



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCI
COMMISSIONER



Disabled American Veterans
DANIEL T. WEIST
COMMISSIONER



Veterans of Foreign Wars
CLAYTON E. UZELL
COMMISSIONER

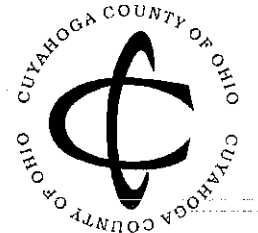


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650
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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: September 17, 2014 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Clayton E. Uzell, President
Daniel T. Weist, Vice President
Mel Baher, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Commissioner

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Clay Uzell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to dispense with the reading of the Consent Agenda and to accept the agenda with the necessary corrections and/or additions. (All Commissioners have a copy of the minutes.)

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

The fall open public Board meeting will be held at VFW Post 1974, 4305 Woodrow Avenue, Parma, Ohio 44134 on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

The new pay scale for employees will be reviewed by the Board and readdressed at the next open public meeting.

The Executive Director discussed a revision to the 2015 Budget with changes made in client services. The amended budget will be submitted to the county.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Executive Director will investigate price quotes and other options for the purchase of a new mobile office vehicle. The van will make us more flexible in providing service to veterans.

Steve Fernandez explained the new Affordable Care Act to Board members and how it may impact them as Commissioners. After much discussion, the Board opted not to choose the benefit.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

American Legion Post 91 will hold a POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at their pavilion on Friday, September 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The names of approximately 390 veterans will be read.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:45 a.m.)

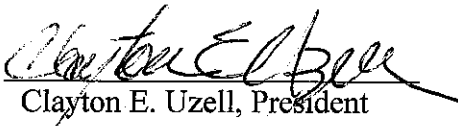
A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Mel Baher to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular order of business.

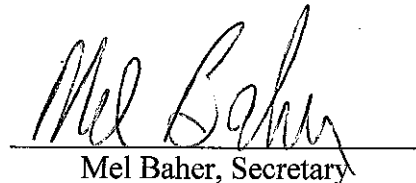
AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (11:16 a.m.)

The Executive Director advised the Board of a personnel issue during Executive Session. The matter was thoroughly discussed and the Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.


Clayton E. Uzell, President


Mel Baher, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Jennifer Mazzeo, Manager/Senior Investigator (216-698-2621)
Filing claims with the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs:	Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Manager (216-698-2639)
Memorial Affairs:	Laurene Rutkowski, Manager (216-698-2655)
Social Work Dept.:	Terry Walker, Manager, Social Worker/Case Management (216-698-2379)
Executive Director:	Jon Reiss (216-698-2611)
Commissioners:	Lorri Slivka, Secretary to the Board (216-698-2646)

CUYAHOGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Progress Report on the State of the Commission

August, 2014

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

Clayton E. Uzell - President, VFW

Daniel Weist – Vice President, DAV

Mel Baher – Secretary, American Legion

Frank Pocci – AMVETS

Bob Potts – VVA

September 17, 2014

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of August 31, 2014:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Attended a NEOCH meeting in Middleburg Heights
- Met with Lt. Col. Baxter to discuss cross programming
- Attended the Clear Channel Christmas in August event
- Attended a Veteran Legal Services team meeting at the CRRC
- Spoke at an outreach event at the Cleveland Clinic
- Met with employees at the TR House
- Met with Jane Nichols from Frontline Services
- Attended the HONEO Stand Down meeting
- Met with Ron Schwachenwald from the Joint Veterans Council to discuss cross programming

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

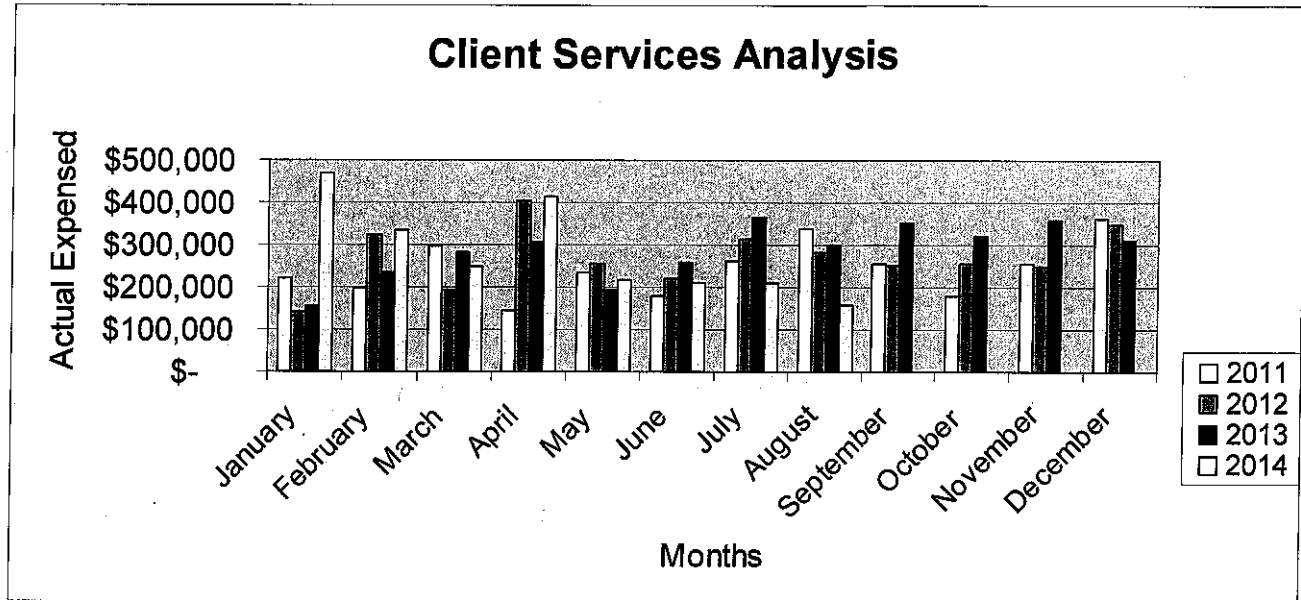
- Submitted: 32
- Positive: 31
- Negative: 1
 - The contact information is inaccurate and the veteran could not be contacted.

Finance Department

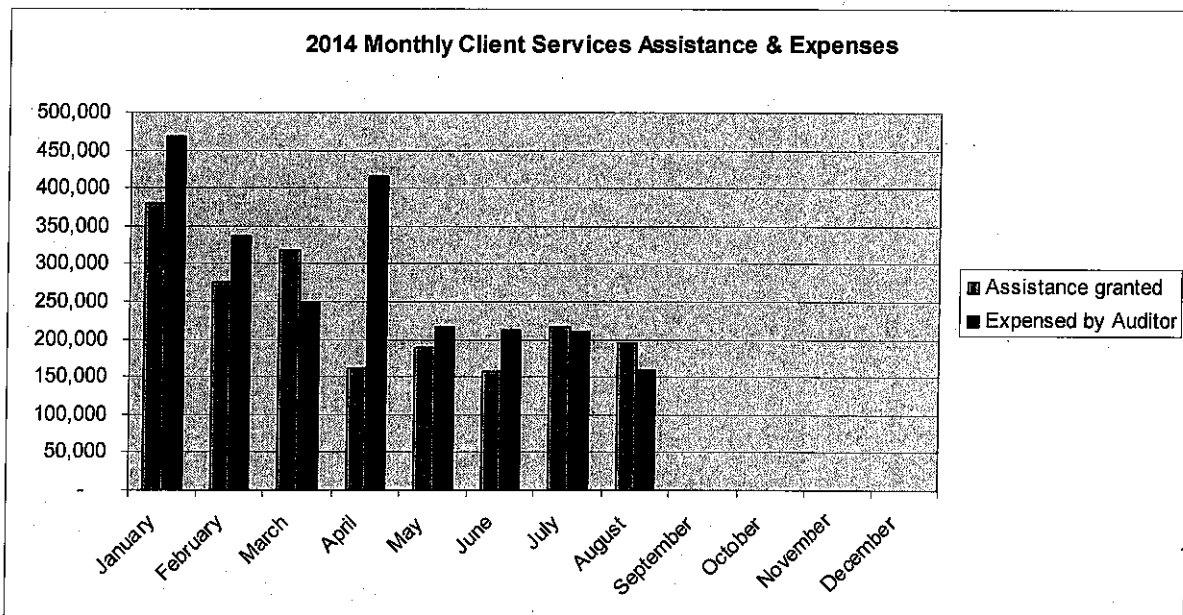
Below are selected August reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

Client services include: Financial Assistance for Medical, Food, Mortgage, Rent, Utilities, Infant Layette, Personal Hygiene, Shoes & Clothing

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2014 Expenses



Total 2014 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2014	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
Salaries	1,823,984	1,206,950	-	549,854	1,756,804	67,180
Fringe Benefits	638,394	456,502	-	228,652	685,154	(46,760)
Commodities	33,000	10,756	-	13,642	24,398	8,602
Contract Services	507,477	299,731	41,060	134,725	434,456	73,021
Controlled Expenditures	323,643	-	-	193,727	193,727	129,916
Client Services	3,251,069	2,264,417	-	903,688	3,168,105	82,964
Other Expenditures	358,377	178,881	-	92,446	271,327	87,050
Capital Outlay	51,000	3,324	-	32,676	36,000	15,000
Total Expenditures	6,986,944	4,420,561	41,060	2,149,410	6,569,971	416,973

Assistance Department:

- August 2014: \$159,251 (Down from \$299,971 in 2013)
- YTD 2014: \$2,264,419 (Up from \$2,093,991 in 2013)

The August Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	August 2014	August 2013	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	916	1284	-28.7%
Applications taken	694	1088	-36.2%
Applications withdrawn	(13)	(36)	-63.9%
Applications denied	(58)	(59)	-1.7%
Applications approved	623	993	-37.3%
Transportation only approvals	(459)	(709)	-35.3%
F/A applications approved	164	284	-42.3%

Indicator	YTD 2014	YTD 2013	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	6306	7065	-10.7%
Applications taken	5662	6018	-5.9%
Applications withdrawn	(156)	(230)	-32.3%
Applications denied	(449)	(436)	3.0%
Applications approved	5057	5352	-5.5%
Transportation only approvals	(3564)	(3688)	-3.4%
F/A applications approved	1493	1664	-10.3%

- First Time Assistance
 - August 2014: 38 (Down from 68 in 2013)
 - 33 approved, 0 at Level III, 0 partial, 2 denied, 3 withdrawn
 - YTD 2014: 298 (Down from 359 in 2013)

Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of August, 2014.

Appeal Officer workdays	10
Cases on hand at beginning of month	5
Cases received	62
Cases worked	<u>60</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	7

	August	
<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	44	257
Cases Denied	16	128
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	10
Cases Withdrawn	<u>0</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	60	415

	August	
<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	5	48
Cases Denied	6	42
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	6
Client is Eligible (Review DD-214)	0	0
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	11	97

Medical and Other Transportation:

- August 2014: \$12,041.50 (YTD: \$93,401.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$11,696.50 (YTD: \$90,846.50)
- Other: \$345 (YTD: \$2,555)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- August 2014: \$1,651 (YTD: \$41,739)
 - Dental: \$926 (YTD: \$18,077)
 - Vision: \$725 (YTD: \$5,495)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$17,317)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- August 2014: \$7,686.40 (Up \$1,693.40 from August 2013)
- YTD 2014: \$93,438.92
- 8 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 0
 - Marine: 1
 - Navy: 3
 - Army: 4

Following are the 2014 Year to Date statistics for Memorial Affairs:

	August	2014 YTD	August	2013 YTD
DD-214 Search	81	842	109	882
Benefits Counseling	692	6874	920	7017
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstone/Research	9	85	15	102
Presidential Memorial Certificates	52	666	84	769
National Cemetery Referrals	36	461	59	503
Blue Star Service Banners	0	0	0	10
Indigent Burials	8	97	6	80

Veterans Service Officers:

Parma

	<u>Aug</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	17	204
----- Follow Up	51	559
DIC Claims	1	7
----- Follow Up	5	28
Pension Claims	6	31
----- Follow Up	10	83
Medical	0	5
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	14	135
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	115	1006
All Other	<u>61</u>	<u>327</u>
Total	280	2385

Interviews:
• 1,756 (YTD: 13,713)
FA Referrals:
• 42 (YTD: 334)
Total:
• 1,798 (YTD: 14,047)
Phone Calls:
• 2,784 (YTD: 26,114)

Wade Park

	<u>Aug</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	36	190
----- Follow Up	192	798
DIC Claims	2	9
----- Follow Up	9	16
Pension Claims	6	83
----- Follow Up	68	334
Medical	4	28
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	29	217
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	293	2420
All Other	<u>83</u>	<u>795</u>
Total	722	4890

Main Office

	<u>Aug</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	89	665
----- Follow Up	382	2639
DIC Claims	5	36
----- Follow Up	17	115
Pension Claims	28	273
----- Follow Up	154	1137
Medical	6	59
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	95	699
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	805	6793
All Other	<u>317</u>	<u>2587</u>
Total	1898	15,003

Social Work

Social Work

- August Total Signed In: 184 (YTD: 1,341)
 - Seen: 163 (YTD: 1,173)
 - Not Seen: 3 (YTD: 59)
 - Offline: 15 (YTD: 129)
 - New Veterans: 30 (YTD: 203)
- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 113 (YTD: 842)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 50 (YTD: 331)

Referrals

- Internal Referrals
 - FA: 64
 - VSO: 35
 - Employment Specialist: 8
- Outside Agencies
 - VA Medical: 20
 - Employment
 - ODJFS: 10
 - CEOGC: 2
 - Towards Employment (N4S): 5

Employment

- August Internal Referrals: 5
 - No Contact: 0
- Total Seen: 34 (YTD: 299)
- Offline: 17 (YTD: 197)
- Rescheduled/No-Show/Cancelled: 13 (YTD: 125)
- Employment Orientation: 11 (YTD: 112)
- Direct Placements: 4 (YTD: 16)

Ohio Veterans Home Network:

In August, four veterans were taken to the OVH for tour and admission evaluation.

At the OVH, the number of beds available in the nursing home and the domiciliary are unknown.

Network Changes

Commissioners have voiced concerns about the new AT&T 4G cards. Additionally, I have had issues installing them; we may need to get our own contract and new vendor.

Inventory and PC Updates

Another signature pad has failed. We are now short one for the staff; Robert M. is without a pad. CDW is waiting on a tax form to move forward with this purchase, along with a backup cleaning tape.

Submitted by:
Jon Reiss
Executive Director