



American Legion
MEL BAHER
COMMISSIONER



American Veterans
FRANK POCCHI
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
Email: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: June 17, 2015 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Daniel T. Weist, President
Mel Baher, Vice President
Frank Pocci, Secretary
Bob Potts, Commissioner
Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: None.

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Weist 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, Pocci, 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 Clay Uzell to accept the report of the Executive Director as reviewed by the Board.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The Executive Director will provide the Board with an update on the purchase of a CCVSC mobile van at the next open public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The U.S.S. COD will be providing a private tour to members of the AMVETS and Italian American War Veterans on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Pocci extended an invitation to fellow CCVSC board members to attend the special tour.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

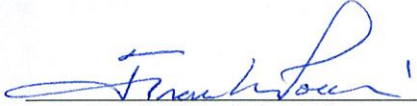
There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

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



Daniel T. Weist, President



Frank Pocci, Secretary

CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for Financial Assistance:	Steve Fernandez, Finance Operations Manager (216-698-2391)
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

May, 2015

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

**Daniel Weist – President, DAV
Mel Baher – Vice President, American Legion
Frank Pocci – Secretary, AMVETS
Bob Potts – VVA
Clayton E. Uzell - VFW**

June 17, 2015

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of May 31, 2015:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Conducted interviews for the Network Administrator position
- Attended the Our Community Salutes Recognition event
- Met with Moné from Job and Family Services
- Met with staff from David Merriman's office
- Met with Brian Mauer from the VA
- Met with Ken Kabb from Kabb Law Firm
- Attended a ValPak working lunch
- Attended the Veterans Treatment Court Treatment meeting
- Attended Memorial Day ceremonies
- Attended Concerned Veterans of America Defend Freedom Tour
- Attended the Veterans Treatment Court Dedication

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

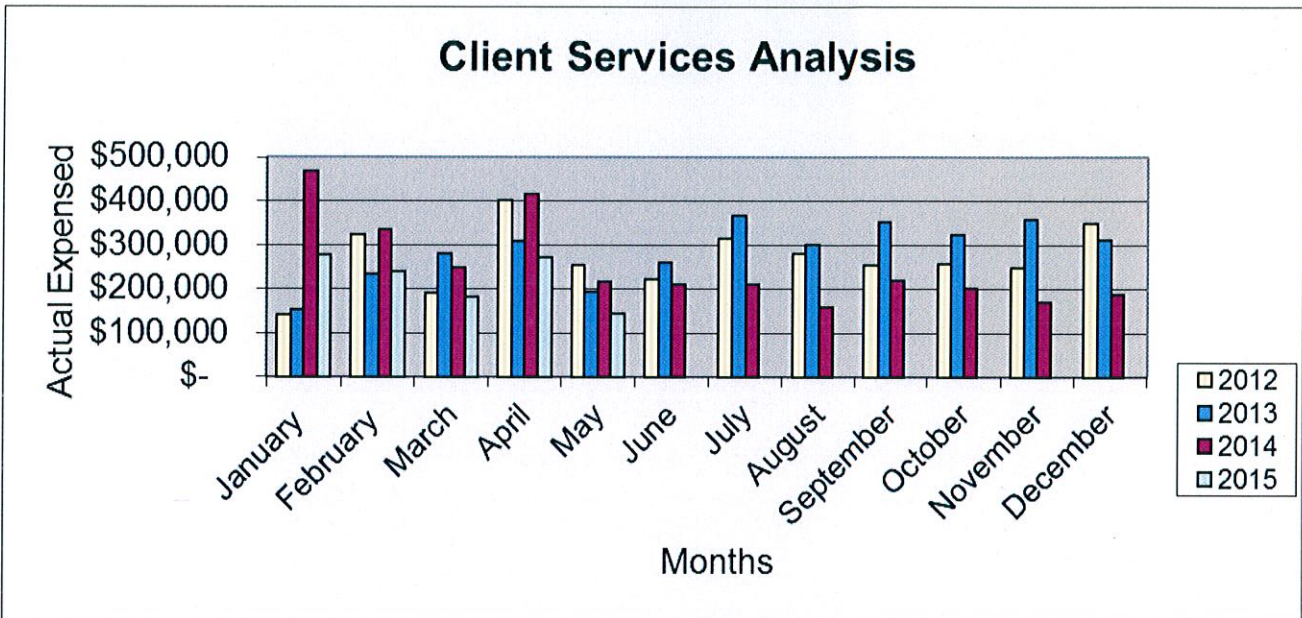
- Submitted: 14
- Positive: 13
- Negative: 1 – Client waited almost an hour before being seen and withdrawn for not having the FA checklist. Client felt he should have been asked if he had this document when he arrived rather than after waiting. He could have completed the document before being seen and not withdrawn.

Finance Department

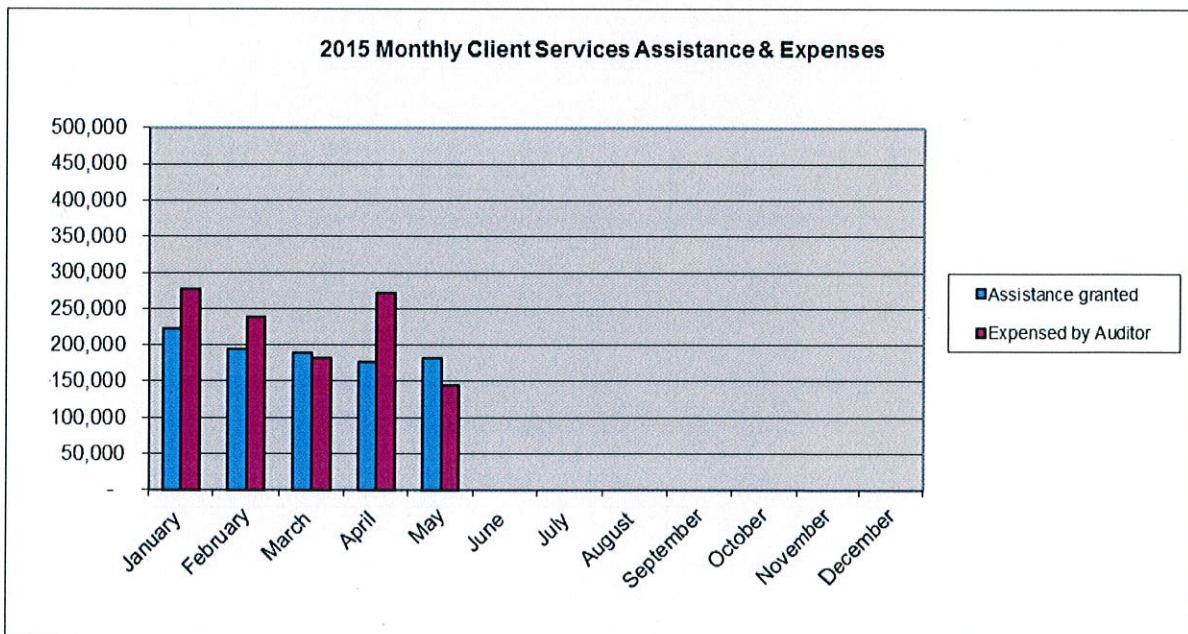
Below are selected May reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2015 Expenses



Total 2015 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2015	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
Salaries	1,859,336	740,147	-	1,082,536	1,822,683	36,653
Fringe Benefits	725,141	282,096	-	428,750	710,846	14,295
Commodities	33,250	14,981	-	13,269	28,250	5,000
Contract Services	428,610	127,906	86,207	300,704	428,610	-
Controlled Expenditures	205,879	(6,841)	-	212,720	205,879	-
Client Services	3,795,292	1,114,866	-	2,064,412	3,179,278	616,014
Other Expenditures	377,800	118,028	3,500	172,680	290,708	87,092
Capital Outlay	101,467	2,625	90,127	88,842	91,467	10,000
Total Expenditures	7,526,775	2,393,808	179,834	4,363,913	6,757,721	769,054

Assistance Department:

- May, 2015: \$145,237 (Down from \$217,029 in 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$1,114,867 (Down from \$1,683,982 in 2014)

The May Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	May 2015	May 2014	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	734	970	-24.3%
Applications taken	722	752	-4.0%
Applications withdrawn	(59)	(19)	210.5%
Applications denied	(57)	(63)	-9.5%
Applications approved	606	670	-9.6%
Transportation only approvals	(479)	(489)	-2.0%
F/A applications approved	127	181	-29.8%

Indicator	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	3695	4365	-15.3%
Applications taken	3655	3517	3.9%
Applications withdrawn	(251)	(98)	156.1%
Applications denied	(251)	(278)	-9.7%
Applications approved	3153	3141	+4%
Transportation only approvals	(2439)	(2138)	14.1%
F/A applications approved	714	1003	-28.8%

- First Time Assistance
 - May 2015: 35 (Up from 28 in 2014)
 - 30 approved, 0 at Level III, 2 partial, 1 denied, 2 withdrawn
 - YTD 2015: 151 (Down from 195 in 2014)

Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of May, 2015.

Appeal Officer workdays	18
Cases on hand at beginning of month	2
Cases received	42
Cases worked	<u>42</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	2

	May	
<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	18	104
Cases Denied	21	89
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	<u>3</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	42	212

	May	
<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	8	35
Cases Denied	8	20
Cases Partially Approved	0	2
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	2
Client is Eligible (Review DD-214)	0	0
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	16	59

Medical and Other Transportation:

- May 2015: \$13,181.50 (YTD: \$63,748.00)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$13,111.50 (YTD: \$63,168.00)
- Other: \$70 (YTD: \$580)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- May 2015: \$4,454 (YTD: \$38,021)
 - Dental: \$3,844 (YTD: \$16,848)
 - Vision: \$610 (YTD: \$1,930)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$17,662)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- May 2015: \$11,786.00 (Up \$1,615.00 from May, 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$47,008.45
- 12 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 1
 - Marine: 3
 - Navy: 0
 - Army: 8

Following are the 2015 Year to Date statistics for Memorial Affairs:

	May	2015 YTD	May	2014 YTD
DD-214 Search	86	481	97	562
Benefits Counseling	592	3347	928	4564
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstone/Research	17	55	19	44
Presidential Memorial Certificates	45	253	91	476
National Cemetery Referrals	33	183	68	331
Blue Star Service Banners	0	0	0	0
Indigent Burials	12	51	11	65

Veterans Service Officers:

Parma

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	30	97
----- Follow Up	74	197
DIC Claims	0	4
----- Follow Up	0	1
Pension Claims	2	11
-----Follow Up	8	32
Medical	2	3
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	33	118
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	168	659
All Other	<u>57</u>	<u>173</u>
Total	374	1295

Interviews:
• 1,218 (YTD: 6,562)
FA Referrals:
• 19 (YTD: 127)
Total:
• 1,237 (YTD: 6,689)
Phone Calls:
• 2,775 (YTD: 11,601)

Wade Park

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	53	254
----- Follow Up	193	838
DIC Claims	3	10
----- Follow Up	6	19
Pension Claims	20	88
-----Follow Up	93	333
Medical	2	11
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	43	197
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	397	1704
All Other	<u>170</u>	<u>702</u>
Total	980	4156

Main Office

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	101	444
----- Follow Up	338	1624
DIC Claims	4	21
----- Follow Up	10	47
Pension Claims	29	164
-----Follow Up	151	758
Medical	5	33
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	94	440
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	759	3972
All Other	<u>284</u>	<u>1483</u>
Total	1,775	8,986

Social Work

- May Total Signed In: 123 (YTD: 596)
 - Seen: 113 (YTD: 539)
 - Not Seen: 4 (YTD: 19)
 - Offline: 6 (YTD: 46)
 - New Veterans: 19 (YTD: 76)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 79 (YTD: 383)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 34 (YTD: 148)

Referrals

- Internal Referrals
 - FA: 56
 - VSO: 35

- Outside Agencies
 - VA Medical: 33
 - Employment
 - EC/ODJFS: 4
 - CEOGC: 0
 - Towards Employment (N4S): 0

Ohio Veterans Home Network:

In May, no veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

There are currently 5 beds available in the nursing home and 47 in the domiciliary.

Network Changes

eVetAssist has been migrated to county server. We are now working on the logistics of testing user functionality before final migration and implementation.

Encrypted email between the VSC and the VA

No changes

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**