



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: January 8, 2025
TIME: 5:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.



Join Zoom Meeting

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

A G E N D A

* = Action Item

1. **Call to Order.**
2. **Online Announcement.**
3. **Welcome to attendees and new board members.**
4. **Introduction of Attendees.**
5. **Approval of Agenda. ***
6. **Approval of December 11, 2024, VAB Minutes. ***
7. **Guest Speakers.** Jake Carter, Habitat for Humanity – Veteran Project
8. **Reports.**
 - a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachment A.
 - b. **Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends.**
 - c. **Committee Reports.**

Mark Lowe
 Jayme DeGooyer
 Jayme DeGooyer
 Mark Lowe
 Jayme DeGooyer
 Jayme DeGooyer
 Bill Martin

Rick Becker
 Marqus Ellis

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

9. **Old Business:**
 - a. Veterans Resource Center progress.
 - b. Review Veterans Advisory Board by-laws with regard to residency.

Rick Becker
 Rick Becker

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member
Suquamish Warriors Outreach	Dan Kampman

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. Next Meeting February 12, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

14. Adjourn.

2024 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of December 31, 2024					
Account #	Account Title	Budget	Year to Date	Percent	Balance
	Beginning Fund Balance	-	658,000.00		
	Current Revenue				
3110.10	Real & Personal Property	800,000.00	815,601.34	102.0%	(15,601.34)
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	3,564.71	178.2%	(1,564.71)
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	3,587.74	132.9%	(887.74)
	Revenue total	804,700.00	822,753.79	102.2%	(18,053.79)
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	46,388.00	46,401.04	100.0%	(13.04)
5201	Industrial Insurance	555.00	484.40	87.3%	70.60
5202	Social Security	3,549.00	3,523.74	99.3%	25.26
5203	PERS Retirement	4,305.00	4,317.84	100.3%	(12.84)
5209	WA State Family Leave	101.00	98.82	97.8%	2.18
5229	Benefit Bucket	7,245.00	7,825.00	108.0%	(580.00)
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	106.34	100.0%	(106.34)
5422	Cellular Telephone	-	478.18	0.0%	(478.18)
5425	Postage	150.00	12.16	8.1%	137.84
5431	Mileage	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5432	Travel	-	-	0.0%	-
5451	Operating Rentals	1,500.00	692.11	46.1%	807.89
5452	Cloud Service Subscriptions	-	270.22	100.0%	(270.22)
5497	Registration & Tuition	-	106.86	100.0%	(106.86)
5492	Other Miscellaneous	-	-	0.0%	-
	Contracted Services				
5415	Management Consulting	-	-	0.0%	-
	KCR	646,410.00	351,107.34	54.3%	295,302.66
	NW Justice League	60,000.00	51,450.00	85.8%	8,550.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	878.00	43.9%	1,122.00
5451	Operating Rentals	-	850.00	100.0%	(850.00)
5499	Other Miscellaneous	14,562.00	163.90	1.1%	14,398.10
	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,319.00	3,318.96	100.0%	0.04
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,542.00	1,542.00	100.0%	-
5922	I/F IS Projects	304.00	303.96	100.0%	0.04
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	5,570.00	5,570.00	100.0%	-
	Expense total	804,700.00	479,500.87	59.6%	325,199.13
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	658,000.00		
	Budget total	804,700.00			

Kitsap County Veterans Assistance Program - Summary of Direct Emergency Assistance During 2024

Total Direct Service Budget 2024 - \$553,098

Activity	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total 2024
Appliances			\$899.58										\$ 899.58
Auto Repair	\$ 300.74		\$988.85	\$ 2,763.03	\$ 1,226.20	\$ 7,613.20		\$ 8,228.83	\$1,457.21	\$2,475.77	\$ 2,556.37	\$ 504.37	\$ 28,114.57
Burial		\$ 700.00	\$1,500.00										\$ 2,200.00
Bus Pass													\$ -
Bus Ticket Home													\$ -
Clean & Sober Housing													\$ -
Clothing		\$ 300.00		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 388.05	\$ 242.62		\$294.41	\$ 710.92	\$ 726.01	\$ 1,385.16	\$ 4,447.17
Dental	\$ -								\$ 1,520.00	\$ 198.00	\$ 2,741.00		\$ 4,459.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 3,575.00		\$7,361.30	\$ 5,626.00	\$ 9,433.00	\$ 9,134.75	\$ 9,273.00		\$ 6,685.00	\$ 8,166.90	\$ 9,689.50	\$ 16,397.39	\$ 85,341.84
Food												\$ 2,954.81	
Gasoline	\$ 257.14	\$ 300.44	\$370.85	\$ 459.86	\$ 467.40	\$ 150.00	\$ 419.81	\$ 91.75		\$ 170.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 129.92	\$ 3,017.17
Heating Oil			\$312.15						\$ 600.68				\$ 912.83
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 203.80		\$1,151.28	\$ 323.40	\$ 1,089.41	\$ 1,243.72	\$ 874.91	\$ 729.78	\$ 593.87	\$ 2,002.56	\$ 2,481.53	\$ 1,455.94	\$ 12,150.20
Misc.	\$ 465.14	\$ 2,009.03	\$1,921.13	\$ 1,838.79	\$ 471.44	\$ 1,050.24	\$ 537.31	\$ 635.16	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,367.32			\$ 12,795.56
Motel			\$1,384.49	\$ 4,266.67	\$ 468.16		\$ 991.34	\$ 697.24	\$ 2,998.21	\$ 8,805.72	\$ 933.35	\$ 915.19	\$ 21,460.37
Medical	\$ 70.00			\$ 647.84		\$ 505.00		\$ 15.81					\$ 1,238.65
Natural Gas		\$ 179.67	\$335.82										\$ 515.49
Occupation Certification				\$ 60.00									\$ 60.00
Phone	\$ 117.92		\$681.06		\$ 660.41								\$ 1,459.39
Propane		\$ 297.28	\$328.40	\$ 356.24	\$ 356.24							\$ 621.28	\$ 1,959.44
PSE	\$ 1,613.34	\$ 108.89	\$3,017.97	\$ 1,975.89	\$ 5,065.76		\$ 4,180.15	\$ 390.12			\$ 164.59		\$ 16,516.71
Rent - 1st / Last months rent and expenses.	\$ 2,525.00	\$ 1,359.00	\$4,060.00	\$ 6,350.67	\$ 293.00	\$ 2,691.00	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 10,727.11	\$ 5,304.00	\$ 6,798.28	\$ 8,182.42	\$ 6,587.48	\$ 64,077.96
Sewer		\$ 139.04	\$552.74		\$ 231.59								\$ 923.37
Union Dues													\$ -
Waste Management				\$ 267.82	\$ 87.37			\$ 139.23					\$ 494.42
Water	\$ 209.52		\$ 127.22	\$ 66.92			\$ 102.97	\$ 717.40	\$ 1,534.73		\$ 901.36	\$ 81.39	\$ 3,741.51
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$ -
TOTALS	\$ 9,337.60	\$ 5,393.35	\$ 24,992.84	\$ 25,203.13	\$ 20,049.98	\$ 22,775.96	\$ 25,822.11	\$ 22,372.43	\$ 23,488.11	\$ 30,695.47	\$ 28,576.13	\$ 31,032.93	\$ 266,785.23
Balance	\$ 543,760.40	\$ 538,367.05	\$ 513,374.21	\$ 488,171.08	\$ 468,121.10	\$ 445,345.14	\$ 419,523.03	\$ 397,150.60	\$ 373,662.49	\$ 342,967.02	\$ 314,390.89	\$ 283,357.96	

Demographics	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total 2024
Veteran	12	7	16	20	17	19	19	19	17	24	20	15	205
Dependent	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Widow	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	13
Gender													
Male	12	6	16	16	15	17	17	16	16	18	17	12	178
Female	0	3	3	6	3	3	2	3	2	5	2	5	37
Other Gender	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Age													
30 yrs. old and under	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	11
31 to 60 yrs. old	2	3	9	16	10	7	11	11	12	17	19	10	127
60 yrs. old and over	9	6	10	9	7	11	6	7	3	5	1	7	81
Ethnicity													
Hispanic or Latino	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	7
Non-Hispanic or Latino	11	9	19	23	18	19	17	17	15	24	19	0	191
Race													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Asian	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Black or African American	3	3	8	5	4	4	5	2	2	4	4	4	48
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1
White	9	6	8	16	12	13	10	14	13	20	16	12	149
Other Race	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	4
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	7
2024 Applications Per month	15	12	19	18	17	17	14	19	18	21	20	17	207
2024 New Clients served YTD	3	4	6	4	4	5	7	7	6	8	7	7	68
2024 Clients denied	3	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	12
2024 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	10	9	19	23	18	20	19	19	19	20	17	31	224
2023 Applications Per month	9	15	36	34	38	37	26	6	36	27	17	20	301
2023 New Clients served YTD	0	2	6	6	4	5	8	0	2	13	8	8	62
2023 Clients denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	10
2023 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	9	15	36	9	9	28	10	5	17	14	16	11	179
2022 Applications Per month	52	40	30	48	49	31	55	53	40	38	45	36	517
2022 New Clients served YTD	4	3	3	10	10	4	7	10	5	5	2	5	68
2022 Clients denied	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
2022 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	52	19	12	17	28	6	19	22	8	5	6	10	204
2021 Applications Per month	50	40	48	43	41	49	49	51	51	56	57		535
2021 New Clients served YTD	5	5	3	3	0	4	5	3	5	9	6		48
2021 Clients denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
2021 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	50	24	19	14	8	12	15	15	13	9	6		185
2020 Applications Per month	50	42	31	33	37	45	49	36	55	59	43	60	540
2020 New Clients served YTD	8	6	5	6	6	9	4	3	6	5	3	8	69
2020 Clients denied	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
2020 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	50	22	17	19	16	16	15	8	12	16	8	9	208
2019 Applications Per month	57	39	51	67	58	44	58	48	41	63	43	44	613
2019 New Clients served YTD	7	8	7	9	8	7	10	4	4	11	5	5	85
2019 Clients denied	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
2019 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	56	20	22	31	24	18	21	11	15	18	13	7	256
2018 Applications Per month	41	29	34	38	42	42	43	33	40	37	40		419
2018 New Clients served YTD	7	4	2	5	5	4	5	5	8	9	7		61
2018 Clients denied	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0		3
2018 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	41	16	17	11	18	15	18	11	12	17	22		198

December 2024 Demographics Report

Demographics	December	YTD
Veteran	15	77
Dependent	0	0
Widow	2	12
Gender		
Male	12	161
Female	5	35
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	1	11
31 to 60 yrs. old	10	127
60 yrs. old and over	7	81
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	1
Non-Hispanic or Latino	17	212
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	5
Asian	0	2
Black or African American	4	48
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	12	149
Other Race	0	5
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	6

December Program Highlights

- A LETTER TESTIMONY TRIBUTE TO BE SHARED AMONG VETERANS BOARD TO END THE YEAR. AMAZING WORDS TO END 2024 !!

Activity	December	YTD
Total Application	20	210
Total # Of New Application	20	94
Applications Accepted	15	141
Applications Denied	0	11
General Discharges	0	4
Total Unduplicated	31	166
Total Payout		31,032.93
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$ -	0
Auto Repair	\$ 504.37	2
Burial	\$ -	0
Bus Pass	\$ -	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 1,385.16	7
Dental	\$ -	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 16,397.16	6
Food	\$ 2,954.81	15
Gasoline	\$ 129.92	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$ -	0
Motel	\$ 915.19	1
Medical	\$ -	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$ 621.28	2
PSE	\$ -	0
Rent / Move In	\$ 6,587.48	4
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ 81.39	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 1455.94	10

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2024

MONTHLY REPORT: DECEMBER 2024

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

VAB Events 2025

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

February 12 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Department of Community Development – Speaker TBD

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

March 15 - Military Appreciation Day, Kitsap County Fairgrounds Pavilion

March/April TBD - Veteran Garden prep

April 9 - 1730, VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Support the Enlisted Project – Ron Demaris

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:



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-lowe@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 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.	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
December 11, 2024**

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

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

Introductions: Jayme DeGooyer 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 December agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The October, minutes were reviewed by members. A regular VAB meeting was not held in November. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Speakers: J'myle Koretz, Legal Administrative Specialist, Seattle Regional Office delivered an informative presentation regarding greater presence of Veterans Administration staff in Kitsap County in the future. J'myle discussed ongoing VA initiatives that support veterans in Kitsap County such as monthly claims assistance and staff event attendance. Claims assistance is offered to veterans at the VA's Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Silverdale. Assistance is offered to veterans on a first-come, first-served basis all day. Watch for announcements about future "claims clinics" offered at the Silverdale CBOC each month. J'myle offered his assistance when needed to resolve urgent matters when other avenues of service through the VA may not be able to respond quickly.

Reports.

a. Rick Becker briefly reviewed the financial reports with the group. Demand and spending approximates traditional spending when reviewing data going back to 2018. Marqus Ellis, the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF) Administrator, then reviewed VAF expenditures with the VAB members. He noted that after addressing the veteran's most urgent needs, most clients are referred to other agencies for assistance to address non-emergent needs and long term solutions. Inflation factors in the economy are driving more to ask for assistance, especially those on fixed incomes. Rent continues to lead all expenditures. More emphasis is being placed on eviction prevention as a way of helping provide a long term solution to financial difficulties sooner rather than later. Marqus noted that keeping someone in their home is generally less expensive than paying to move someone. He also commented that a full assessment is done to assure veterans can afford the place they are renting. Encouraging the veteran to move to a less expensive home is often done to help the veteran access more disposable dollars to meet other needs.

b. Committee Reports.

- **Aging Veterans Services.** Matt will be meeting with the Kitsap County Long Term Care Ombudsman to find a way to help assess long term care facilities for veterans. He continues work on a program to reach out to the residents of long term care facilities to assure veterans and their families are aware of veteran benefits.
- **Housing and Homelessness.** No report.

- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Keep content flowing to Brian Davis so we can keep local events and news current.
- **Special Event Support.**
 - Rick Becker commented the Whole Health day event was well-attended. Community Service representatives encountered many visitors. Rick say about 20 visitors who asked a variety of questions about benefits and local services.
 - Spring 2025 Stand Down planning will resume in January. The next Stand Down will be held on April 26th.
 - Run to Tahoma planning will start on December 4th. Watch for an announcement from Mark Lowe. All VAB members are invited to help.
- **Veteran Education.** Tatiane announced that veteran student enrollment for the fall quarter is excellent. The Veteran Resource center has seen steady traffic from both students and local veterans alike.
- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Rick Raymond is working with a planning group on the September 2025 Suicide Awareness event.
- **Veterans Garden.** No report.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin announced a job fair to be held at Work Source in Silverdale on December 23rd. Encourage attendance and watch for future announcements.
- **Women's Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer commented that there is new interest in the community to support the women's circle by gathering women veterans more consistently through the year. More information will be coming out about how the community can support women at the Stand Downs.
- **VAF Client Assessments.** No report this month.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond explained that he still attends veterans court and is building relationships with program participants.

Old Business –

- a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker reported visits during the quarter are increasing to about two visits per day. He noted that with the complexity of the issues people bring to him, the maximum number he can see during his four hour session is about 3.
- b. **Work Plan Review.** Rick Becker presented the 2025 workplan to the group for discussion one more time before he submits the plan to the commissioners. The work plan is displayed as Attachment A. There was no further discussion about the 2025 goals or 2024 accomplishments. A motion was made and accepted to send the work plan to the commissioners for review and approval. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Policy and Procedure changes.** Rick Becker reminded the group that the commissioners approved the most recent changes to the program policies and procedures on 28 October. The new policies and procedures are available to the public on the Veterans Services website at [Policies and Procedures 2024 Revision FINAL 10 2024.pdf](#)

New Business –

- a. **Veterans Advisory Board By-laws review and proposal.** Rick Becker pointed out that the advisory board's by-laws currently do not include a residency requirement for board members. He expressed concern that this omission could lead to board positions being held by individuals who are unable to attend meetings due to relocating outside the area. This, he warned, could hinder the board's ability to achieve a quorum, making it difficult to conduct official business.

To address this issue, Rick recommended that the board adopt a policy requiring members to reside in Kitsap County. A motion was made and seconded to adopt this change. During the ensuing discussion, members noted a potential scenario: an appointed individual might move to a neighboring county while continuing to work in Kitsap County. Ultimately, the motion was defeated. The discussion then shifted to revising the proposal to allow board appointments for individuals who either live or work in Kitsap County. Rick offered to draft updated language for the by-laws and promised to present it at the next meeting. Before concluding, Rick reminded the group that any amendments to the Veterans Advisory Board's by-laws would require approval through a resolution by the county commissioners.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

a. Jayme DeGooyer was congratulated by members for her recognition as Kitsap County Volunteer of the Year for 2024 by the Kitsap County Commissioners. Jayme was recognized for her dedicated service to veterans in the county as well as her special efforts to bring services closer to women veterans.

b. Jayme DeGooyer welcomed two new board members, Phil Sauer and Dan Kampman, to the group who will start their service on the 1st of January.

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, January 8th, 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 7:15 pm.

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.	
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Jayme DeGooyer (I) Richard Raymond (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Harry Gilger (I) Brian Davis (Z) Ron Valencia (Z) Matt Shillingburg (I) Bill Martin (I) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Dan Piper (I)		Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Phil Sauer (I)	Rick Becker (I)
<u>Absent / Excused</u> Peggy Roy (E) Jason Reis (E) Mark Lowe (E) Branden Davis () Samantha D'Anella () Andrew Magallanez ()			
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused			



Kitsap County Veterans Program

VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2025 WORK PLAN

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg. 4, 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 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.	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 XIV	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
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
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.

GOALS COMPLETED OR DELETED			
Goal	Status	Year	Comments
New Veteran's memorial in Administration Building	Completed	2021	New memorial wall panel was installed that recognizes all those who have been honored as part of the Run to Tahoma.
Conducted The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma	Completed	2021	Despite COVID restrictions the Run to Tahoma was successfully held.
Updated Policy & Procedures Manual	Completed	2021	Policy and Procedure manual was updated and ultimately approved in March 2022.
Conducted The Unforgotten Run to Tahoma	Completed	2022	In-person event. 200 attended.
Conducted Spring Grab and Go in place of a Stand Down due to Covid restrictions.	Completed	2022	Covid event. About 125 attended.
Conducted Spring Stand Down	Completed	2022	Traditional Stand Down with over 100 attending. (37 registered veterans.)
Update the County Veterans Website	Completed	2022	New formatting. Updated links and content throughout.
World Suicide Prevention Event	Completed	2022	Rick Raymond from the VAB spearheaded event. Will move to Mental Health organization in 2023. VAB will lend support.
Process VAF Assistance Applications	Completed	2022	225 unduplicated applicants served.
VAB increase social media presence in 2022 to reach more veterans.	Completed	2022	Facebook more widely used to announce events. Name changed to “Friends of the Veterans Advisory Board.”

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
VAB Women Resources. Maintain Women Veteran resource line. Hold Woman's circles Stand Downs.	Completed	2022	Dedicated phone line maintained. Woman's circle held at the Fall Stand Down. Women's services were delivered at Abraham House during the Grab and Go.
Maintain Drug/Alcohol transition housing benefit administered by KCR	Completed	2022	Service will be funded through Emergency Direct Services as the money allocated for this purpose has been reprogrammed due to lack of demand.
Reviewed Policy and Procedures Manual	Completed	2022	No changes needed.
Organize two Stand Downs in cooperation with Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance (KAVA)	Completed	2023	Supported two stand down events with 128 registered veterans. Several VAB members participated in planning and one raised donations.
Process applications for temporary emergency assistance	Completed	2023	KCR processed several hundred applications for services in 2023. Delivered over \$230K in services to indigent and homeless veterans.
Organize the Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma, Ceremony which receives the remains of unclaimed veterans from the County Coroner and delivers them to the Tahoma Veterans Cemetery for internment. Update protocol.	Completed	2023	Three veterans were honored in 2023 during a ceremony at the Administration Building. The honored veterans were escorted by over two hundred participants to Tahoma National Cemetery.
Update and revise Veteran Assistance Policy and Procedure Manual	Completed	2023	Information was received from KCR to help update policy and procedure documents to improve decision making and application processing.
Provide and monitor NWJP legal contract providing civil legal services	Completed	2023	Over \$50K in legal services were delivered to veterans and their family members.
Maintain outreach program for Veterans incarcerated in the Kitsap County Jail	Completed	2023	KCR representative visited the jail as requested by the Sheriff's department to provide information and services to eligible inmates and in some cases, to their family members.
Maintain VAB Committee for Women Veteran Issues to keep VAB updated and informed	Completed	2023	The VAB Chair kept the VAB members informed of initiatives and activities at each VAB meeting.
VAB Women Resources. Maintain Women Veteran resource line. Hold two Woman's circles per year at the April and September Stand Downs.	Completed	2023	VAB members provided services to women at each of the Stand Downs. Comfort items were inventoried and replenished after each Stand Down. New efforts to promote the services were completed. Fliers were updated.
Update to County Veterans Website	Completed	2023	Web site updated as required to keep information current.

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	Completed	2024	Participated in Veterans Day, Military Appreciation Day, County Fair, Silverdale Whaling Days, and other community events through the year. Staffed information tables at events and provided Veterans Assistance Program maximum exposure to not only veterans in need but to community members who may know of veterans in need.
Establish a concept, scope of operations and estimated annual operating cost for a Kitsap County Veterans Center.	Completed	2024	The long-term goal is to establish a veteran service center in the county where veterans can come and obtain information, claims assistance, resources, and attend events. Opened on a trial basis a Veteran Resource Center at Olympic College that is staffed two days per week.
Support two Stand Downs with KAVA.	Completed	2024	Planned and executed two Stand Downs with the Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance hosting over 200 registered veterans.
Plan and execute the Run to Tahoma XIII.	Completed	2024	The VAB Chair and Vice Chair led activities with key VAB members to plan the ceremony and collaborate with local veteran motorcycle groups to escort honored veterans to Tahoma National Cemetery. Over 200 veterans participated in the event.
Veteran Garden	Completed	2024	VAB members expanded garden operations in 2024 by locating to a significantly larger plot. The harvest was shared with local food banks.

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
VAB involved with Kitsap County Mental Health & Suicide Prevention committee established by County – have one VAB board member as representative. Participate in annual Mental Health/Suicide Prevent Event	Completed	2024	Rick Raymond represented the VAB at committee meetings and advise the VAB on needed assistance. The VAB hosted a table at a Suicide Awareness Event on 14 September
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
VAB increase social media presence to reach more veterans.	Completed	2024	Social media lead with VAB members posted applicable information more frequently with relevant information about local activities.
Maintain presence at Veteran's Day and Military Appreciation Day events.	Completed	2024	VAB members supported the Veterans Day table at the Kitsap Pavilion.
Increase Outreach for Veteran Garden including social media and newspapers	Completed	2024	New flyers were developed and distributed to the community at events and through social media.
Continue Veteran Program web site improvements.	Completed	2024	The VAB Coordinator in collaboration with the Human Services Department Office Manager maintained the site with current information for the public.

Revision Date – 11/25/2024



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: February 12, 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 the meeting online go to:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83460029859?pwd=RFBWWDhKRmNxKzZMb2xWZmFoTWsyZz09>

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.

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 January 08, 2025, VAB Minutes. *** Jayme DeGooyer
7. **Guest Speakers.** No speaker this month.
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. Rick Becker
- b. Review Veterans Advisory Board by-laws with regard to residency and other recommended changes. Rick Becker
- c. 2025 Work Plan Review. See Attachment D. VAB Members

10. **New Business:**

Topic	VAB Member
Policy and Procedure Update (Expenditure Exclusions)	Rick Becker

11. **Public Comments.**

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

13. **Next Meeting** March 12, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

14. **Adjourn.**

**Veterans Administration
Claims Clinic and Post Open
House**


**Saturday, March 22nd, 2025
2:00pm to 6:00pm**

**Need assistance or have questions about
filing a claim with the Veterans
Administration?
We can help.**

**Bring a copy of your DD-214 or VA Health
Card.**

**Two Accredited VFW Service Officers will be
on site.**

**Join us at the Fred Needham VFW Post 2669
3100 SE Mile Hill Rd
Port Orchard, WA 98366**



Attachment A

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of January 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	-	0.0%	800,000.00
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	-	0.0%	2,700.00
	Revenue total	804,700.00	-	0.0%	804,700.00
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	3,540.49	7.1%	46,095.51
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	34.75	5.9%	557.25
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	269.92	7.1%	3,527.08
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	322.54	7.8%	3,829.46
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	9.27	8.6%	98.73
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	712.50	8.3%	7,837.50
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	-	100.0%	-
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	Operating Rentals	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
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	-	0.0%	625,950.00
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	-	0.0%	80,000.00
	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	309.25	8.3%	3,401.75
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	138.33	8.3%	1,521.67
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	38.33	12.5%	267.67
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	25.50	5.5%	434.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	-	0.0%	3,871.00
	Expense total	804,700.00	5,400.88	0.7%	799,299.12
	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												\$7,117.72
Burial													\$0.00
Bus Pass	\$25.00												\$25.00
Bus Ticket Home													\$0.00
Clean & Sober Housing													\$0.00
Clothing	\$1,098.12												\$1,098.12
Dental	\$4,042.80												\$4,042.80
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00												\$12,783.00
Food	\$1,460.86												\$1,460.86
Gasoline	\$120.00												\$120.00
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19												\$525.19
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80												\$166.80
Medical													\$0.00
Natural Gas													\$0.00
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE													\$0.00
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00												\$6,300.00
Sewer													\$0.00
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water													\$0.00
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,978.30
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	\$442,888.70	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													7.13%

Activity	December	YTD
Total Applications	20	20
Total # Of New Application	14	14
Applications Accepted	17	17
Applications Denied	3	3
General Discharges	1	1
Total Unduplicated	26	26
Total Payout		33,978.30
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$ 338.81	1
Auto Repair	\$ 7,117.72	5
Burial	\$ -	0
Bus Pass	\$ 25	1
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 1,098.12	7
Dental	\$ 4,042.80	3
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 12,783	5
Food	\$ 1,460.86	9
Gasoline	\$ 120.00	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$ -	0
Motel	\$ 166.80	1
Medical	\$ -	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$ -	0
PSE	\$ -	0
Rent / Move In	\$ 6,300	2
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ -	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 525.19	5

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: JANUARY 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

Demographics	January	YTD
Veteran	31	31
Dependent	0	0
Widow	1	1
Gender		
Male	26	26
Female	5	5
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	1	1
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	20
60 yrs. old and over	10	10
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	31	31
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	5	5
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	24	24
Other Race	0	0
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	0

December Program Highlights

- New Policies & Produces For 2025
- Implemented New Structures For Food / Clothing / Hygiene Vouchers

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:

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: Support the Enlisted Project –
Ron Demaris

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
January 8, 2025**

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

Announcements: Mark Lowe 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 Bill Martin and seconded by Phil Sauer to approve the January agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: The December, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Bill Martin and seconded by Tatiane Simons to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: Jake Carter, representing Habitat for Humanity, delivered an update on the organization's efforts in Kitsap County. He emphasized the urgent need for safe, affordable housing and highlighted several ongoing projects designed to meet this critical demand.

Acknowledging the challenges of rising construction costs and a shortage of skilled labor, Jake shared how Habitat for Humanity is adapting. While the organization has always thrived on the dedication of its volunteers, they have recently begun integrating skilled carpenters and a building superintendent into their teams. Both professionals are paid by Habitat. This thoughtful balance of volunteer passion and professional expertise ensures that homes are built efficiently, meet rigorous safety standards, and remain accessible to those in need. Thanks to these efforts, a typical home can now be completed in about four months.

In a meaningful call to action, Jake invited the board to consider dedicating a 2025 project to a veteran in need. This initiative would provide a deserving service member with the stability of homeownership while honoring their commitment to our country. His request underscored the power of community-driven support and the impact of working together to change lives. Board members will consider a veteran in need and offer

Reports.

a. Rick Becker provided a concise update on the financial reports, noting that the budget report includes invoice payments through December 31st. However, some invoices from Kitsap Community Resources (KCR) and Northwest Justice Project for December 2024 are still pending and have not yet been processed. As a result, the final accounting of Veterans Assistance Fund expenditures is still being finalized.

To ensure a full picture of December's obligations and provide a meaningful summary of 2024 expenses, Rick encouraged the group to review the December KCR report (Attachment B to the January 8 agenda). This report offers a close estimate of the year's total expenditures and serves as a valuable reference for understanding the fund's overall financial standing.

b. Marqus Ellis, Administrator of the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF), provided an overview of program expenditures, highlighting the fund's strong focus on eviction prevention this year. He emphasized that keeping veterans and their families in their homes is not just about financial assistance—it's about ensuring stability, particularly for families with young children who would otherwise face the hardships of relocation, such as changing schools and losing community support. Marqus expressed concern over the rising costs of eviction prevention, pointing out that by the time an eviction notice is issued, many veterans are already months behind on rent, making intervention more challenging and costly. He urged the group to consider proactive approaches that provide earlier support, helping veterans avoid reaching a crisis point. His message underscored the need for collaboration and innovative solutions to ensure veterans receive the help they need before their housing becomes at risk.

c. Committee Reports.

Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness. Matt shared that he has reached out to local assisted living facilities, requesting that they identify any veteran residents. Once identified, he will personally follow up with each veteran to offer assistance in applying for benefits, ensuring they receive the support they deserve.

Public Affairs and Social Media. Brian Davis highlighted the many recent announcements posted on the *Friends of the Veterans Advisory Board* website. He encouraged members to continue sharing relevant information so that veterans remain informed about important events and resources. Brian also reminded the group that **Naval Base Kitsap will host a job fair on January 23rd** and urged everyone to follow the Facebook page for updates.

Special Event Support.

- **Spring 2025 Stand Down:** Mark Lowe announced that planning for the Spring 2025 Stand Down will begin next week. The event date and flyer are now available on the *Kitsap Veteran Services* website.
- **Run to Tahoma:** Planning for this meaningful event will resume this month. However, as of today, the medical examiner has not identified any unclaimed veterans to be honored. Despite this, the planning committee remains committed to moving forward. Rick Becker reported that the event permit has been filed with the *Port Orchard City Clerk*, and the required fee has been paid. Mark will coordinate with the medical examiner to establish a reasonable cutoff date, ensuring potential participants have enough time to prepare.
- **Military Appreciation Day:** The VAB will host a table at this event.



Veteran Education. Tatiane reported that veteran student enrollment for the **fall quarter is strong**, and the *Veteran Resource Center* continues to see steady traffic from both students and community veterans. She emphasized the importance of maintaining this welcoming space where veterans can access the resources and support they need.

- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Rick Raymond is working with a planning group on the September 2025 Suicide Awareness event.
- **Veterans Garden.** No report.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin encouraged participation in the January 23rd

hiring event.

- **Women's Resource Group.** No report.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond attends veterans court and is building relationships with program participants.

Old Business –

a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker shared that the winter quarter began on January 2nd, bringing a noticeable increase in student activity after a quieter three-week period during the winter break. Staff at Olympic College emphasized the vital role of the resource center in supporting veteran students, helping them navigate their benefits and financial concerns easier and quicker. The center remains a trusted source of assistance, welcoming an average of two visits per day.

b. **Veterans Advisory Board Bylaws Review.** Rick Becker presented a draft of the proposed bylaws, inviting members to review and provide feedback by January 23. During the discussion, members considered a key provision requiring a majority of board members to be affiliated with a nationally recognized veteran service organization. Dan Piper inquired about the necessity of this requirement, prompting Mark Lowe to reference RCW 73.08.035, which mandates it. To ensure transparency, Rick shared the RCW citation with all Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) members for further review.

Key proposed changes include adding a clause requiring board appointees to live or work in Kitsap County, as well as reformatting the bylaws to improve clarity. Rick will compile all feedback and present an updated draft for discussion at the February meeting.

New Business – Dan Kampman shared his commitment to building a strong and respectful relationship with the Suquamish Tribe. He plans to attend tribal events and serve as a liaison between the Veterans Advisory Board and the tribe, fostering open communication and collaboration. Whenever possible, he will participate in tribal meetings and provide thoughtful updates and insights to the board, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of both communities are heard and valued.

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, February 12th, 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 6:45pm.

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.
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Mark Lowe (I) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Matt Shillingburg (Z) Bill Martin (I) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Phil Sauer (I) Dan Kampman (Z) <u>Absent / Excused</u> Harry Gilger (E) Jayme DeGooyer (E) Ron Valencia () Jason Reis () Branden Davis () Andrew Magallanez ()		Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Jake Carter, Habitat for Humanity	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

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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: March 12, 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.

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 January 08, 2025, VAB Minutes. * | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 7. Guest Speaker. “Scooter” Lewis” - Permission to Start Dreaming | Bill Martin |
| 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.

Rick Becker

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. Next Meeting April 9, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

14. Adjourn.

**Veterans Administration
Claims Clinic and Post Open
House**


**Saturday, March 22nd, 2025
2:00pm to 6:00pm**

**Need assistance or have questions about
filing a claim with the Veterans
Administration?
We can help.**

**Bring a copy of your DD-214 or VA Health
Card.**

**Two Accredited VFW Service Officers will be
on site.**

**Join us at the Fred Needham VFW Post 2669
3100 SE Mile Hill Rd
Port Orchard, WA 98366**



2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of February 28, 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	-	0.0%	800,000.00
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	-	0.0%	2,700.00
	Revenue total	804,700.00	-	0.0%	804,700.00
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	7,390.51	14.9%	42,245.49
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	74.25	12.5%	517.75
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	562.28	14.8%	3,234.72
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	673.28	16.2%	3,478.72
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	19.36	17.9%	88.64
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	1,425.00	16.7%	7,125.00
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	-	0.0%	1,000.00
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5421	Telecommunication Services	-	53.18	100.0%	(53.18)
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	869.39	58.0%	630.61
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	44,523.50	7.1%	581,426.50
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	4,858.00	6.1%	75,142.00
	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	309.25	8.3%	3,401.75
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	138.33	8.3%	1,521.67
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	38.33	12.5%	267.67
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	25.50	5.5%	434.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	967.75	25.0%	2,903.25
	Expense total	804,700.00	61,927.91	7.7%	742,772.09
	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											\$14,508.44
Burial													\$0.00
Bus Pass	\$25.00												\$25.00
Bus Ticket Home													\$0.00
Clean & Sober Housing													\$0.00
Clothing	\$1,098.12												\$1,098.12
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00											\$5,150.80
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90											\$22,534.90
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90											\$1,883.76
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00											\$240.00
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00											\$725.19
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80												\$166.80
Medical													\$0.00
Natural Gas													\$0.00
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE													\$0.00
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00	\$4,600.00											\$10,900.00
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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$57,828.82
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	\$419,038.18	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													12.13%

Activity	February	YTD
Total Application	15	35
Total # Of New Application	7	21
Applications Accepted	14	31
Applications Denied	1	4
General Discharges	0	1
Total Unduplicated	27	53
Total Payout	23,850.52	53,828.82
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	1
Auto Repair	\$ 7390.72	6
Burial	\$ -	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$	0
Dental	\$ 1108.00	2
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 9,751.90	5
Food	\$ 422.90	4
Gasoline	\$ 120.00	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$	0
Medical	\$ -	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$	0
Rent / Move In	\$ 4,600	5
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ 257.08	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 200.00	2

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: FEBURARY 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

Demographics	February	YTD
Veteran	20	50
Dependent	0	0
Widow	1	2
Gender		
Male	19	45
Female	1	6
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	1	2
31 to 60 yrs. old	16	36
60 yrs. old and over	4	14
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	20	50
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	1	6
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	16	40
Other Race	0	0
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	3	5

February Program Highlights

- Safety Stand Down Talks & Email Blast For Veterans
- The Importance of Veterans Knowing VHOG during Housing Visits At KCR

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:

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: Support the Enlisted Project –
Ron Demaris

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 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.	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
February 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 February agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Speaker: Ron Demaris, Donor Engagement and Gifts Officer for Support the Enlisted Project (STEP) provided an excellent update on the organization's ongoing efforts in the Puget Sound region. He described STEP's mission to enhance financial wellness as a way to combat critical issues such as food insecurity, homelessness, mental health challenges, suicide, and other crises. STEP achieves this through counseling, education, and financial support for enlisted service members, veterans, and their families.

An overview of STEP's efforts includes:

Individualized counseling – Intervention

Social workers certified in finance counseling
Solution Focused, Strengths Perspective
Families empowered to create solutions
Change Management process

Financial Grants can be issued to stop loss

\$2.8m in grants issued since 2012
STEP paid to stop 672 evictions since 2012
547 Restored or retained family utilities
590 Halted or reversed auto repossessions

8,545 families served

92% success rate of counseling
95% do not return for additional support
97% of cases come from personal referrals

Agile and Effective Mission Driven & Privately Funded

84% of expenses directed to programs.

Ron discussed a testimonial that described in real terms how STEP assists service members. A young Marine mom contacted STEP because she was relocating within the same community due to a domestic violence situation. With only one income, her finances were stretched to the

max, she was behind on rent on the new place, and her car payment, and she needed diapers and food. After completing the first session with the social worker, she made a visit to the warehouse for food and baby supplies and received a grant of \$1027 to help get her payments current. With the financial counseling, she was able to say, "Thank you STEP, you've helped me understand how I can do this on my own. I can do this and keep me and my baby safe."

Reports.

a. Rick Becker provided a brief update on the financial reports, noting a bump in the January numbers when compared to 2024. It's much too early in the fiscal year to draw any conclusions. Demand on the program from those applying remains stable with an increasing number of veterans who have never used the program before.

b. Marqus Ellis, Administrator of the KCR Veterans Assistance Fund (VAF), presented an overview of the program's expenditures, highlighting the fund's strong emphasis on eviction prevention this year. He recommended that the board consider setting limits on how often individuals can request assistance for food and personal hygiene supplies. Marqus pointed out that some recipients are not fully utilizing available community resources, and many requests do not meet the criteria for emergencies. He suggested that reallocating funds from these categories could allow for a more effective use of resources in areas like housing and transportation. Rick Becker proposed that the Veterans Advisory Board (VAB) continue discussions on this issue in the coming months and incorporate any policy changes into the next update of the Policies and Procedures, with Marqus' input.

c. Committee Reports.

Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness. Matt reported that outreach efforts at nursing homes have identified several nursing home residents who are veterans and need help filing claims. Veteran service officers from VFW Post 2669 will be reaching out to assist them. He also provided an update on proposed legislation affecting veterans, noting that it remains uncertain which, if any, will move forward for a vote.

Public Affairs and Social Media. Brian Davis thanks 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. The planning group will start meeting weekly. 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:** As of today, the medical examiner has not identified any unclaimed veterans to be honored. However, the planning committee remains dedicated to moving forward with the event. Rick Becker confirmed that the event permit has been filed with the Port Orchard City Clerk, and the required fee has been paid. Meanwhile, Mark will work with the medical examiner to set a reasonable cutoff date, allowing ample time for potential participants to prepare.
- **Military Appreciation Day:** The VAB will host a table at this event. All are encouraged to attend.



Veteran Education. Tatiane reported that veteran student enrollment for the winter quarter and the veteran service center continues to be an added value to students as well as other veterans in the area.

- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** Rick Raymond is working with a planning group on the September 2025 Suicide Awareness event. He is also working with local groups to make veteran suicide a priority in the county.
- **Veterans Garden.** Jason Reis is reaching out to members for help. Planting will start soon.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin mentioned a number of job fairs in the coming months. Look to the Friends of the Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board for new announcements.
- **Women's Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer is confident that the Women's Circle at the 26 April Stand Down will be well stocked with needed item .
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** Rick Raymond regularly attends veterans court and continues building relationships with program participants. He is working this initiative alone however and asked for assistance from others to be involved.

Old Business –

a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Rick Becker shared that he sees an average of two veterans per day. While hourly appointments are available, he noted that many veterans require extra time to navigate their complex questions. Overall, feedback from those he serves has been positive.

b. **Veterans Advisory Board Bylaws Review.** Rick Becker presented a draft of the proposed bylaws, incorporating member feedback gathered after the January meeting. The most significant change, aside from reformatting for improved readability, is the addition of a residency or employment requirement in Kitsap County for appointment to the VAB. The draft also clarifies VAB meeting attendance requirements. A motion to accept the document as written was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Rick Becker will now finalize the document for submission to the county commissioners for approval.

c. **2025 Work Plan Review.** VAB members may contact Rick Becker to update their items. See Attachment A.

New Business – Rick Becker reviewed proposed revisions to the Veterans Assistance policies and procedures manual, submitted by VAB members over the past month. The updates affect paragraphs 3.2.1, 3.11.6, and 3.11.7, clarifying the limits on fund distribution for clean and sober housing and eviction prevention. These changes ensure readers have a clear understanding of the financial support available in these areas. A motion to approve the revisions as written was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Rick Becker will now prepare the document for submission to the county commissioners for final approval.

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, March 12th, 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 7:15pm.

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.
ATTENDANCE			
MEMBERS		GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Jayme DeGooyer (I) Mark Lowe (I) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Matt Shillingburg (I) Bill Martin (Z) Carlos Trujillo (Z) Phil Sauer (I) Dan Kampman (Z) Ron Valencia (Z) Jason Reis (Z)		Marqus Ellis, KCR (I) Ron Demaris, STEP (I)	Doug Washburn (Z) Rick Becker (I)
<u>Absent / Excused</u> Harry Gilger (E) Branden Davis () Andrew Magallanez ()			
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

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 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.	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

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
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.
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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.



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.

**Presenting
The 2025 Spring Stand Down
for Veterans
and their families**

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

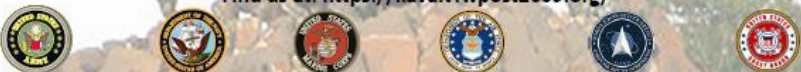
**Sheridan Park Community Center
680 Lebo Blvd., Bremerton, WA 98310**

**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

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
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

2025 Goal	Status % Complete	2025 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
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.



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.

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.





Scan here to follow us on Facebook



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		
	Current Revenue				
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
	Revenue total	804,700.00	180,519.18	22.4%	624,180.82
	Budget total	804,700.00			
	County Staff Charges				
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%	-
	Contracted Services				
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
	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	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
	Expense total	804,700.00	154,932.96	19.3%	649,767.04
	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	\$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
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$104,703.03
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	\$372,163.97	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													21.96%

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
Gender		
Male	19	83
Female	5	17
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	3	7
31 to 60 yrs. old	12	64
60 yrs. old and over	9	30
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 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: 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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. 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.	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. 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.

**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 14th 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 17th 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 14th, 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
<u>Present</u> 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) <u>Absent / Excused</u> 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: 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. 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

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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.

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.



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: June 11, 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 scorcoran@kitsap.gov.

A G E N D A

* = Action Item

1. **Call to Order.**
2. **Online Announcement.**
3. **Welcome to attendees and new board members.**
4. **Introduction of Attendees.**
5. **Approval of Agenda. ***
6. **Approval of May 14, 2025, VAB Minutes. ***
7. **Guest Speaker** – None scheduled
8. **Reports.**
 - a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachments A and B. S. Corcoran
 - b. **Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends.** Marqus Ellis
 - c. **Committee Reports.**

Mark Lowe
Jayme DeGooyer
Jayme DeGooyer
Mark Lowe
Jayme DeGooyer
Jayme DeGooyer
Steve Corcoran

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
Kitsap Veteran Stand Down Assessment	Steve Corcoran
KCR budget/spending upgrades.	Marquis Ellis/VAB

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 May 30, 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	444,770.61	55.6%	355,229.39
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	1,420.22	71.0%	579.78
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	985.65	36.5%	1,714.35
	Revenue total	804,700.00	447,176.48	55.6%	357,523.52
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	20,728.31	41.8%	28,907.69
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	205.54	34.7%	386.46
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	1,576.13	41.5%	2,220.87
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	1,888.39	45.5%	2,263.61
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	54.30	50.3%	53.70
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	3,562.50	41.7%	4,987.50
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	29.56	3.0%	970.44
5352	Computer Software	500.00	-	0.0%	500.00
5425	Postage	150.00	1.38	0.9%	148.62
5431	Mileage	1,500.00	-	0.0%	1,500.00
5492	Other Miscellaneous	10,057.00	2,098.38	0.0%	7,958.62
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	30,144.49	37.7%	49,897.51
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting				
	KCR	625,950.00	145,002.87	23.2%	480,947.13
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	25,690.00	32.1%	54,310.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	-	0.0%	2,000.00
5454	Operating Rental	1,500.00	850.00	56.7%	650.00
5499	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/FIS Service Charges	3,711.00	1,546.25	41.7%	2,164.75
5913	I/FIS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	691.65	41.7%	968.35
5914	I/FIS Fleet Recovery	306.00	191.65	62.6%	114.35
5922	I/FIS Projects	460.00	127.50	27.7%	332.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	1,935.50	50.0%	1,935.50
	Expense total	884,742.00	206,179.91	23.3%	648,417.60
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	Budget total	884,742.00			

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								\$21,953.90
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								\$2,423.11
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								\$67,398.78
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02								\$4,309.41
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98								\$551.98
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99								\$1,828.23
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94								\$3,368.70
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								\$2,374.48
Rent - 1st / Last month rent and expenses.	\$6,300.00	\$4,600.00	\$1,050.00	\$4,452.00	\$4,824.26								\$21,226.26
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	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$134,161.15
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	\$342,705.85	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													28.13%

KCR Demographics Report

Activity	May 2025	YTD
Total Application	25	103
Total # Of New Application	18	63
Applications Accepted	18	72
Applications Denied	0	21
General Discharges	1	3
Total Unduplicated	13	96
Total Payout	29,458.12	134,161.15
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 6,096.29	5
Burial	\$	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 548.52	4
Dental	\$ 548.60	2
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 12,815.22	8
Food	\$ 839.02	5
Gasoline	\$ 141.98	3
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$ 2214.94	3
Medical	\$	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 1017.30	2
Rent / Move In	\$ 4,824.26	3
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 257.99	4

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: May 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUIS ELLIS

KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	May	YTD
Veteran	29	128
Dependent	0	2
Widow	1	4
Gender		
Male	27	110
Female	4	21
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	4	11
31 to 60 yrs. old	15	79
60 yrs. old and over	12	42
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	31	106
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	3	11
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	25	84
Other Race	3	7
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	0	5

Program Highlight

- Increase Volume of Applications (5 From Safety Standdown in May) ,4 New Vets Place in Transitional Housing

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.

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: Steve Corcoran, 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. Matt Shillingburg
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. Veterans Program Coordinator

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. 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 Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
May 14, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and called to order by Jayme DeGooyer 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: Jayme DeGooyer 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 Phil Sauer to approve the April agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: April, minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Matt Shillingburg and seconded by Tatiane Simmons to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: Matt Shillingburg presented state legislator issues/bills covered in the recent session. Major bills listed below.

E2SHB 1102	Veteran support and services	APP(Shavers)	S 2nd Reading	E2SHB: Requires the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) to provide information to recently discharged veterans about veteran's benefits and services. Expands county eligibility for the WDVA's Veterans Service Officer Program (Program) to counties where the percentage of veterans receiving benefits is below the national average. Prioritizes counties with the lowest percentage of veterans receiving benefits for the Program. Requires the WDVA to provide reports every two years including county-specific information about the number of resident veterans and services available.
EHB 1106	Disabled veterans/prop. tax	(Barnard)	S 2nd Reading	EHB: Reduces the combined service-connected evaluation rating percentage for disabled veterans from 80 percent to 40 percent incrementally each year by 20 percent beginning in 2026 in order to qualify for the Senior Citizens Property Tax Exemption Program
HB 1114	Respiratory care compact	(Leavitt)	S Pres Signed	HB: Enacts the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact.
SHB 1371	Veteran parking privileges	TR(Orcutt)	S Passed 3rd	(companion SB 5410) Establishes eligibility for parking privileges for people with disabilities for veterans who have received a qualifying discharge with a 70 percent disability rating or higher from the United States (US) Armed Forces or the US Department of Veterans Affairs and who use a service animal.

Reports.

a. Rick Becker noted that spending from the Veterans Assistance fund is currently at 19.3%, with projected obligations at 21.96% for the first 4 months of the year—both below the anticipated 30%. Rick 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 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. Matt did state he will send additional emails/ communication with the administrators as a follow up from earlier in the year.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Brian Davis requested members submit data for Facebook page and also posted photos of Spring Stand Down. [Friends of the Kitsap County Veterans Advisory Board | Facebook](#)
- **Special Event Support.** No reports given Co-Chair excused.
- **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.
- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** No report, due to Rick supporting another event in Bremerton.
- **Veterans Garden.:** Chairperson Jayme DeGooyer announced a new lead will be needed for the Veterans Garden.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Bill Martin promoted a few job fairs which will be held in the future, specifically a Veterans Resource Fair, May 31st at Tacoma Dome, 9-3. [Home | Vet Tribe](#)
- **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. Spring Stand Down resulted in a "Children's Corner", hot items were stuffed animals and coloring books. Jaymee thanked all for the many donations and support for this event. It is expanding and growing.
- **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.** Rick Becker and 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.** Rick Becker reviewed the work plan with board members and encouraged them to report progress on their goals. See Attachment A.

New Business –

- a. Jayme DeGooyer shared a heartfelt thank-you on the inspiring work being done by the Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance (KAVA). Spring Standdown was a complete success. She thanked all the volunteers and participants.
- b. Confirm HEART Coordinator guest speaker – Derrick Means.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 11th, 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 6:50 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
<u>Present</u> Jayme DeGooyer (I) Mark Lowe (E) Richard Raymond (Z) Dan Piper (I) Tatiane Simons (I)			Rick Becker (I) Veterans Program Coordinator Steve Corcoran (I) Veterans Program Coordinator

Jack Cahoon (Z) Matt Shillingburg (I) Bill Martin (Z) Phil Sauer (I) Dan Kampman (Z) Harry Gilger (I) Jason Reis (Z) Carlos Trujillo (Z) <u>Absent / Excused</u> Ron Valencia () Brian Davis ()		
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused		

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.



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. 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 June 11, 2025, VAB Minutes * | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 7. Guest Speaker – None scheduled | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 8. Reports | |
| a. Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures. Attachments A and B. | S. Corcoran |
| 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.

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		
	Current Revenue				
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
	Revenue total	804,700.00	453,012.06	56.3%	351,687.94
	County Staff Charges				
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
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	38,885.77	48.6%	41,156.23
	Contracted Services				
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
	Standdown				
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
	County Charges				
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
	Expense total	884,742.00	268,490.94	30.3%	577,365.29
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	Budget total	884,742.00			

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
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$40,455.51	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$174,616.66
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$302,250.34	\$302,250.34	\$302,250.34	\$302,250.34	\$302,250.34	\$302,250.34	\$302,250.34	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													36.62%

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
Gender		
Male	28	138
Female	7	28
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	8	19
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	99
60 yrs. old and over	7	49
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	0	106
Race		
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: 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: Steve Corcoran, 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. Matt Shillingburg
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. Veterans Program Coordinator

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. 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 ensure 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 Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**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
<u>Present</u> 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) <u>Absent / Excused</u> 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: 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. 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.	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. 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.

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.



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: August 13, 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. 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 July 9th, 2025, VAB Minutes. * | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 7. Guest Speaker – Laura Hyde, Kitsap Youth Program (unavailable) | Steve Corcoran |
| 8. Reports. | |
| a. Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures. Attachments A and B. | S. Corcoran |
| 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 Simons
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
Zoom continuation for VAB meetings	Jayme DeGooyer
Speaker engagement	VAB
November Retreat Preparations	VAB

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. **Next Meeting** August 13, 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

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		
	Current Revenue				
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
	Revenue total	804,700.00	453,012.06	56.3%	351,687.94
	County Staff Charges				
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
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	38,885.77	48.6%	41,156.23
	Contracted Services				
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
	Standdown				
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
	County Charges				
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
	Expense total	884,742.00	268,490.94	30.3%	577,365.29
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		
	Budget total	884,742.00			

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	\$676.02						\$26,709.97
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	\$1,143.23						\$4,309.45
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10	\$548.60		\$248.50						\$6,279.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00	\$12,815.22	\$26,114.03	\$22,931.02						\$116,443.83
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02	\$3,323.18	\$3,017.97						\$10,650.56
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98	\$172.77	\$650.00						\$1,374.75
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99	\$617.75	\$772.11						\$3,218.09
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94	\$558.24	\$2,519.93						\$6,446.87
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	\$1,349.76						\$6,529.46
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
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$40,455.51	\$33,308.54	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$207,925.20
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$302,250.34	\$268,941.80	\$268,941.80	\$268,941.80	\$268,941.80	\$268,941.80	\$268,941.80	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													43.60%

KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	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
Veteran	30	20	25	24	29	35	30						
Dependent	0	0	0	2	0	2	0						
Widow	1	1	0	1	2	1	0						
Gender													
Male	26	19	19	19	27	28	25						
Female	5	1	6	5	4	7	5						
Other Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Age													
30 yrs. old and under	1	1	2	3	4	8	4						
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	16	16	12	15	20	15						
60 yrs. old and over	10	4	7	9	12	7	11						
Ethnicity													
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Non-Hispanic or Latino	30	20	25	24	31	35	30						
Race													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Black or African American	5	1	2	3	3	6	5						
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
White	24	16	19	20	25	25	20						
Other Race	0	0	4	1	3	4	3						
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	3	0	0	0	0	2						
2025 Applications (Services) Per month	20	15	26	17	18	28	27						151
2025 New Clients served YTD	14	7	11	10	10	16	10						78
2025 Clients denied	3	1	1	1	0	2	0						8
2025 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	27	16	25	15	10	17	10						120

Demographics	July	YTD
Veteran	30	193
Dependent	0	2
Widow	0	5
Gender		
Male	25	163
Female	5	36
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under	4	23
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	119
60 yrs. old and over	7	56
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino	0	0
Non-Hispanic or Latino	30	196
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	5	20
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	20	126
Other Race	3	14
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	7

Activity	July 2025	YTD
Total Application	27	125
Total # Of New Application	10	71
Applications Accepted	10	54
Applications Denied	0	21
General Discharges	0	3
Total Unduplicated	10	110
Total Payout	33,308.54	178,467.08
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 676.00	1
Burial	\$	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 1,143.33	8
Dental	\$ 248.50	1
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 22,291.02	9
Food	\$ 3,017.97	14
Gasoline	\$ 650	9
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$ 2519.93	2
Medical	\$	0
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 1,349.76	5
Rent / Move In	\$	
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 772.11	9

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025
MONTHLY REPORT: July 2025
SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

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

August 15th-17th – Suquamish Warriors Chief Seattle Days

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

September 13 – Suicide Awareness Walk-Evergreen Park, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

October 9 - VERG members offers a free Washington State Profile and Résumé Writing class

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: Steve Corcoran, 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. Matt Shillingburg
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. Veterans Program Coordinator

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. 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 ensure 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 Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
July 9th, 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 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 Bill Martin to approve the July agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: June minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Bill Martin and seconded by Tatiane Simons 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 36.62%. Steve noted 2 waivers were approved for eviction notices. Eviction Relief funding for the month was \$26,114.03 and \$93,512.81 for the year. The June monthly total was \$40,455.51. Marquis Ellis did share possible additional areas of concern for spending and meeting needs. Marquis is also reaching out to additional vendors to assist our veterans.

c. Committee Reports.

- **Aging Veterans Services / Housing and Homelessness.** No report.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Brian Davis continues to share information on social media.
- **Special Event Support.** Black Berry Festival Labor Day weekend. Multiple motorcycle benefit rides scheduled. Planning for Fall stand-down is in full swing. The Veterans Day event at Fairgrounds is in the planning stages. November retreat is planned to be hosted by Tessera.
- **Veteran Education.** Tatiane Simons reported that VA hosts a claims representative once a month at the Resource center. The center is busy with walk-in clients and scheduled appointments.
- **Veteran Health Care.** No report.
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Walk and Resource event scheduled for 13 September, Evergreen Park.
- **Veterans Garden:** Chairperson Jayme DeGooyer announced a new lead is in the works for the Veterans Garden.
- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Work Source holding job fairs.
- **Women's Resource Group.** Jayme DeGooyer announced plans are forming for Fall standdown. Expects much larger event.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** No report.
- **Tribe Outreach.** Dan Kampman continues to engage with the tribes and shares information with them about ongoing veteran activities. Suquamish Warriors will hold Chief Seattle Days August 15th-17th.

Old Business –

- a. **Veteran Resource Center progress.** Steve Corcoran shared that we see an average of three 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. 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 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, August 13th 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
<u>Present</u> 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) Matt Shillingburg (Z) Tatiane Simons (I) Carlos Trujillo (I) Ron Valencia (Z)		Emily Buster – perspective new board member. Ben Dean	Steve Corcoran (I) Veterans Program Coordinator
<u>Absent / Excused</u> Richard Raymond(E) Bill Martin (E)			
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused			

Attachment A



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: Steve Corcoran 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. 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.	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. 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 ensure 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.



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: September 10, 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. **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 July 9th, 2025, VAB Minutes. *** Jayme DeGooyer
7. **Reports.**
 - a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures.** Attachments A S. Corcoran
 - b. **Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends** Attachment B 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 Simons
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.

8. **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

9. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member
Zoom continuation for VAB meetings	Jayme DeGooyer
	VAB
	VAB

10. Public Comments.

11. Good of the Order/Announcements.

12. **Next Meeting** August 13, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129.

13. Adjourn.



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

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget

As of August 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	457,878.93	57.2%	342,121.07
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	2,584.21	129.2%	(584.21)
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	1,562.61	57.9%	1,137.39
	Revenue total	804,700.00	462,025.75	57.4%	342,674.25
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	36,706.77	74.0%	12,929.23
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	379.20	64.1%	212.80
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	2,792.18	73.5%	1,004.82
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	2,850.46	68.7%	1,301.54
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	96.17	89.0%	11.83
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	5,700.00	66.7%	2,850.00
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	2,538.19	25.2%	7,518.81
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	51,200.29	64.0%	28,841.71
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting				
	KCR	625,950.00	281,435.35	45.0%	344,514.65
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	66,318.00	82.9%	13,682.00
	Standdown				
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
	County Charges				
5912	I/FIS Service Charges	3,711.00	2,474.00	66.7%	1,237.00
5913	I/FIS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	1,106.64	66.7%	553.36
5914	I/FIS Fleet Recovery	306.00	306.64	100.2%	(0.64)
5922	I/FIS Projects	460.00	204.00	44.3%	256.00
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	2,903.25	75.0%	967.75
	Expense total	884,742.00	407,237.17	46.0%	426,304.54
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		

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	\$676.02	\$10,696.60					\$37,406.57
Burial			\$1,149.18					\$1,644.05					\$2,793.23
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	\$1,143.23	\$737.34					\$5,046.79
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10	\$548.60		\$248.50						\$6,279.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00	\$12,815.22	\$26,114.03	\$22,931.02	\$27,464.90					\$143,908.73
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02	\$3,323.18	\$3,017.97	\$2,508.01					\$13,158.57
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98	\$172.77	\$650.00	\$450.00					\$1,824.75
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99	\$617.75	\$772.11	\$305.93					\$3,524.02
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94	\$558.24	\$2,519.93						\$6,446.87
Medical			\$721.81		\$204.00			\$110.00					\$1,035.81
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	\$1,349.76	\$358.21					\$6,887.67
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
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$40,455.51	\$33,308.54	\$44,275.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$252,200.24
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$302,250.34	\$268,941.80	\$224,666.76	\$224,666.76	\$224,666.76	\$224,666.76	\$224,666.76	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													52.89%

KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25
Veteran	30	20	25	24	29	35	30	32
Dependent	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Widow	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	1
Gender								
Male	26	19	19	19	27	28	25	26
Female	5	1	6	5	4	7	5	6
Other Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age								
30 yrs. old and under	1	1	2	3	4	8	4	
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	16	16	12	15	20	15	
60 yrs. old and over	10	4	7	9	12	7	11	
Ethnicity								
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Non-Hispanic or Latino	30	20	25	24	31	35	30	
Race								
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Black or African American	5	1	2	3	3	6	5	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
White	24	16	19	20	25	25	20	
Other Race	0	0	4	1	3	4	3	
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	3	0	0	0	0	2	

2025 Applications (Services) Per month	20	15	26	17	18	28	16	32	172
2025 New Clients served YTD	14	7	11	10	10	16	10	15	93
2025 Clients denied	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	10
2025 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	27	16	25	15	10	17	10	15	135

Activity	August 2025	YTD
Total Application	32	157
Total # Of New Application	15	86
Applications Accepted	14	68
Applications Denied	2	23
General Discharges	0	3
Total Unduplicated	15	125
Total Payout	\$44,275.04	\$224,666.76
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 10,696.60	8
Burial	\$ 1,644.05	1
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 737.34	6
Dental	\$	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 27,464.90	11
Food	\$ 2,508.01	9
Gasoline	\$ 450.00	8
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$	0
Medical	\$ 110.00	1
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 358.21	3
Rent / Move In	\$	
Sewer	\$ -	0
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$	0
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 305.93	3

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025

MONTHLY REPORT: August 2025

SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

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

August 15th-17th – Suquamish Warriors Chief Seattle Days

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

September 13 – Suicide Awareness Walk-Evergreen Park, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

October 9 - VERG members offers a free Washington State Profile and Résumé Writing class

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: Steve Corcoran, SCorcoran@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

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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 ensure 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 Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.



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: October 8, 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. 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 September 10th, 2025, VAB Minutes. * | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 7. Guest Speaker - Samantha Adams- NJP | Steve Corcoran |
| 8. Reports. | |
| a. Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures. Attachments A | S. Corcoran |
| b. Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends Attachment B | 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 Simons
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.
- d. November Retreat planning.
- e. Veterans Day Event planning

Steve Corcoran
Jayme DeGooyer
Jayme DeGooyer
Jayme DeGooyer
Jayme DeGooyer

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

13. **Next Meeting** December 10th, 2025, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129, due to VAB November retreat 11/1/2025.

14. Adjourn.



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

2025 Kitsap County Advisory Board

Meeting date 8 October 2025

[illegible]

Attachment A

2025 Veterans Relief Fund Budget					
As of September 30, 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	467,830.28	58.5%	332,169.72
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	2,972.03	148.6%	(972.03)
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	1,995.42	73.9%	704.58
	Revenue total	804,700.00	472,797.73	58.8%	331,902.27
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	37,779.22	76.1%	11,856.78
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	416.71	70.4%	175.29
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	3,063.58	80.7%	733.42
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	3,044.68	73.3%	1,107.32
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	105.54	97.7%	2.46
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	6,412.50	75.0%	2,137.50
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	425.72	42.6%	574.28
5425	Postage	150.00	2.07	1.4%	147.93
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	5,112.05	50.8%	4,944.95
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	56,468.45	70.5%	23,573.55
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting				
	KCR	625,950.00	338,160.73	54.0%	287,789.27
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	70,518.00	88.1%	9,482.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	1,139.00	57.0%	861.00
5454	Operating Rental	1,500.00	850.00	56.7%	650.00
5499	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,711.00	2,783.25	75.0%	927.75
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	1,244.97	75.0%	415.03
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	344.97	112.7%	(38.97)
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	229.50	49.9%	230.50
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	2,903.25	75.0%	967.75
	Expense total	884,742.00	474,642.12	53.6%	353,631.43
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		

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	\$676.02	\$10,696.60	\$2,496.45				\$39,903.02
Burial			\$1,149.18					\$1,644.05	\$1,500.00				\$4,293.23
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	\$1,143.23	\$737.34	\$291.44				\$5,338.23
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10	\$548.60		\$248.50						\$6,279.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00	\$12,815.22	\$26,114.03	\$22,931.02	\$27,464.90	\$20,250.52				\$164,159.25
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02	\$3,323.18	\$3,017.97	\$2,508.01	\$3,419.16				\$16,577.73
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98	\$172.77	\$650.00	\$450.00	\$576.01				\$2,400.76
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99	\$617.75	\$772.11	\$305.93	\$544.41				\$4,068.43
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94	\$558.24	\$2,519.93						\$6,446.87
Medical			\$721.81		\$204.00			\$110.00	\$1,936.77				\$2,972.58
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	\$1,349.76	\$358.21	\$2,004.29				\$8,891.96
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			\$3,000.00				\$26,267.42
Sewer									\$349.62				\$349.62
Union Dues													\$0.00
Water		\$257.00							\$300.00				\$557.00
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$40,455.51	\$33,308.54	\$44,275.04	\$36,668.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$288,868.91
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$302,250.34	\$268,941.80	\$224,666.76	\$187,998.09	\$187,998.09	\$187,998.09	\$187,998.09	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													60.58%

KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	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
Veteran	30	20	25	24	29	35	30						
Dependent	0	0	0	2	0	2	0						
Widow	1	1	0	1	2	1	0						
Gender													
Male	26	19	19	19	27	28	25						
Female	5	1	6	5	4	7	5						
Other Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Age													
30 yrs. old and under	1	1	2	3	4	8	4						
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	16	16	12	15	20	15						
60 yrs. old and over	10	4	7	9	12	7	11						
Ethnicity													
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Non-Hispanic or Latino	30	20	25	24	31	35	30						
Race													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Black or African American	5	1	2	3	3	6	5						
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
White	24	16	19	20	25	25	20						
Other Race	0	0	4	1	3	4	3						
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	3	0	0	0	0	2						
2025 Applications (Services) Per month	20	15	26	17	18	28	27						151
2025 New Clients served YTD	14	7	11	10	10	16	10						78
2025 Clients denied	3	1	1	1	0	2	0						8
2025 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	27	16	25	15	10	17	10						120

Demographics	September	YTD
Veteran	28	221
Dependent	1	3
Widow	1	6
Gender		
Male	21	184
Female	9	45
Other Gender	0	0
Age		
30 yrs. old and under		23
31 to 60 yrs. old		119
60 yrs. old and over		56
Ethnicity		
Hispanic or Latino		0
Non-Hispanic or Latino		196
Race		
American Indian/Alaskan Native		0
Asian		0
Black or African American		20
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		0
White		126
Other Race		14
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)		7

Activity	September 2025	YTD
Total Application	28	185
Total # Of New Application	16	102
Applications Accepted	15	83
Applications Denied	1	24
General Discharges	0	3
Total Unduplicated	16	141
Total Payout	36,668.67	\$288,868.91
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 2,496.45	4
Burial	\$ 1,500	1
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 291.44	3
Dental	\$	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 20,250.52	8
Food	\$ 3,419.16	8
Gasoline	\$ 576.01	6
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$	0
Medical	\$ 1,936.77	1
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 2,004.29	5
Rent / Move In	\$	
Sewer	\$ 349.62	1
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ 300	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 544.41	3

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025
MONTHLY REPORT: September 2025
SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

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

August 15th-17th – Suquamish Warriors Chief Seattle Days

September 10 - 1730, VAB Monthly Meeting –

September 13 – Suicide Awareness Walk-Evergreen Park, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

October 9 - VERG members offers a free Washington State Profile and Résumé Writing class

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: Steve Corcoran, 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. Matt Shillingburg
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. Veterans Program Coordinator

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. 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 ensure 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 Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
September 10th, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and In-Person 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 led introductions of board members and other attendees.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made by Harry Giger and seconded by Jack Cahoon, to approve the September agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: August minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made by Jack Cahoon and seconded by Matt Shillingburg to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: There was no guest speaker.

Reports.

a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Report** - Steve Corcoran reported 2025 Veterans Relief Fund budget is at 46.0 % /\$426,304.54 expended. KCR total is 52.89%/\$244,666.76. Northwest Justice is 82.9%/\$66,318.00. Mark Lowe questioned NWJ balance and Steve noted this was addressed in June, and there are no issues at this time. Marquis Ellis did share possible additional areas of concern for spending and meeting needs. Safeway has been added as a new grocer vender.

b. **KCR Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures** – Mr. Ellis noted Eviction Relief Funding continues to be #1 category for veteran assistance. He expects continued requests for assistance will continue for the remainder of the year.

c. **Committee Reports.**

- **Housing and Homelessness/Aging Veterans Services.** Matt Shillingburg continues to communicate with local Aging Units and Elder Care homes, attempting to provide services for veterans living in these homes. Matt also continues his effort in Olympia as our representative.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Brian Davis is advertising many events on SM.
- **Special Event VAB Support.** Planning for Fall standdown is in full swing. The Veterans Day event at Fairgrounds is in the planning stages. November retreat is planned to be hosted by Tessera.
- **Veteran Education.** Tatiane Simons reports MVP is busy with new semester starting. Claims support 9/8 & 9/22. Veterans Employment Resource Group (VERG) will hold a seminar at the college on 10/9. Fleet and Family Career event scheduled for 11/13.
- **Veteran Health Care. No report.**
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention Walk and Resource event scheduled for 13 September, Evergreen Park.
- **Veterans Garden:** Season is complete. Plans are being made for Spring planting event.
- **Women's Veteran Services.** Women's Circle for Fall standdown is progressing well. Focus group -VA for Females will participate.

- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Vet Tribe event 9/24/25, Moment Brewing, 1700. 4 hiring events at WorkSource, Silverdale; 9/16, Fleet & Family-Food & Beverage, 9/18, Job Fair- 20 employers, 9/22, Aerotek, PSNS Contractor, 9/24, Naval Child & Youth Programs.
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** No report.
- **Tribe Outreach.** No report.

Old Business –

- Veteran Resource Center progress.** Steve Corcoran shared that we see an average of three 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. The Center is a busy place.
- VAB - Jaymee DeGooyer** mentioned vacancies will be discussed at November Retreat.
- 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.
- ZOOM option for VAB meetings.** ZOOM option for future meetings was discussed. After many good points were made, VAB agreed to continue with the ZOOM option for future meetings.
- VAB Retreat.** Prepare plans for November retreat, 11/1.

New Business –

- Discussion was shared concerning upcoming KAVA Fall event.
- Steve Corcoran discussed the hiring of a VSO by Kitsap County in 2026. More to follow as this progresses.
- Veterans Day program at Kitsap Pavillion, 11/11.
- Run to Tahoma planning.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 8th, 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 6:39 pm.

ATTENDANCE		
MEMBERS	GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Jay Bonner (I) Emily Buster (I) Jack Cahoon (I) Brian Davis (Z) Jayme DeGooyer (I) Harry Gilger (I) Mark Lowe (I) Bill Martin (Z) Dan Piper (I) Richard Raymond(Z) Jason Reis (Z) Phil Sauer (I)	Michelle Romo (Z) Marqus Ellis (I)	Steve Corcoran (I) Veterans Program Coordinator Doug Washburn (Z) Human Services Director of Kitsap County

Matt Shillingburg (I) Tatiane Simons (I) <u>Absent / Excused</u> Dan Kampman (A) Carlos Trujillo (A) Ron Valencia (A)		
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused (A) = Absent		

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: Steve Corcoran 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. 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.	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. 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 ensure 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.



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: December 10, 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. 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 October 8th, 2025, VAB Minutes. * | Jayme DeGooyer |
| 7. Guest Speaker – Randy Jackson-Randy's Heating & Cooling | Steve Corcoran |
| 8. Reports. | |
| a. Veterans Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures. Attachments A | S. Corcoran |
| b. Update on KCR Veteran Assistance Fund events and trends Attachment B | 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 Simons
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	

See attachment C for future VAB supported events.

9. Old Business

- a. 2025 Work Plan Review. See Attachment D.
- b. Veterans Advisory Board vacancies.

Jayme DeGooyer
Jayme DeGooyer

10. New Business:

Topic	VAB Member
2026 Work Plan Review	VAB Chair
Guest Speakers for 2026	VAB Chair
VAB vacancies	Chair/Co-Chair

11. Public Comments.

12. Good of the Order/Announcements.

- 13. **Next Meeting** January 14th, 2026, 1730, Olympic College, Building 4, Room 129, due to VAB November retreat 11/1/2025.

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 November 30, 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	829,802.66	103.7%	(29,802.66)
3610.11	Investment Interest	2,000.00	3,740.53	187.0%	(1,740.53)
3000	Other Revenue	2,700.00	2,484.08	92.0%	215.92
	Revenue total	804,700.00	836,027.27	103.9%	(31,327.27)
	County Staff Charges				
5101	Regular Salaries	49,636.00	44,929.62	90.5%	4,706.38
5201	Industrial Insurance	592.00	498.29	84.2%	93.71
5202	Social Security	3,797.00	3,606.38	95.0%	190.62
5203	PERS Retirement	4,152.00	3,433.12	82.7%	718.88
5209	WA State Family Leave	108.00	124.28	115.1%	(16.28)
5229	Benefit Bucket	8,550.00	7,837.50	91.7%	712.50
5311	Office Supplies	1,000.00	651.10	65.1%	348.90
5425	Postage	150.00	2.07	1.4%	147.93
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	5,289.36	52.6%	4,767.64
	Total County Staff Charges	80,042.00	66,478.10	83.1%	13,563.90
	Contracted Services				
5419	Management Consulting				
	KCR	625,950.00	427,365.62	68.3%	198,584.38
	NW Justice League	80,000.00	77,518.00	96.9%	2,482.00
	Standdown				
5413	Medical/Dental	4,000.00	-	0.0%	4,000.00
5441	Advertising	2,000.00	1,139.00	57.0%	861.00
5454	Operating Rental	1,500.00	850.00	56.7%	650.00
5499	Veteran's Garden	1,200.00	-	0.0%	1,200.00
	County Charges				
5912	I/F IS Service Charges	3,711.00	3,092.50	83.3%	618.50
5913	I/F IS Program Maintenance	1,660.00	1,383.30	83.3%	276.70
5914	I/F IS Fleet Recovery	306.00	383.30	125.3%	(77.30)
5922	I/F IS Projects	460.00	255.00	55.4%	205.00
5996	Indirect Cost Allocation	3,871.00	2,903.25	75.0%	967.75
	Expense total	884,742.00	581,368.07	65.7%	236,895.83
	Estimated ending Fund Balance	-	700,000.00		

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	\$676.02	\$10,696.60	\$2,496.45	\$3,793.36	\$4,551.52		\$48,247.90
Burial			\$1,149.18					\$1,644.05	\$1,500.00				\$4,293.23
Bus Pass	\$25.00									\$25.00			\$50.00
Bus Ticket Home													\$0.00
Clean & Sober Housing													\$0.00
Clothing	\$1,098.12		\$277.71	\$548.76	\$498.52	\$743.11	\$1,143.23	\$737.34	\$291.44	\$910.23	\$932.65		\$7,181.11
Dental	\$4,042.80	\$1,108.00		\$331.10	\$548.60		\$248.50						\$6,279.00
Eviction Relief Funding	\$12,783.00	\$9,751.90	\$20,876.66	\$11,172.00	\$12,815.22	\$26,114.03	\$22,931.02	\$27,464.90	\$20,250.52	\$9,359.18	\$12,481.00		\$185,999.43
Food	\$1,460.86	\$422.90	\$929.66	\$656.97	\$839.02	\$3,323.18	\$3,017.97	\$2,508.01	\$3,419.16	\$2,871.09	\$3,747.86		\$23,196.68
Gasoline	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$80.00	\$141.98	\$172.77	\$650.00	\$450.00	\$576.01	\$200.00	\$179.85		\$2,780.61
Heating Oil													\$0.00
Hygiene, & Cleaning Supplies	\$525.19	\$200.00	\$256.65	\$588.40	\$257.99	\$617.75	\$772.11	\$305.93	\$544.41	\$888.20	\$353.97		\$5,310.60
Misc.													\$0.00
Motel	\$166.80		\$986.96		\$2,214.94	\$558.24	\$2,519.93			\$550.00			\$6,996.87
Medical			\$721.81		\$204.00			\$110.00	\$1,936.77		\$215.18		\$3,187.76
Natural Gas										\$1,118.16			\$1,118.16
Occupation Certification													\$0.00
Phone													\$0.00
Propane													\$0.00
PSE			\$554.88	\$802.30	\$1,017.30	\$2,805.22	\$1,349.76	\$358.21	\$2,004.29	916.58	\$760.26		\$10,568.80
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			\$3,000.00	\$5,596.80	\$1,480.00		\$33,344.22
Sewer									\$349.62	\$962.24			\$1,311.86
Union Dues											\$150.01		\$150.01
Water		\$257.00							\$300.00		\$178.52		\$735.52
Wood for Heat/ Pellets													\$0.00
TOTALS	\$33,978.30	\$23,850.52	\$27,280.51	\$19,593.70	\$29,458.12	\$40,455.51	\$33,308.54	\$44,275.04	\$36,668.67	\$27,190.84	\$25,030.82	\$0.00	\$341,090.57
Balance	\$442,888.70	\$419,038.18	\$391,757.67	\$372,163.97	\$342,705.85	\$302,250.34	\$268,941.80	\$224,666.76	\$187,998.09	\$160,807.25	\$135,776.43	\$135,776.43	
2025 VAF Direct Service Spend Percentage													71.53%

KCR Demographics Report

Demographics	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
Veteran	30	20	25	24	29	35	30	32	28	28	22		
Dependent	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0		
Widow	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	2		
Gender													
Male	26	19	19	19	27	28	25	26	21	25	18		
Female	5	1	6	5	4	7	5	6	9	4	6		
Other Gender	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Age													
30 yrs. old and under	1	1	2	3	4	8	4						
31 to 60 yrs. old	20	16	16	12	15	20	15						
60 yrs. old and over	10	4	7	9	12	7	11						
Ethnicity													
Hispanic or Latino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Non-Hispanic or Latino	30	20	25	24	31	35	30						
Race													
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Asian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Black or African American	5	1	2	3	3	6	5						
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
White	24	16	19	20	25	25	20						
Other Race	0	0	4	1	3	4	3						
Multi Race (2 or more of the above)	2	3	0	0	0	0	2						
2025 Applications (Services) Per month	20	15	26	17	18	28	16	32	28	26	24		250
2025 New Clients served YTD	14	7	11	10	10	16	10	15	16	14	11		134
2025 Clients denied	3	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	2	0		13
2025 Total Clients Served (unduplicated #)	27	16	25	15	10	17	10	15	16	17	16		184

Activity	September 2025	YTD
Total Application	24	305
Total # Of New Application	11	127
Applications Accepted	11	105
Applications Denied	0	2
General Discharges	0	3
Total Unduplicated	16	173
Total Payout	\$25,030.82	\$341,090.57
Applications In Progress	0	
Activity	Amount	Services Delivered
Appliances	\$	0
Auto Repair	\$ 4,551.52	4
Burial	\$	0
Bus Pass	\$	0
Bus Ticket Home	\$ -	0
Clean & Sober Housing	\$ -	0
Clothing	\$ 932.65	6
Dental	\$	0
Eviction Relief Funding	\$ 12,481.00	7
Food	\$ 3,747.86	8
Gasoline	\$ 179.85	6
Heating Oil	\$ -	0
Misc.	\$	0
Motel	\$	0
Medical	\$ 215.18	2
Natural Gas	\$ -	0
Occupation Certification	\$ -	0
Phone	\$ -	0
Propane	\$	0
PSE	\$ 760.26	3
Rent / Move In	\$ 1480.00	1
Sewer	\$ 150.01	1
Union Dues	\$ -	0
Waste Management	\$ -	0
Water	\$ 178.52	1
Wood for Heat/ Pellets	\$ -	0
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 353.97	5

VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND 2025
MONTHLY REPORT: November 2025
SUBMITTED BY MARQUS ELLIS

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

August 15th-17th – Suquamish Warriors Chief Seattle Days

September 10 - 1730, VAB Monthly Meeting –

September 13 – Suicide Awareness Walk-Evergreen Park, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

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

October 9 - VERG members offers a free Washington State Profile and Résumé Writing class

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

November 11, Veterans Day – Kitsap Pavilion Table

December 3 – Run to Tahoma planning meeting, 3 December 1800, VFW Post 239

December 10 - 1730 VAB monthly meeting – Topic: Randy Jackson proposal

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: Steve Corcoran, SCorcoran@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811

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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. Veterans Program Coordinator

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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 ensure 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 Kitsap County resident. Jayme DeGooyer / VAB members.

**MINUTES OF THE
KITSAP COUNTY VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD
October 8th, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was conducted via Zoom and In-Person 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 led introductions of board members and other attendees.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed by all members. A motion was made to approve the October agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of minutes: September minutes were reviewed by members. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: There was no guest speaker.

Reports.

a. **Veterans Assistance Fund Report** - Steve Corcoran not present.

b. **KCR Assistance Fund Reports Review Expenditures** – Marquis informed us that he got an intern to assist in the office. This will allow him to do more outreach. They are preparing for any increase in individuals needing services due to the shutdown.

c. Committee Reports.

- **Housing and Homelessness/Aging Veterans Services.** No report.
- **Public Affairs and Social Media.** Pictures from the stand down uploaded on FB page.
- **Special Event VAB Support.** Planning for Fall standdown is in full swing. The Veterans Day event at Fairgrounds is in the planning stages. November retreat is planned to be hosted by Tessera.
- **Veteran Education.** Shut down information and informed us that no VA hotlines are available at this time. VRE students are challenged in getting resources
- **Veteran Health Care.** Services are still available
- **Veteran Mental Health Plans and Programs.** No report.
- **Veterans Garden: No report.**
- **Women's Veteran Services.** Women's Circle for Fall standdown is progressing well. Focus group -VA for Females will participate.

- **Veteran Employment Opportunities.** Vet Tribe Wed. Oct. 22nd & event Navy fleet Nov 13th
- **Veteran Court Mentorship.** No report.
- **Tribe Outreach.** No report.

Old Business –

- Veteran Resource Center progress.** No report.
- VAB** - Jaymee DeGooyer mentioned vacancies will be discussed at November Retreat.
- 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.
- ZOOM option for VAB meetings.** ZOOM option for future meetings was discussed. After many good points were made, VAB agreed to continue with the ZOOM option for future meetings.
- VAB Retreat.** Prepare plans for November retreat, 11/1.

New Business –

- Veterans Day program at Kitsap Pavillion, 11/11.
- Fall standdown report: 95 veterans attended the event.
- Run to Tahoma planning.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Good of the Order/Announcements:

Next meeting: The next public Veterans Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, December 10th, 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 6:39 pm.

ATTENDANCE		
MEMBERS	GUESTS	STAFF
<u>Present</u> Jay Bonner (I) Emily Buster (I) Jack Cahoon (Z) Brian Davis (Z) Jayme DeGooyer (I) Harry Gilger (I) Mark Lowe (I) Bill Martin (Z) Dan Piper (I) Jason Reis (I) Phil Sauer (I) Matt Shillingburg (I) Tatiane Simons (I)	Marqus Ellis (I)	

Carlos Trujillo (Z) <u>Absent / Excused</u> Dan Kampman (A) Rick Raymond (A) Ron Valencia (A)		
Note: (I) = In-Person (Z) = Zoom (E) = Excused (A) = Absent		

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: Steve Corcoran 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
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 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. Mark Lowe

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. 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."	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. Matt Shillingburg and Mark Lowe.
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. Tatiane Simons

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. 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.	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. 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
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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.