



VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2024 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: Rick Raymond; Rick.c.raymond@gmail.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.

2024 Goal	Status % Complete	2024 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Increase outreach activities to both active duty and veterans.	0%	High	Consider participation in Veterans Day, Military Appreciation Day, County Fair, Silverdale Whaling Days, and other community events through the year. Staff information tables at events to provide the Veterans Assistance Program maximum exposure to not only veterans in need but to community members who may know of veterans in need. Document table visitor numbers increase exposure.
2. Establish a concept, scope of operations and estimated annual operating cost for a Kitsap County Veterans Center.	0%	High	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. Establish a multidisciplinary work group that will develop a business case and plan for consideration by the county commissioners during calendar year 2024. Follow progress at monthly meetings. VAB member lead with others assisting and staff coordinator support.
3. Support two Stand Downs with KAVA.	0%	High	Led by the VAB Chair and Vice Chair, as many VAB members as possible engage in the event planning with KAVA and provide on-site staffing support for the events.
4. Plan and execute the Run to Tahoma XIII.	0%	High	The VAB Chair and Vice Chair lead activities with key VAB members to plan the ceremony and collaborate with local veteran motorcycle groups to escort honored veterans to Tahoma National Cemetery.
5. Veteran Garden	0%	High	VAB members will evaluate an opportunity to support a veteran garden at Retsil to assure veteran participation.

2024 Goal	Status % Complete	2024 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
6. Improve Veteran Assistance Fund client level demographic and participation data.	0%	High	The VAB Coordinator will conduct in-depth data collection and analysis of Veteran Assistance Fund demographic and utilization information with a goal of better understanding veteran needs and recommend program improvements to address those needs.
7. 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	0%	High	Rick Raymond will represent the VAB at committee meetings and advise the VAB on needed assistance.
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAB increase social media presence to reach more veterans.	0%	Moderate	Social media lead with VAB members feeding applicable information for posting.
2. Maintain presence at Veteran's Day and Military Appreciation Day events.	0%	Moderate	VAB members.
3. Increase Outreach for Veteran Garden including social media and newspapers	0%	Moderate	VAB members.
4. Continue Veteran Program web site improvements.	0%	Moderate	The VAB Coordinator in collaboration with the Human Services Department Office Manager keep the site populated with current information for the public.
TIER 3: LOW PRIORITY			
1. Monitor the status of state legislation that supports the efforts of the Veterans Assistance Program	Ongoing	Low	VAB members and Staff Coordinator. Discuss at monthly VAB meetings for awareness.
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 remain in contact with local VSOs through the year.
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	VAB members with staff coordinator supporting as needed.
5. Veterans Court support and monitor ongoing veteran issues.	Ongoing	Low	In coordination with the KCR Veteran Specialist and Human Services Department Bail Studies Coordinator be available to offer assistance to justice involved veterans and their families to help avoid recidivism.

GOALS COMPLETED OR DELETED

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
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
Goal	Status	Year	Comments
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.
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 event raised donations.
Process applications for temporary emergency assistance for Veterans and disburse funds through Kitsap Community Resources, Veterans Family Development Specialist.	Completed	2023	KCR processed several hundred applications for services in 2023. Delivered over \$230K in services to indigent and homeless veterans.
Goal	Status	Year	Comments
Organize the Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma, Ceremony which receives the remains of unclaimed veterans from the County Coroner	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

and delivers them to the Tahoma Veterans Cemetery for internment. Update protocol.			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.
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	2023	Vice Chair played a key role in helping organize a suicide awareness event at the Administration Building on 8 September.
Update to County Veterans Website	Completed	2023	Web site updated as required to keep information current.

Revision Date – 11/11/2023