



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:** July 9, 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 scorcoran@kitsap.gov.

## A G E N D A

\* = Action Item

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. <b>Call to Order</b>  | Mark Lowe      |
| 2. <b>Online Announcement</b>  | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 3. <b>Welcome to attendees and new board members</b>                                 | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 4. <b>Introduction of Attendees</b>  | Mark Lowe      |
| 5. <b>Approval of Agenda *</b>   | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 6. <b>Approval of June 11, 2025, VAB Minutes *</b>                                   | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 7. <b>Guest Speaker</b> – None scheduled   | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 8. <b>Reports</b>  |                |
| a. <b>Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.</b> Attachments A and B. | S. Corcoran    |
| b. <b>Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends.</b>                   | Marqus Ellis   |
| c. <b>Committee Reports.</b>   |                |

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.

Steve Corcoran  
Jayme DeGooyer  
Jayme DeGooyer

10. **New Business:**

Topic	VAB Member

11. **Public Comments.**

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

13. **Next Meeting** JULY 9, 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.**





Scan here to follow us on Facebook



Revised 03/11/2025

## Attachment A

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of June 30, 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	449,702.85	56.2%	350,297.15
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	1,824.64	91.2%	175.36
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	1,484.57	55.0%	1,215.43
	<b>Revenue total</b>	<b>804,700.00</b>	<b>453,012.06</b>	<b>56.3%</b>	<b>351,687.94</b>
	<b>County Staff Charges</b>				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	25,266.01	50.9%	24,369.99
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	263.38	44.5%	328.62
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	2,112.63	55.6%	1,684.37
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	2,293.17	55.2%	1,858.83
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	72.75	67.4%	35.25
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	4,275.00	50.0%	4,275.00
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	29.56	3.0%	970.44
5425	Postage	150.00	1.38	0.9%	148.62
5452	Computer Software	500.00	106.38	21.3%	393.62
5431	Mileage	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
5492	Other Miscellaneous	10,057.00	4,465.51	44.4%	5,591.49
	<b>Total County Staff Charges</b>	<b>80,042.00</b>	<b>38,885.77</b>	<b>48.6%</b>	<b>41,156.23</b>
	<b>Contracted Services</b>				
5419	Management Consulting				
	KCR	625,950.00	185,022.21	29.6%	440,927.79
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	38,290.00	47.9%	41,710.00
	<b>Standdown</b>				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	439.00	22.0%	1,561.00
5454	Operating Rental	1,500.00	850.00	56.7%	650.00
5499	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	<b>County Charges</b>				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,711.00	1,855.50	50.0%	1,855.50
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	829.98	50.0%	830.02
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	229.98	75.2%	76.02
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	153.00	33.3%	307.00
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	1,935.50	50.0%	1,935.50
	<b>Expense total</b>	<b>884,742.00</b>	<b>268,490.94</b>	<b>30.3%</b>	<b>577,365.29</b>
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	<b>Budget total</b>	<b>884,742.00</b>			

KCR has 295,000 additional budget from 2024 balance since we amended the contract and added 625,950

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	\$6,096.29	\$4,080.05							\$26,033.95
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	\$498.52	\$743.11							\$3,166.22
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10	\$548.60								\$6,030.50
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00	\$12,815.22	\$26,114.03							\$93,512.81
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02	\$3,323.18							\$7,632.59
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98	\$172.77							\$724.75
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99	\$617.75							\$2,445.98
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94	\$558.24							\$3,926.94
Medical			\$721.81		\$204.00								\$925.81
Natural Gas													\$0.00
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE			\$554.88	\$802.30	\$1,017.30	\$2,805.22							\$5,179.70
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00	\$4,600.00	\$1,050.00	\$4,452.00	\$4,824.26	\$2,041.16							\$23,267.42
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>\$29,458.12</b>	<b>\$40,455.51</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>\$174,616.66</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>\$342,705.85</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	<b>\$302,250.34</b>	
<b>2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage</b>													<b>36.62%</b>

## KCR Demographics Report

Activity	June 2025	YTD
Total Application	20	98
Total # Of New Application	16	61
Applications Accepted	16	44
Applications Denied	2	23
General Discharges	2	4
Total Unduplicated	17	100
Total Payout	40,455.51	145,158.54
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 4,080.05	2
Burial	\$	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 743.11	5
Dental	\$ -	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 26,114.03	7
Food	\$ 3,323.18	14
Gasoline	\$ 172.77	2
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$ 558.24	1
Medical	\$	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 2,805.22	3
Rent / Move In	\$ 4,452.00	3
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 617.75	4

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: June 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

## KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	June	YTD
Veteran	35	163
Dependent	2	4
Widow	1	5
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	28	138
Female	7	28
Other Gender	0	0
<b>Age</b>		
30 yrs. old and under	8	19
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	99
60 yrs. old and over	7	49
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	0	106
<b>Race</b>		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	6	14
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	25	84
Other Race	4	11
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	5

### Program Highlight

**3 Housed Though Vets Transitional Housing ( BUILDING 10 )**

**VHOG MEETING (AVG OF 11 VETS) MOST SEEKING HOUSING EVICTION ASSISTANCE**

**13 VETS CONTINUED HOUSED THOUGH 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 23 – The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma - Cancelled.

May 24 – 1000, The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma - Cancelled

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

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: Steve Corcoran, [SCorcoran@kitsap.gov](mailto:SCorcoran@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 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>
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAF Debit Card to meet immediate needs.	100%	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. Legal issues prevent this from being pursued. <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. <b>Jason Reis</b>
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 ensure the VAB is informed about VA sponsored in-person events to better serve local veterans. <b>Mark Lowe.</b>
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 Kitsap County resident. <b>Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.</b>

**MINUTES OF THE  
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD  
June 11, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order by Mark Lowe at 5:30 PM.

**Announcements:** Mark Lowe reviewed the required on-line announcement covering the conduct of voting members and guests during the meeting.

**Introductions:** Mark Lowe/ Steve Corcoran led introductions of board members and other attendees.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Harry Gilger and seconded by Danny Piper to approve the June agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of minutes:** May, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Danny Piper and seconded by Harry Gilger to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Speaker:** There was no guest speaker.

**Reports.**

a. Steve Corcoran noted that spending from the Veterans Assistance fund is currently at 28.03%. Steve encouraged board members to review and consider changes to spending categories as funds become available. Marquis Ellis did share possible additional areas of concern for spending and meeting needs. Marquis also recommended increasing voucher totals for food and hygiene products. The decision for increase spending will be at the discretion of the KCR representative and guidance from the Program Coordinator IAW our Policies and Procedures. 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.

c. Committee Reports.

- **Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness.** Matt Shillingburg was excused. No report.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Brian Davis continues share information on social media.
- **Special Event Support.** Planning for Fall stand-down.
- **Veteran Education.** Tatiane Simons reported that VA hosts a claims representative once a month and Vanessa Wilson from the Wounded Warrior Project will offer walk-in services Mondays, 1200-1600 to assist veterans with claims. This will be a welcomed addition to other VSO resources in the area. Resource center is busy with walk-in clients.
- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** No report.
- **Veterans Garden.:** Chairperson Jayme DeGooyer announced a new lead is in the works for the Veterans Garden.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** No report.
- **Women's Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer announced plans are forming for Fall standdown.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** No report.
- **Tribe Outreach.** Dan Kampman continues to engage 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.** Steve Corcoran shared that we see 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 is 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. The Center is a busy place.
- b. **2025 Work Plan Review.** Jayme DeGooyer stated individuals need to review the work plan and encouraged them to report progress on their goals. See Attachment A.

**New Business –**

- a. Discussion was shared concerning the upcoming KAVA Fall event.

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

**Good of the Order/Announcements:**

**Next meeting:** The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 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 6:10 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> Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Jayme DeGooyer (I) Harry Gilger (I) Dan Kampman (Z) Mark Lowe (I) Dan Piper (I) Jason Reis (Z) Phil Sauer (Z) Tatiane Simons (I) Carlos Trujillo (I) Ron Valencia (Z) <b><u>Absent / Excused</u></b> Matt Shillingburg (E) Richard Raymond(E) Bill Martin (E)		Emily Buster – perspective new board member. Ben Dean	Steve Corcoran (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 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.

## 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.