



VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2023 WORK PLAN

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location Olympic College Bldg11, Rm 117
Advisory Board Staff: Rick Becker, rbecker@kitsap.gov, 360-337-4811
Advisory Board Chair: Jayme DeGooyer; Jayme.DeGooyer@gmail.com;
Advisory Board Vice Chair: Rick Raymond; Rick.c.raymond@gmail.com

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.

2023 Goal	Status	2023 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Organize two Stand Downs in cooperation with Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance (KAVA)	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator, VAB members, and Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance
2. Process applications for temporary emergency assistance for Veterans and disburse funds through Kitsap Community Resources, Veterans Family Development Specialist	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator, Veteran Service Officers, community service providers, and Kitsap Community Resources
3. Housing-Identify barriers to affordable housing and research other housing opportunities.	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator and VAB members
4. 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	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator, VAB members. Required participation by VAB members.
5. Update and revise Veteran Assistance Policy and Procedure Manual	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator and VAB members
6. Provide and monitor NWJP legal contract providing civil legal services	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator and VAB members
7. Maintain outreach program for Veterans incarcerated in the Kitsap County Jail	Ongoing	High	KCR representative will visit jail once a week to provide services.
8. Maintain VAB Committee for Women Veteran Issues to keep VAB updated and informed	Ongoing	High	VAB members and Staff Coordinator
9. VAB Women Resources. Maintain Women Veteran resource line. Hold two Woman's circles per year at the April and September Stand Downs.	Ongoing	High	VAB members and Staff Coordinator

2023 Goal	Status	2023 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
10. 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	Ongoing	High	VAB members and Staff Coordinator
11. Update and maintain The Unforgotten – Run to Tahoma Protocol	Ongoing	High	Update of Run protocols Staff Coordinator & VAB members
12. Update to County Veterans Website	Ongoing	High	Staff Coordinator & VAB members
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAB increase social media presence in 2022 to reach more veterans.	Ongoing	Moderate	Staff Coordinator and VAB Board member who is responsible for social media outreach
2. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	Ongoing	Moderate	Staff Coordinator and VAB Members
3. Maintain presence at Veteran's Day and Military Appreciation Day events.	Ongoing	Moderate	Staff Coordinator and VAB Members
4. Increase Outreach for Veteran Garden including social media and newspapers	Ongoing	Moderate	VAB members and Staff Coordinator
5. Investigate programs that can assist clients maintain custody of their pets.	Ongoing	Moderate	VAB members and Staff Coordinator supporting.
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Monitor the status of state legislation that supports the efforts of the Veterans Assistance Program	Ongoing	Low	Monitor as needed
2. Maintain a close working relationship with VSOs and community service providers for the purpose of helping veterans complete the VAF application process	Ongoing	Low	Contact and collaborate as needed; Staff Coordinator will plan an annual meeting and training for VSOs and community service providers to discuss changes and updates regarding the VAF application process
3. Update VAB Manual	Ongoing	Low	Staff Coordinator and VAB Members
4. Solicit guest speakers for the VAB meetings to enhance, educate, and inform board members & community attendees on programs, services, and issues/concerns relevant to veterans	Ongoing	Low	Staff Coordinator and VAB Members

GOALS ON HOLD			
Goal	Status	2023 Priority	Comments
Support "Tiny Cottages" for veterans	Ongoing	Low	On hold – county reviewing project
Veterans Court support and monitor ongoing	Ongoing	Moderate	On hold – court reviewing program

issues re: mentors			
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GOALS COMPLETED OR DELETED			
Goal	Status	Year	Comments
Update of The Unforgotten – Run to Tahoma	Completed	2019	Update of Run protocols
Establish VAP visits weekly to jail	Completed	2019	Established and funded program
Review of bylaws and Policies & Procedures	Completed	2019	
Conducted The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma	Completed	2019	
Secured a contract for legal services in 2018 for indigent veterans	Completed	2019	
Review and revise the Veterans Policy	Completed	2020	
Update of bylaws and Policies & Procedures	Completed	2020	Update of bylaws and Policies & Procedures to reflect policy changes
New Veteran's memorial in Administration Building	Completed	2021	
Conducted The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma	Completed	2021	
Updated Policy & Procedures Manual	Completed	2021	
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."
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.
GOALS COMPLETED OR DELETED			
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.

Revision Date – 11/16/2022