



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

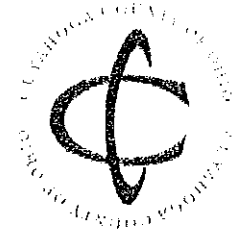


Vietnam Veterans of America
BOB POTTS
 COMMISSIONER

JON REISS
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission

Ph: 216.698.2600 • Fax: 216.698.2650
 Email: vsemail@cuyahogacounty.us
 1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: March 18, 2015 9:30 a.m.

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

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 Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioners Pocci, Potts and Baher and Executive Director Jon Reiss confirmed their attendance at a special screening of American Experience's "The Last Days in Vietnam." The documentary will be held at the Idea Center (inside Playhouse Square) at 5:30 p.m. on April 8, 2015. The screening, and premiere on WVIZ/PBS on April 28th, coincide with the 40th anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

NEW BUSINESS:

A preliminary discussion took place regarding next year's budget. The Executive Director will provide the Board with the proposed 2016 CCVSC Budget on April 1, 2015.

A recommendation by the Executive Director to remove the 90-day residency requirement for assistance with medical transportation was discussed. The Executive Director will present a revision of the guideline to the Board at the next meeting for further discussion and approval.

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Frank Pocci to approve Resolution 2015-20 requesting authority for thirteen CCVSC service officers and benefits coordinators to attend the OSACVSO spring school from May 6 -- May 8, 2015, in Independence, Ohio, expenses not to exceed \$975.

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

Executive Director Jon Reiss will respond to a veteran client who submitted a letter of complaint regarding the denial of his VA benefits.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

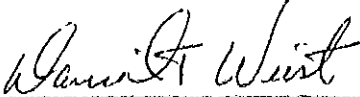
Due to the arrival of President Barrack Obama today, the Board approved a recommendation by the Executive Director for an abbreviated work day.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

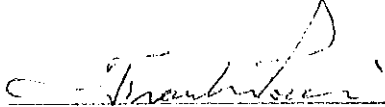
There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 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

February, 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**

March 18, 2015

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of February 28, 2015:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Met with Barbara Crouse from WVIZ regarding the Vietnam Program
- Met with Bill Anderson from Marcia Fudges office regarding the Veterans Task Force
- Met with Jay Sheppard from the Cleveland Clinic
- Attended the American Legion meeting
- Met with Terry Kah regarding an advertising vehicle
- Attended the County Board of Procedures meeting
- Met with the VA Director and ODVS
- Phone call with John Yan regarding Disability Claim procedures
- Attended the Stand Down wrap up meeting
- Met with Jim Schlect for Care Alliance

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

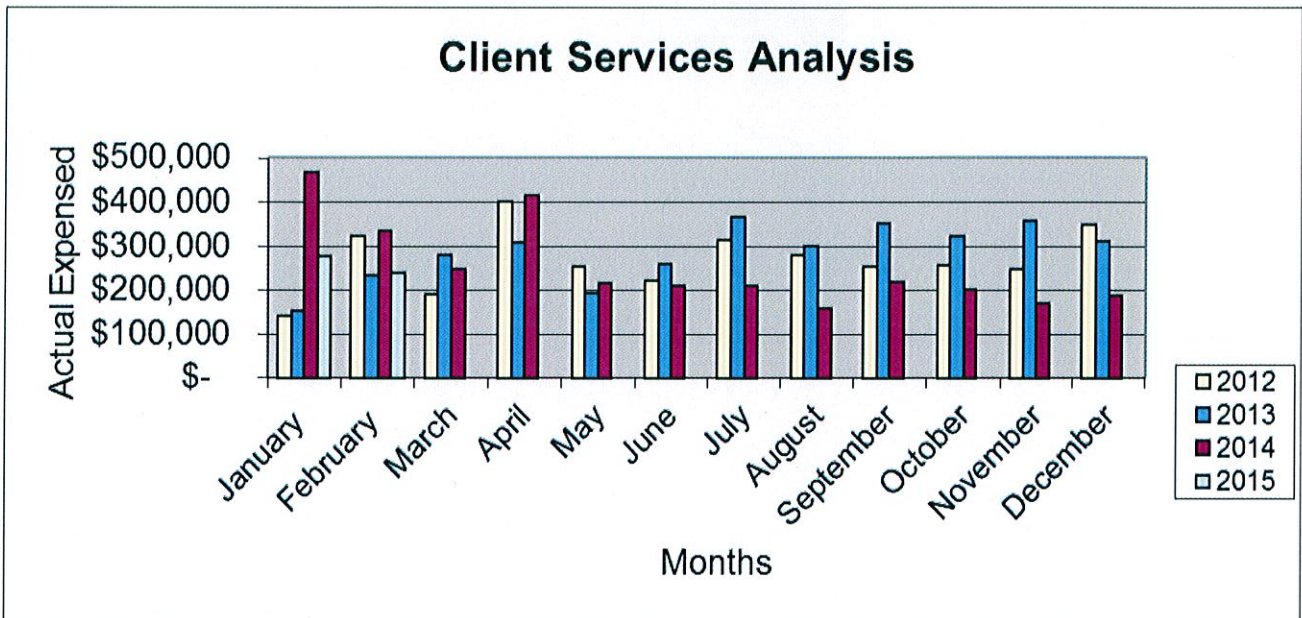
- Submitted: 14
- Positive: 12
- Negative: 2 – No name or contact information provided.

Finance Department

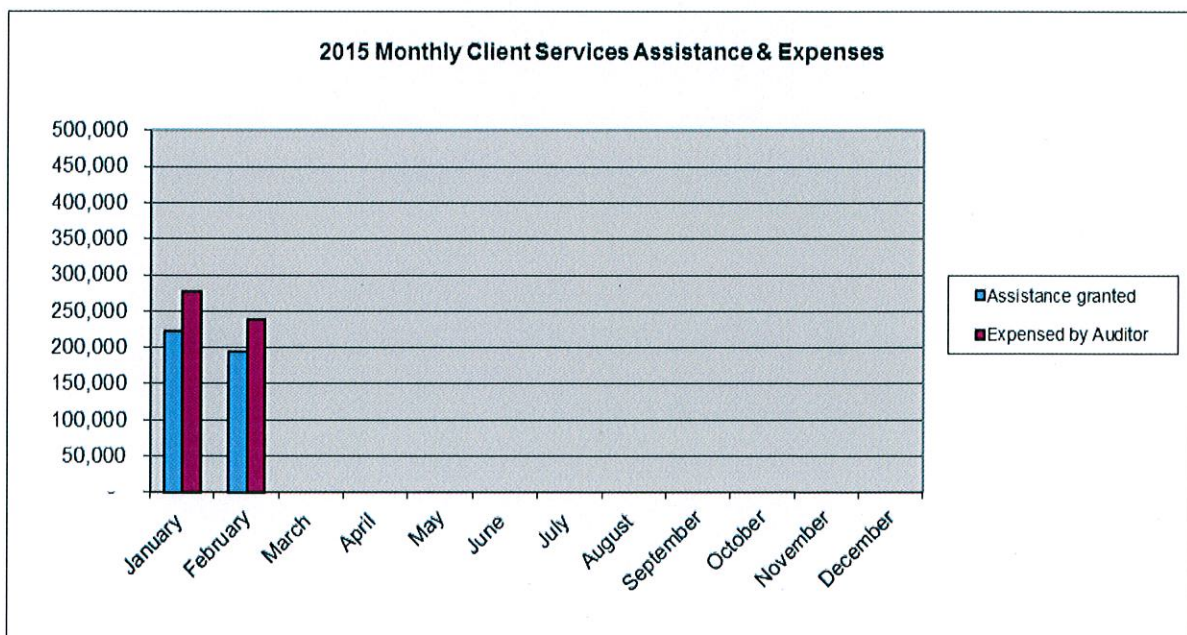
Below are selected February reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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	322,087	-	1,500,596	1,822,683	36,653
Fringe Benefits	725,141	120,565	-	553,828	674,393	50,748
Commodities	33,250	2,420	-	20,830	23,250	10,000
Contract Services	428,610	7,557	205,281	421,053	428,610	-
Controlled Expenditures	205,879	(6,841)	-	212,720	205,879	-
Client Services	3,795,292	515,855	-	3,049,160	3,759,931	35,361
Other Expenditures	377,800	53,598	3,500	237,110	290,708	87,092
Capital Outlay	101,467	370	91,467	91,097	91,467	10,000
Total Expenditures	7,526,775	1,015,611	300,248	6,281,310	7,296,921	229,854

Assistance Department:

- February, 2015: \$238,250 (Down from \$336,124 in 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$515,856 (Down from \$804,388 in 2014)

The February Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	Feb. 2015	Feb. 2014	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	642	711	-9.7%
Applications taken	639	605	5.6%
Applications withdrawn	(50)	(12)	317.0%
Applications denied	(43)	(45)	-4.4%
Applications approved	546	548	-.4%
Transportation only approvals	(425)	(365)	16.4%
F/A applications approved	121	183	-33.9%

Indicator	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	1434	1546	-7.2%
Applications taken	1417	1327	6.8%
Applications withdrawn	(104)	(45)	131.1%
Applications denied	(103)	(103)	0%
Applications approved	1210	1179	2.6%
Transportation only approvals	(929)	(738)	25.9%
F/A applications approved	281	441	-36.3%

- First Time Assistance
 - February 2015: 26 (Down from 38 in 2014)
 - 19 approved, 0 at Level III, 3 partial, 0 denied, 4 withdrawn
 - YTD 2015: 60 (Down from 102 in 2014)

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

Appeal Officer workdays	18
Cases on hand at beginning of month	5
Cases received	40
Cases worked	<u>42</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	3

	February	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>		
Cases Approved	24	47
Cases Denied	13	38
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	42	93

	February	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Board Appeals</u>		
Cases Approved	10	22
Cases Denied	4	8
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	1	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	15	32

Medical and Other Transportation:

- February 2015: \$10,943.00 (YTD: \$23,112.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$10,803.00 (YTD: \$22,837.50)
- Other: \$140 (YTD: \$275)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- February 2015: \$18,514 (YTD: \$21,206)
 - Dental: \$547 (YTD: \$3,239)
 - Vision: \$305 (YTD: \$305)
 - Hearing Aid: \$17,662 (YTD: \$17,662)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- February 2015: \$3,448.12 (Down \$14,016.78 from February, 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$19,451.84
- 4 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 1
 - Marine: 0
 - Navy: 0
 - Army: 3

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

	February	2015 YTD	February	2014 YTD
DD-214 Search	84	189	109	234
Benefits Counseling	663	1322	811	1870
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstone/Research	5	12	10	15
Presidential Memorial Certificates	37	99	88	190
National Cemetery Referrals	30	74	56	131
Blue Star Service Banners	0	0	0	0
Indigent Burials	4	21	19	32

Veterans Service Officers:

Parma

	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	12	29
----- Follow Up	15	30
DIC Claims	1	3
----- Follow Up	0	0
Pension Claims	3	7
-----Follow Up	5	9
Medical	0	0
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	16	35
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	71	189
All Other	<u>19</u>	<u>39</u>
Total	142	341

Interviews:
• 1,104 (YTD: 2,429)
FA Referrals:
• 0 (YTD: 0)
Total:
• 1,104 (YTD: 2,429)
Phone Calls:
• 3,217 (YTD: 5,465)

Wade Park

	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	33	76
----- Follow Up	118	250
DIC Claims	1	3
----- Follow Up	2	5
Pension Claims	7	21
-----Follow Up	48	89
Medical	6	6
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	37	71
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	241	524
All Other	<u>93</u>	<u>185</u>
Total	586	1230

Main Office

	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	56	142
----- Follow Up	285	592
DIC Claims	4	9
----- Follow Up	7	18
Pension Claims	23	52
-----Follow Up	142	305
Medical	8	20
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	56	147
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	683	1505
All Other	<u>259</u>	<u>534</u>
Total	1,523	3,324

Social Work

- February Total Signed In: 106 (YTD: 209)
 - Seen: 94 (YTD: 194)
 - Not Seen: 5 (YTD: 8)
 - Offline: 7 (YTD: 15)
 - New Veterans: 10 (YTD: 26)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 68 (YTD: 136)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 26 (YTD: 50)

Referrals

- Internal Referrals
 - FA: 39
 - VSO: 24

- Outside Agencies
 - VA Medical: 22
 - Employment
 - EC/ODJFS: 12
 - CEOGC: 1
 - Towards Employment (N4S): 3

Ohio Veterans Home Network:

In February, no veterans were taken to the OVH for tour and admission evaluation.

Numbers for the OVH nursing home and domiciliary are not available.

Network Updates

No updates at this time.

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**