



S  
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

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Email: [vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us)  
1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



### MINUTES

DATE: September 16, 2015 9:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mel Baher, Vice President  
Frank Pocci, Secretary  
Bob Potts, Commissioner  
Clayton E. Uzell, Commissioner  
Jon Reiss, Executive Director  
Lorri Slivka, Executive Secretary

EXCUSED: Daniel T. Weist, President  
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Rick Mullins; Terry Sansbury; Greg Zito

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci 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. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

#### **STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)**

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

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. *President Dan Weist joined the meeting at 9:44 a.m.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Director provided a report on the number of veterans served at the CCVSC during the 2014 holiday season in order to revisit a proposed holiday schedule for 2016. After a review of the report, and based on the numbers provided, the consensus was to close the satellite offices during the 2016 holiday season and keep the main office staffed to better serve the veteran's community.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept Resolution 2015-32 providing for the purchase of two full vehicle wraps and nine window graphics for the CCVSC as part of enhancing the appearance of the two county vehicles and the store front leased property, expenses not to exceed \$13,000.00. Competitive bids are being solicited and the vendor or multiple vendors are to be determined.

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

A motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Clay Uzell to move forward with the holiday food card program as we did in the past and award a \$50.00 food card to anyone who requests food assistance, whether the case is approved or denied, beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Dan Weist attended a roundtable with members of Senator Sherrod Brown’s office on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss veterans’ issues at the VA. Several issues were discussed including the following:

- 1) Police officers at VA facilities throughout the State of Ohio do not have arrest authority. Senator Brown’s office will be working on an initiative to obtain authority for these officers.
- 2) The billing of emergency medical expenses from a non-VA medical facility are outsourced to an independent billing office where a final determination is made. If the doctor’s diagnosis was that it was not an emergency situation, reimbursement is not made. The veteran is then instructed to appeal.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were no items for Executive Session.

*Clay Uzell was excused at 11:00 a.m. for a previously scheduled appointment.*

With no further business, a motion was made by Mel Baher and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, 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**

**August, 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**

**September 16, 2015**

**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, 2015:

**Executive:**

The Executive Director

- Met with Kathleen Weigand from NEOPAT
- Attended Veterans Treatment Court
- Met with Julie McCostlin from West Bay Center
- Met with John Tidyman
- Attended a Stand Down meeting
- Met with NEOCH
- Attended a Grassroots meeting
- TFACS meeting at the National Guard Armory

**Customer Satisfaction Surveys**

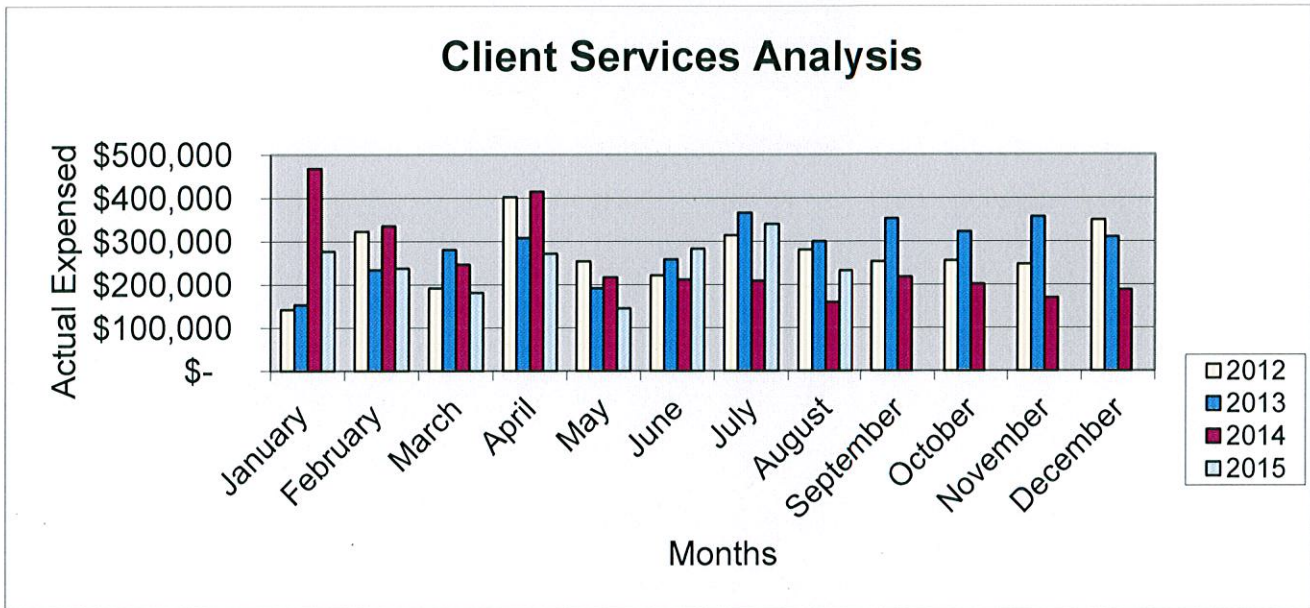
- Submitted: 10
- Positive: 10

## Finance Department

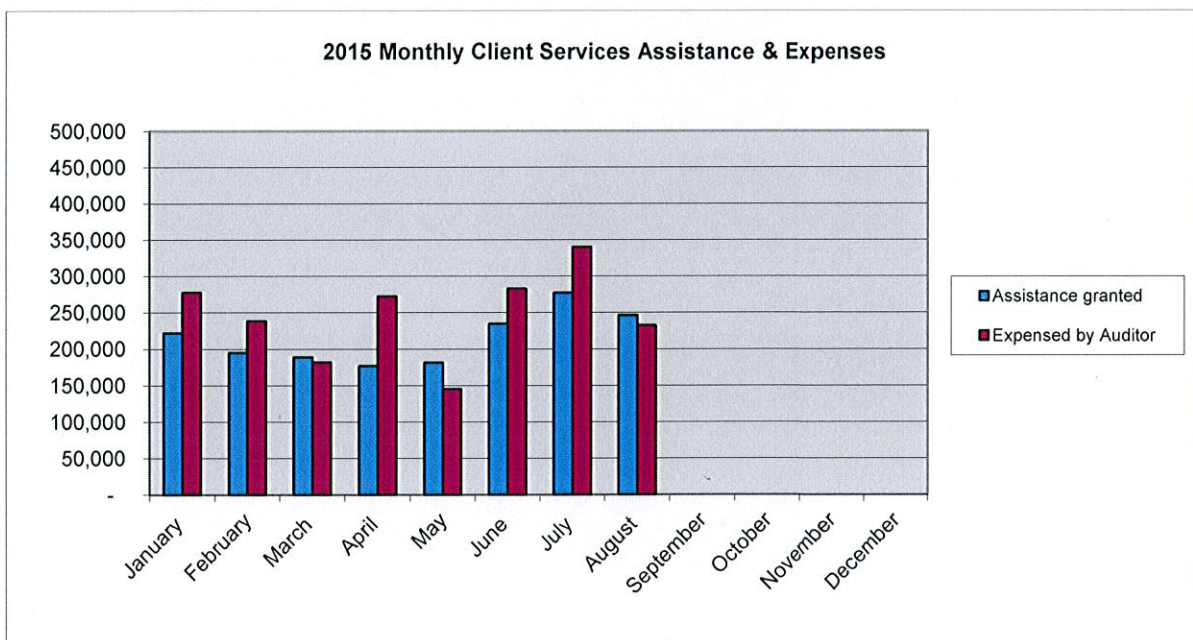
Below are selected August reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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

### Comparative Chart Analysis



### Actual 2015 Expenses



## Total 2015 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2015	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
<b>Salaries</b>	1,859,336	1,206,792	-	561,002	1,767,794	91,542
<b>Fringe Benefits</b>	725,141	455,997	-	233,443	689,440	35,701
<b>Commodities</b>	33,250	21,102	-	9,148	30,250	3,000
<b>Contract Services</b>	428,610	214,098	1,085	214,512	428,610	-
<b>Controlled Expenditures</b>	205,879	(6,841)	-	212,720	205,879	-
<b>Client Services</b>	3,795,292	1,970,419	-	1,179,664	3,150,083	645,209
<b>Other Expenditures</b>	377,800	242,860	9,264	83,602	326,462	51,338
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	101,467	5,848	87,006	85,619	91,467	10,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	7,526,775	4,110,275	97,355	2,579,710	6,689,985	836,790

**Assistance Department:**

- August, 2015: \$232,686 (Up from \$159,251 in 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$1,970,421 (Down from \$2,264,419 in 2014)

The August Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>August 2015</b>	<b>August 2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Clients seeking assistance	818	916	-10.7%
Applications taken	805	694	16.0%
Applications withdrawn	(60)	(13)	361.5%
Applications denied	(72)	(58)	24.1%
Applications approved	673	623	8.0%
Transportation only approvals	(488)	(459)	6.3%
F/A applications approved	185	164	12.8%

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>YTD 2015</b>	<b>YTD 2014</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Clients seeking assistance	5423	6306	-14.0%
Applications taken	5364	5662	-5.3%
Applications withdrawn	(382)	(156)	144.9%
Applications denied	(390)	(449)	-13.1%
Applications approved	4592	5057	-9.2%
Transportation only approvals	(3496)	(3564)	-1.9%
F/A applications approved	1096	1493	-26.6%

- First Time Assistance
  - August 2015: 48 (Up from 38 in 2014)
    - 38 approved, 0 at Level III, 0 partial, 1 denied, 9 withdrawn
  - YTD 2015: 287 (Down from 298 in 2014)

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

Appeal Officer workdays	20
Cases on hand at beginning of month	3
Cases received	63
Cases worked	<u>65</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	1

	<b>August</b>	
	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
<b><u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u></b>		
Cases Approved	38	207
Cases Denied	19	175
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	<u>8</u>	<u>37</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>419</b>

	<b>August</b>	
	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>
<b><u>Board Appeals</u></b>		
Cases Approved	4	56
Cases Denied	7	43
Cases Partially Approved	0	2
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	3
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>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>104</b>



**Veterans Service Officers:**

**Parma**

	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	30	211
----- Follow Up	91	528
DIC Claims	0	6
----- Follow Up	0	4
Pension Claims	2	21
-----Follow Up	14	86
Medical	1	8
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	33	238
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	219	1440
All Other	<u>69</u>	<u>453</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>2536</b>

Interviews:
• 1,286 (YTD: 10,852)
FA Referrals:
• 26 (YTD: 229)
Total:
• 1,312 (YTD: 11,081)
Phone Calls:
• 3,615 (YTD: 23,296)

**Wade Park**

	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	70	474
----- Follow Up	188	1483
DIC Claims	2	14
----- Follow Up	4	34
Pension Claims	11	129
-----Follow Up	65	543
Medical	2	27
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	50	377
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	391	3068
All Other	<u>169</u>	<u>1303</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>7452</b>

**Main Office**

	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	132	836
----- Follow Up	305	2735
DIC Claims	6	33
----- Follow Up	11	80
Pension Claims	23	254
-----Follow Up	111	1140
Medical	2	53
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	119	822
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	881	6909
All Other	<u>307</u>	<u>2634</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,897</b>	<b>15,496</b>

## **Social Work**

- August Total Signed In: 130 (YTD: 1117)
  - Seen: 108 (YTD: 1007)
  - Not Seen: 5 (YTD: 45)
  - Offline: 17 (YTD: 78)
  - New Veterans: 18 (YTD: 172)
  
- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 73 (YTD: 726)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 35 (YTD: 273)

## **Referrals**

- Internal Referrals
  - FA: 41
  - VSO: 19
  
- Outside Agencies
  - VA Medical: 24
  - Employment
    - EC/ODJFS: 4
    - CEOGC: 1
    - Towards Employment (N4S): 3

## **Ohio Veterans Home Network:**

In August, three veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

There are currently 0 beds available in the nursing home and 0 in the domiciliary.

## **Network Changes**

None at this time

**Submitted by:**

**Jon Reiss  
Executive Director**