



VETERANS ADVISORY BOARD 2021 WORK PLAN

Meeting Days, Time and Location: 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 1730; Location TBD
Advisory Group Staff: Andrew Sargent
Advisory Group Chair: Peggy Roy

Advisory Group 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.

2021 Goal	Status	2021 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
TIER 1: HIGH PRIORITY			
1. Organize two Stand Downs in cooperation with Kitsap Area Veterans Alliance	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 and VAB members
5. Update and revise Veteran Assistance Policy and Procedure	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	KRC 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

2021 Goal	Status	2021 Priority Level	Comments/Coordination
9. Maintain VAB Women Veteran resource line. Hold four Woman's circles per year two at stand downs, one in winter and one in summer	Ongoing	High	VAB members and Staff Coordinator
10. VAB participation in the Suicide Prevention committed established by County – have one VAB board member as representative –	Ongoing	High	VAB members and Staff Coordinator
11. Maintain two co-ed low income houses in Kitsap for veterans	Ongoing	High	VAB members and Staff Coordinator One house operational – other on hold due to Covid-19
TIER 2: MODERATE PRIORITY			
1. VAB increase social media presence in 2020 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. Maintain Drug/Alcohol transition housing benefit administered by KCR	Ongoing	Moderate	VAB members and Staff Coordinator
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
5. Hold VSO training and meetings.	Ongoing	Low	Staff Coordinator and VAB Members
6.			

GOALS ON HOLD

Goal	Status	2021 Priority	Comments
Support "Tiny Cottages" for veterans	Ongoing	Low	On hold – county reviewing project
Veterans Court support and monitor ongoing issues re: mentors	Ongoing	Moderate	On hold – court reviewing program

GOALS COMPLETED OR DELETED

Goal	Status	Year	Comments
Project Victory Garden – Planning and starting	Completed	2016	Determine mission and vision; identify land tracts for a Veteran community garden.
Survey	Deleted	2016	UW Department of Social Work was cost and time prohibitive; however a county-wide collaborative effort through UW's veterans' programs may be an option in the future
Review of bylaws and Policies & Procedures	Completed	2019	
Completed two Stand Downs	Completed	2018	Over 200 veterans received services
Conducted The Unforgotten, Run to Tahoma	Completed	2019	
Participate in guest speaking engagements	Completed	2017	Elks Lodge; Veteran Service Organizations; Marine Corps League; MOAA; Rotary Clubs; Olympic College
Participate in community outreach & collaboration events	Completed	2017	Veterans Day event; KIRN; Kitsap Continuum of Care Coalition; Homes for All Who Served; Mayor's Challenge; Olympic College; Project Connect
VSO annual training and meeting	Completed	2016	
Event for Aging and Long Term Care for Veterans	Completed	2016	
Increase in Veterans' Assistance Fund	Completed	2016	At the request of the VAB, the Commissioners increased the percentage of property taxes that feed the VAF, equating to an additional \$42,000 in 2017
Secured a contract for legal services in 2018 for indigent veterans	Completed	2019	
Designed and disseminated a Kitsap County "Veterans Community Resources" brochure	Completed	2017	
Collaborated with multiple federal, state, county, and local community partners in achieving "functional zero" in veterans homelessness	Completed	2017	Collaboration will continue to secure dependable, safe, reliable permanent housing for veterans in need; reference Tier 1, #3.
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
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
New Veteran's memorial in Administration Building	Completed	2020	
Revision Date – 10/2/2020			