



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:** May 14, 2025  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m.  
**LOCATION:** Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129



### [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Topic: Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board Meeting

To join by phone call 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](mailto: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 April 9, 2025, VAB Minutes. \*** Jayme DeGooyer
7. **Guest Speaker.** Washington State Legislative Update – Veteran Bills Rick Raymond
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.
- c. Veterans Advisory Board vacancies.

Rick Becker  
VAB Members  
Jayme DeGooyer

10. **New Business:**

Topic	VAB Member
Kitsap Veteran Stand Down Assessment and Feedback– Jayme DeGooyer I	VAB Members
June Speaker Confirm Derrick Means HEART Coordinator or Substitute	Jayme DeGooyer

11. **Public Comments.**

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

13. **Next Meeting** June 11, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

14. **Adjourn.**



Kitsap County  
Veterans Advisory Board

**The Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board**  
**2025 Veterans Garden**  
**Blueberry Park P-Patch Garden**  
**737 Sylvan Way, Bremerton, WA 98310**  
**Kitsap County Veterans Services 360-337-4811**  
**Join us as we grow food for veterans.**





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Revised 03/11/2025

## Attachment A

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of April 29, 2025					
Account #	Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
	Beginning Fund Balance	-	900,000.00		
	<b>Current Revenue</b>				
3110.10	Real & Personal Property	800,000.00	178,922.43	22.4%	621,077.57
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	1,054.11	52.7%	945.89
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	542.64	20.1%	2,157.36
	<b>Revenue total</b>	<b>804,700.00</b>	<b>180,519.18</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>624,180.82</b>
	<b>Budget total</b>	<b>804,700.00</b>			
	<b>County Staff Charges</b>				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	15,090.59	30.4%	34,545.41
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	149.09	25.2%	442.91
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	1,147.02	30.2%	2,649.98
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	1,374.77	33.1%	2,777.23
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	39.54	36.6%	68.46
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	2,850.00	33.3%	5,700.00
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	159.53	100.0%	(159.53)
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	920.42	61.4%	579.58
5452	Cloud Service Subscriptions	-	-	100.0%	-
5497	Registration & Tuition	-	-	100.0%	-
5492	Other Miscellaneous	-	-	0.0%	-
	<b>Contracted Services</b>				
5419	Management Consulting	-	-	0.0%	-
	KCR	625,950.00	112,730.61	18.0%	513,219.39
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	17,458.00	21.8%	62,542.00
	<b>Standdown</b>				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
5499	<b>Other Miscellaneous</b>	10,057.00	-	0.0%	10,057.00
	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	<b>County Charges</b>				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,711.00	1,237.00	33.3%	2,474.00
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	553.32	33.3%	1,106.68
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	153.32	50.1%	152.68
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	102.00	22.2%	358.00
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	967.75	25.0%	2,903.25
	<b>Expense total</b>	<b>804,700.00</b>	<b>154,932.96</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>649,767.04</b>
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	<b>Budget total</b>	<b>804,700.00</b>			

## 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	\$962.17									\$15,857.61
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	\$548.76									\$1,924.59
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10									\$5,481.90
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00									\$54,583.56
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97									\$3,470.39
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00									\$410.00
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40									\$1,570.24
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	\$802.30									\$1,357.18
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00	\$4,600.00	\$1,050.00	\$4,452.00									\$16,402.00
Sewer													\$0.00
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water		\$257.00											\$257.00
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$33,978.30</b>	<b>\$23,850.52</b>	<b>\$27,280.51</b>	<b>\$19,593.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$104,703.03</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$442,888.70</b>	<b>\$419,038.18</b>	<b>\$391,757.67</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	<b>\$372,163.97</b>	
<b>2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage</b>													<b>21.96%</b>

## KCR Demographics Report

Activity	April 2025	YTD
Total Application	17	78
Total # Of New Application	13	45
Applications Accepted	13	54
Applications Denied	16	21
General Discharges	1	2
Total Unduplicated	15	83
Total Payout	19,593.70	104,703.03
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 962.17	1
Burial	\$	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 548.76	5
Dental	\$ 331.10	2
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 11,172.00	4
Food	\$ 656.97	5
Gasoline	\$ 80	2
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$	0
Medical	\$	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 802.30	3
Rent / Move In	\$ 4,452	3
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 588.40	4

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: April 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

## KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	April	YTD
Veteran	24	99
Dependent	2	2
Widow	1	3
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	19	83
Female	5	17
Other Gender	0	0
<b>Age</b>		
30 yrs. old and under	3	7
31 to 60 yrs. old	12	64
60 yrs. old and over	9	30
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	25	75
<b>Race</b>		
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 Highlight

**Stand Down Was A Success**

## 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 - Cancelled.**

May 25 – **1000, The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma - Cancelled**

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; [Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com](mailto:Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com);

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; [mark-d-low@wavecable.com](mailto:mark-d-low@wavecable.com)

Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, [rbecker@kitsap.gov](mailto: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
<b>TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY</b>			
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 for 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 Women's 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.	50%	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	100%	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. <b>Mark Lowe</b>



2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	100%	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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>
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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	30%	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. <b>Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.</b>
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	30%	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. <b>Tatiane Simons</b>

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	50%	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. <b>Matt Shillingburg</b>
<b>TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY</b>			
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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	25%	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. <b>Mark Lowe</b>
<b>TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY</b>			
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  
April 9, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:30 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 by Matt Shillingburg and seconded by Bill Martin to approve the April agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of minutes:** The March, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Matt Shillingburg and seconded by Bill Martin to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Speaker:** No special speaker this month, Rick Raymond will coordinate with a state legislator about availability to discuss a legislative update regarding veteran bills during the May meeting.

**Reports.**

a. Rick Becker noted that spending from the Veterans Assistance fund is currently at 14%, with projected obligations at 18% for the first quarter—both below the anticipated 25% benchmark. Rick reminded the board that these figures come after key policy changes approved by the commissioners in October, including raising the Federal Poverty Level threshold and increasing the total allowable distribution per veteran. These adjustments were made to expand fund access to more veterans in a meaningful way. Rick challenged board members to continue their work in defining needs among veterans who are indigent and homeless with the goal of making each of our veterans in Kitsap County self-sustaining.

b. Marqus Ellis of KCR and the fund administrator was unable to attend the meeting.

c. Committee Reports.

- **Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness.** Matt Shillingburg continues to track veterans residing in local nursing homes, with the goal of ensuring they receive the benefits and support they've earned. A few recent visits were made to help residents begin or advance their Veterans Administration claims, offering both assistance and encouragement. Matt shared that while some nursing home administrators have been understandably cautious about sharing resident information due to privacy regulations, he remains committed to building trust and working collaboratively to identify and support veteran residents. His ongoing efforts reflect our shared mission to honor and advocate for those who have served.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** No report.
- **Special Event Support.**
  - **Spring 2025 Stand Down.** Mark Lowe shared that planning for the Spring 2025 Stand Down is moving along positively. This important event is a cornerstone of our support for local veterans, and VAB members are warmly encouraged to attend and take part. Mark kindly reminded the group that volunteer support at the registration table on **April 26** will be essential—and deeply appreciated.

- **Run to Tahoma.** The 2025 Run to Tahoma will not take place this year, as no unclaimed veteran remains have been identified by the Medical Examiner for ceremonial transport. While the event's absence is felt, we are profoundly grateful for the diligent and compassionate efforts of the Medical Examiner's team, whose work often results in reconnecting remains with family or loved ones. This, in itself, is a quiet but powerful act of honor and care.
- **Military Appreciation Day.** Mark extended sincere thanks to all who were able to attend the *Military Appreciation Day* event on March 15. The VAB's presence was warmly received, and the table welcomed many community members throughout the day. Special appreciation was shared for J'Myle Koretz of the Veterans Administration, whose helpful and knowledgeable participation brought real value to the experience.
- **Community Service Provider Conference.** Mark Lowe is continuing to explore options for hosting a future *Community Service Provider Conference*, with the vision of strengthening the network of support available to veterans across Kitsap County. While venue availability at the County Fairgrounds is limited, he is actively coordinating with administration in hopes of securing a date in 2026. In the meantime, Mark is inviting VAB members to share suggestions for organizations and providers who might participate. The goal is to bring together as many community partners as possible to share knowledge, build connections, and improve services for those who have served.
- **Veteran Education.** Tatiane Simons reported that veteran enrollment is up in the spring quarter over the winter quarter. Total veteran enrollment hovers around 23% of the total students enrolled. She also noted that she is working with the VA to host a claims representative once a month and representatives from the Wounded Warrior Project who have offered to provide a Veteran Service Officer to assist veterans with claims. This will be a welcomed addition to other VSO resources in the area.
- **Veteran Health Care.** The Silverdale VA Clinic offers claims assistance the fourth Monday of each month.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Rick Raymond invited VAB members to attend a suicide awareness event on May 14<sup>th</sup> after the VAB meeting. 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 job fair which will be held at Olympic College on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April.
- **Women's Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer announced that storage space offered at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 5 building is providing an excellent staging place for Stand Down items.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond continues attending veterans court with Danny Piper and is building relationships with program participants. He cited some of the positive outcomes for the court program and the high success rate among participants. Contact Rick if you can assist him with the program.
- **Tribe Outreach.** Dan Kampman reported that he has been attending meetings with the tribes and shares information with them about ongoing veteran activities. He is looking for ways in which the Veterans Assistance program can assist veterans in need and ensure tribal representatives are aware of the program and its benefits.

#### Old Business –

- a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker shared that he sees an average of two veterans per day at the center, a mix of students and other veterans from the community. The center has proven to be helpful to those seeking benefits information and in a small way offers an alternative to veterans seeking help from a Veteran Service Officer. This provides time for the VSOs to work on claims issues.

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.

**New Business – No new business.**

a. Veterans Advisory Board Vacancies. Jayme DeGooyer announced that the VAB now has two vacancies bringing membership down to 15 appointed members. The VAB is authorized a maximum of 17 appointed members. Rebecca Pirtle is calling for applications now so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please refer them to the county website to complete a volunteer application. A link follows: [Volunteer Services](#)

b. Clarifying the Veterans Assistance Fund 12-month period. Rick Becker shared that some veterans have expressed confusion regarding the term “12-month period” as outlined in our current policies and procedures. Understanding how important it is for veterans to have clear guidance during potentially stressful times, Rick proposed adding a more detailed explanation on page 7 of the Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) application. The suggested clarification would define the “12-month period” as a rolling 12 months. This addition aims to make it easier for veterans—and the administrators supporting them—to understand when the period begins, ends, and how it affects the timing of the required “sit out” phase for those using the VAF for two consecutive years. By doing so, we hope to reduce uncertainty and foster greater trust in the process. Following thoughtful discussion, a motion was made to incorporate the clarification, as shown in Attachment B, into a revised version of the VAF application (page 7). Bill Martin seconded the motion, which passed with a majority vote and one dissenting vote.

Looking ahead, Rick also encouraged the board to consider updating the full set of policies and procedures at a later time. He recommended seeking input from the VAF fund administrator after he has had time to evaluate how well the new language in the application supports clarity and sets healthy, realistic expectations for veterans navigating the process.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Good of the Order/Announcements:** Jayme DeGooyer shared a heartfelt update on the inspiring work being done by the Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance (KAVA). Thanks to the community’s generosity and KAVA’s highly successful fundraising efforts, the future looks bright. The organization is not only sustaining its core programs—like the two annual Stand Downs that serve local veterans—but is also exploring meaningful ways to expand its support to reach even more members of the veteran community.

If you’re looking for a way to give back or make a difference, there are many opportunities to get involved. Whether you have time, skills, or simply a desire to help, Jayme or Mark Lowe would be happy to connect with you and share how you can be a part of this important mission.

**Next meeting:** The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 6:45 pm.

Task Tracker			
Date	Name	Task and Goal for Completion	Progress
9 April 2025	VAB Bylaws	Update VAB bylaws to address residency and attendance requirements as well as the scope of Chair responsibilities.	Forwarded to Rebecca Pirtle, Volunteer Coordinator on March 3, 2025 for processing and submission to the commissioners for approval. Expect an April hearing and approval.
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
<b><u>Present</u></b> Jayme DeGooyer (I) Mark Lowe (I) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (I) Matt Shillingburg (Z) Bill Martin (I) Phil Sauer (Z) Dan Kampman (Z) Harry Gilger (I) Jason Reis (Z) <b><u>Absent / Excused</u></b> Carlos Trujillo () Ron Valencia () Brian Davis ()		Steve Corcoran (Sub Vets) Eileen Davis (Sub Vets) Michele LaFontaine, Catholic Community Services SSVF Program	Rick Becker (I) Veterans Program Coordinator
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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg4, Rm 129

Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; [Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com](mailto:Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com);

Advisory Board Vice Chair: Mark Lowe; [mark-d-low@wavecable.com](mailto:mark-d-low@wavecable.com)

Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, [rbecker@kitsap.gov](mailto: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
<b>TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY</b>			
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.	50%	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	100%	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. <b>Mark Lowe</b>

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
4. Support Military Appreciation Day	100%	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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>
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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>
6. Hold a Community Service Provider gathering to discuss outreach and service to veterans. Kitsap County Veterans Service Provider "Muster."	30%	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. <b>Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.</b>
7. Consider veterans resource center expansion.	30%	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. <b>Tatiane Simons</b>

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
8. Investigate funding / contracting accredited VSO services in Kitsap County.	50%	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. <b>Matt Shillingburg</b>
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. <b>Veterans Program Coordinator</b>

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	25%	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. <b>Mark Lowe</b>
<b>TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY</b>			
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.

## Attachment B

### Veteran Benefits Distribution Policy

1. **Purpose.** This policy establishes guidelines for the distribution of benefits to eligible veterans within a rolling 12-month period. It ensures equitable access while maintaining fund sustainability.

2. **Eligibility & Distribution Cycle.**

- Veterans may receive benefits distributions over a 12-month period.
- The first distribution in a given year marks the start of a rolling 12-month period.
- A veteran must wait 12 months from the date of their first distribution before accessing benefits in the second year.
- After receiving distributions for two consecutive years, the veteran **must "sit out" a full year from the date of their last distribution in the second year** before reapplying for benefits.

3. **Distribution Schedule Example.**

Year	First Distribution Date	Last Distribution Date	Next Eligible Date
Year 1	March 1, 2024	December 1, 2024	March 1, 2025
Year 2	April 1, 2025	November 1, 2025	November 1, 2026 (after sit-out)
Year 3	N/A (sit-out year)	N/A	November 1, 2026
Year 4	January 1, 2027	December 1, 2027	January 1, 2028

4. **Key Provisions.**

- A veteran may receive benefits no more than four times within a 12-month rolling period up to the total maximum amount allowed of \$3,500 dollars.
- Extraordinary circumstances may justify access to the fund more than 4 times each rolling 12-month period as determined by the Veterans Program Coordinator.
- The rolling 12-month period begins from the first distribution date each year.
- After two consecutive years of receiving benefits, a full sit-out period is required before reapplying.
- The sit-out period starts from the last distribution date in the second year.

5. **Compliance & Enforcement.**

- Any violation of the policy, including attempts to circumvent the sit-out period, may result in temporary or permanent disqualification from benefits as determined by the Veteran Program Coordinator.
- Appeals may be submitted to the Veteran Program Coordinator for review under exceptional circumstances.