

Veteran Advisory Board Minutes, September 28th

1. Roll Call:

Board Members in Attendance: Rod Davis, Ken Slininger, Gary Bracht, Eileen Boylston, and Eileen Bornheimer

Commissioner: Cindy Carter

Chief Accountant: Madeline Prentice

Okanogan County: Eric Fritts & Michael Stewart

Local DVCM: Luis Torres

Guest: James Ellis

2. Old Business:

- a. Discussed issues concerning getting the financial information. Currently the county is short staff and currently not able to provide the support we have had in the past.
- b. After Action (Stand Down):
 - Add column to sign in sheet – Homeless Y/N – this was discussed by the group and determined that a better approach would be to count as they go to pick up stand down items.
 - Raffle, do like original, but have # of items to be raffled depending on how much we get. Go back to requiring that participants must meet with x number of resources/employers – to be entered into the raffle. I think this did improve participation.
 - Organizing Stand Down items prior to event worked very well, made the day of the event run much smoother.
 - Stand Down area went well – organized and manned better than in the past, a few extra hands would have helped early on though:
 - Next year reach out to Civil Air Patrol early summer to see if they would volunteer.
 - See if SkillSource Students will help again.
 - Do employer and seeker surveys, didn't do this year – should do this every year.
 - Cut event by 1 hour, run 10am-1pm, but stress to all employers/resources, they must stay to the end. We had a couple vets come after everyone had left, but before closing time – one had traveled 50 miles.....
 - Lunch went great as usual and was well received.
 - Fairgrounds failed to have WiFi available - we told free WiFi would be available, ensure Fairgrounds have this available next year and that they do whatever necessary to ensure it is working and available the day of the event.
 - A list of who we need to send out thank you notes to was provided to Rod.
 - Rod will send out a draft of the article he will write about the stand down to all board members.

- Lock in date and reserve fairgrounds for next Stand Down at next meeting.
- Rod requested that we get together in the near future to organize our storage area so left over stand down items are easy to find to give out to needy vets this winter.

3. New Business:

- a. Eric Fritts and Michael Stewart came to our meeting today to discuss how their county went about hiring a full time paid Service Officer, he also discussed the responsibilities this person took on and the benefits it has provided to their county. They also discussed how the position is funded and who supervises the position. Eric also discussed the computer program he has built to manage this program. The board voted to appoint a committee to put together a proposal to hire a paid full time Service Officer. The committee is comprised of Rod Davis, Eileen Boylston and Eileen Bornheimer. Eric Fritts will email Eileen Boylston his job description; and the committee will review it and adjust it to meet our needs if necessary.
- b. Luis Torres talked about the possibility of creating transitional veteran housing in Grant County, the board requested that when more firm information is available to bring it back to the board for further discussion.

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, November 9th at 4pm, at the Grant County Courthouse in the Commissioners Conference Room.