. **2025 Work Plan Review.** Rick Becker reviewed the work plan with board members and encouraged them to report progress on their goals. See Attachment A.

c. **Policy and Procedure and By-laws update.** Rick Becker informed the members that the Policy and Procedures resolution will be presented to the commissioners for approval on March 24th. He also informed board members that the By-laws recommendations are in routing and will be scheduled for

approval at an April Board of Commissioners meeting. Key components of the recommendations include clarification of residency / work requirements for VAB member appointments, attendance policies, and expanded duties of the VAB Chair.

New Business – No new business.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements: No announcements.

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 9th, 2025, at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be held at Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129 and will also be available through Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Task Tracker			
Date	Name	Task and Goal for Completion	Progress
December 11, 2024	Rick Becker	Recommend changes to the VAB by-laws that establishes a residency requirement for board membership.	January 8 th , DRAFT bylaws presented to the VAB for comments due to Rick Becker by 23 Jan 25. Approved by the VAB on 12 February. Rebecca Pirtle expects the Bylaws changes to be considered at a BOCC meeting in early April.
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Jayme DeGooyer (I) Mark Lowe (I) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (I) Brian Davis (Z) Matt Shillingburg (Z) Bill Martin (I) Phil Sauer (Z) Dan Kampman (Z) <u>Absent / Excused</u> Harry Gilger (E) Carlos Trujillo (E) Jason Reis (E) Branden Davis () Andrew Magallanez () Ron Valencia ()		Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Ron Demaris, STEP (I)	Doug Washburn (Z) Rick Becker (I)
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused			

Attachment A



Kitsap County Veterans Program

Veterans Advisory Board 2025 Work Plan

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; mark-d-low@wavecable.com

Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, rbecker@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

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1. Investigate expanding Stand Down type services to other times during the year.	0%	High	Stand Downs occur twice each year in Bremerton. Investigate options that might offer similar services at other times of the year and in different places that are more convenient to those without reliable transportation. Report options to the VAB in July 2025. Carlos Trujillo.
2. Develop a women's group that meets regularly.	0%	High	The number of women veterans has steadily increased over the years with a corresponding increase in participation at veteran events. Experience at the Womens Circle at Stand Downs has shown there may be enough demand to offer more regular meeting opportunities for women veterans. Investigate options to rally women veterans in Kitsap County as part of their support system. Jayme DeGooyer.
2. Support two Stand Downs.	0%	High	Kitsap Veteran Stand Downs have proven to be a valuable service to the indigent and homeless veterans. Continue the strong partnership with KAVA to plan and execute two Stand Downs during 2025. Mark Lowe
3. Run to Tahoma	0%	High	The Run to Tahoma is a deeply meaningful tribute to honor veterans in Kitsap County who have passed away without family or friends to claim them. Maintain the partnership with veteran service organizations to ensure a touching and impactful event on the Saturday before Memorial Day. Mark Lowe

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4. Support Military Appreciation Day	0%	High	This well-loved event celebrates both active-duty service members and veterans, drawing significant community attention. Sponsor a table to share valuable information about the Kitsap County Veterans Program and veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
5. Support Veterans Day Event	0%	High	Dedicated to honoring veterans, this event offers a platform to connect with the community. Sponsor a table to provide insights into the Kitsap County Veterans Program and available veteran benefits. Veterans Program Coordinator
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	0%	High	Develop and implement a plan to convene service providers and stakeholders for a collaborative discussion on creating a systematic approach to support veterans transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Focus on identifying key challenges, sharing resources, and establishing actionable steps to streamline services and improve outcomes for veterans in need. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	0%	High	The Veteran Resource Center is becoming increasingly recognized and used by the local veteran community. Collaborate with the Olympic College administration to expand impactful services, creating a comprehensive in-person experience for veterans in Kitsap County. This expansion will enable veterans to address and resolve multiple needs efficiently and effectively in one central location. Tatiane Simons

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	0%	High	Requests for assistance with VA disability claims remain the most common reason veterans seek support. Ensuring veterans receive the benefits they have earned not only improves their quality of life but also positively impacts county revenue through increased local spending by veterans. Advocate for the establishment of a paid Veteran Service Officer (VSO) position to enhance the support already provided by local accredited service officers. Additionally, back Washington State legislative initiatives aimed at securing funded VSO positions in every county statewide, ensuring consistent and accessible assistance for all veterans. Matt Shillingburg
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	0%	Moderate	Indigent and homeless veterans frequently seek assistance from the Veterans Program Coordinator and Veterans Assistance Fund Administrator to address urgent needs such as food, fuel, and clothing. To better support these veterans in a timely manner, consider implementing a program to provide preloaded debit cards, with a maximum limit of \$100, for immediate relief. Develop a robust security plan to ensure proper oversight and minimize the risk of fraud and misuse. Veterans Program Coordinator

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	0%	Moderate	Ensuring veterans and transitioning active-duty service members are fully informed about the wide range of benefits available to them can significantly enhance their lives and overall well-being. Beyond supporting key events such as Stand Downs, the Run to Tahoma, Military Appreciation Day, and Veterans Day, explore additional opportunities to address the needs of both active-duty personnel and veterans. Potential strategies include expanding social media outreach, participating in more civic events, and fostering deeper collaboration with local veteran service organizations. These efforts can strengthen connections and provide even greater support to those who have served. Mark Lowe
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Garden – Improve veteran participation in the garden care. Deliver harvested vegetables to the Fall Stand Down.	Ongoing	Low	Look at moving the garden activities to Retsil veterans home to help with garden care. Jason Reis
2. Continue perusing more veterans benefit administration presence in Kitsap County.	Ongoing	Low	The Veterans Administration once provided local in-person assistance to Kitsap County veterans. Low visitor counts to the office forced the VA to reconsider how they will deliver services to local veterans. The use of “pop up” events is used to address unmet needs in the rural areas of Washington State. Maintain contact with VA staff to assure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. Mark Lowe.
3. Consider a change to the VAB by-laws.	Ongoing	Low	The VAB by-laws does not address member residency requirements. Consider inserting a requirement that a VAB members must be a Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.