



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

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



MINUTES

DATE: October 21, 2015 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: VFW Post #2850
3296 West 61st Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

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: Ray Diaz, Bob Poole, Jan Beckman, Art Stone, Kat Ledger, John Meehan,
Dan Hubbard, William Crane, Sandra Uzell, John Slivka, Robert Erb, Larry
Amato

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. On behalf of the Board, Commissioner Baher thanked Cmdr. Ray Diaz and members of VFW Post #2850 for hosting the CCVSC open public meeting outside the commission to afford the public and veterans' community an opportunity to attend a Board meeting at another time and location.

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 Clay Uzell to accept the report of the Executive Director as given.

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

Commissioner Baher took a moment to give a brief overview of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission's history, budget, and function of each department.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 2015-33 providing for the purchase of 499 food cards from Dave's Supermarket for eligible CCVSC clients during the holiday season, expenses not to exceed \$24,950.00.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mel Baher introduced service officers, Larry Amato and Robert Erb, who gave a brief explanation of federal and state benefits veterans may be entitled to through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Guests in the audience were given an opportunity to ask questions. Discussion included topics such as disability pensions, widow's pensions, service-connected compensation, DIC, increases and appeals of VA claims, and medical transportation.

At the close of the meeting, Commissioner Baher recognized Past VFW State Commander Bob Poole and Past VFW State Auxiliary President Sandra Uzell who were present in the audience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

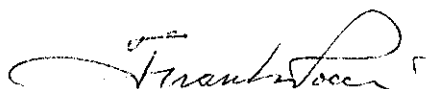
There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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



Mel Baher, Vice 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

September, 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**

October 21, 2015

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of September 30, 2015:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Attended Veterans Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting
- Met with Pierre Bejjani
- Met with Veterans Treatment Court Treatment Team
- Met with Karly Lowry to view office space at the Administration Building
- Attended the USO Golf Outing
- Met with Dr. Garcia
- Met with employees of CAVA
- Attended NACVSO training
- Met with Jeff and Nellie about the HONEO Stand Down
- Met with Valerie Brooks from Radio 1
- Met with Tom Sweeney
- Attended the CRRC staff meeting to explain policies

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

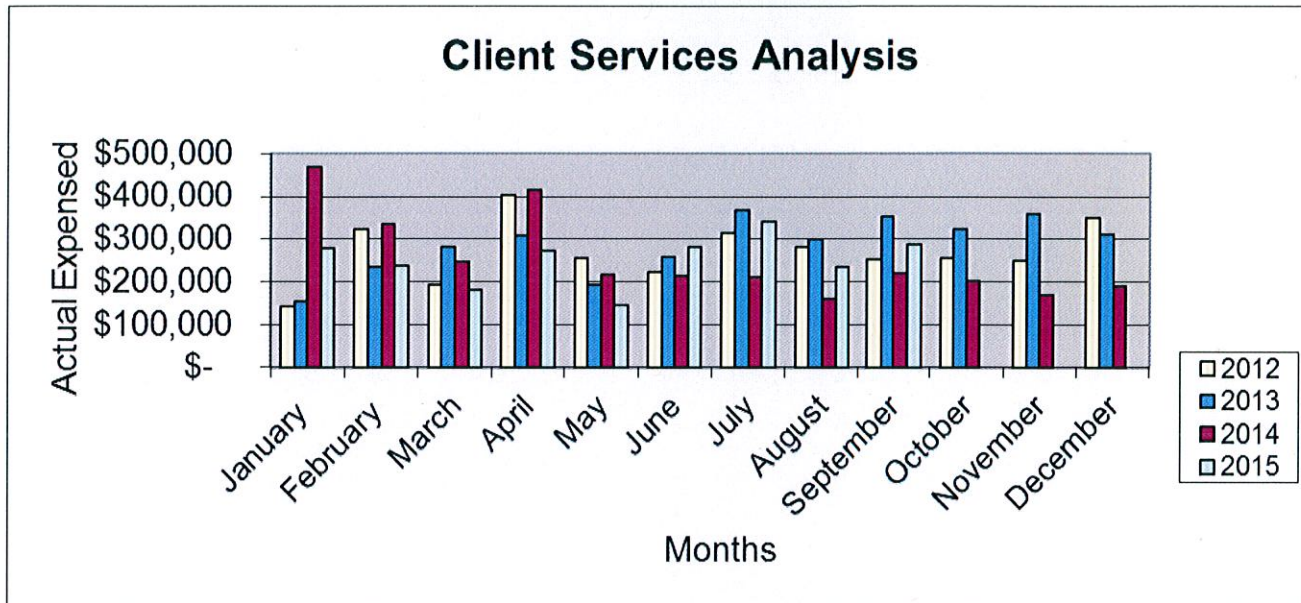
- Submitted: 2
- Positive: 1
- Neutral: 1

Finance Department

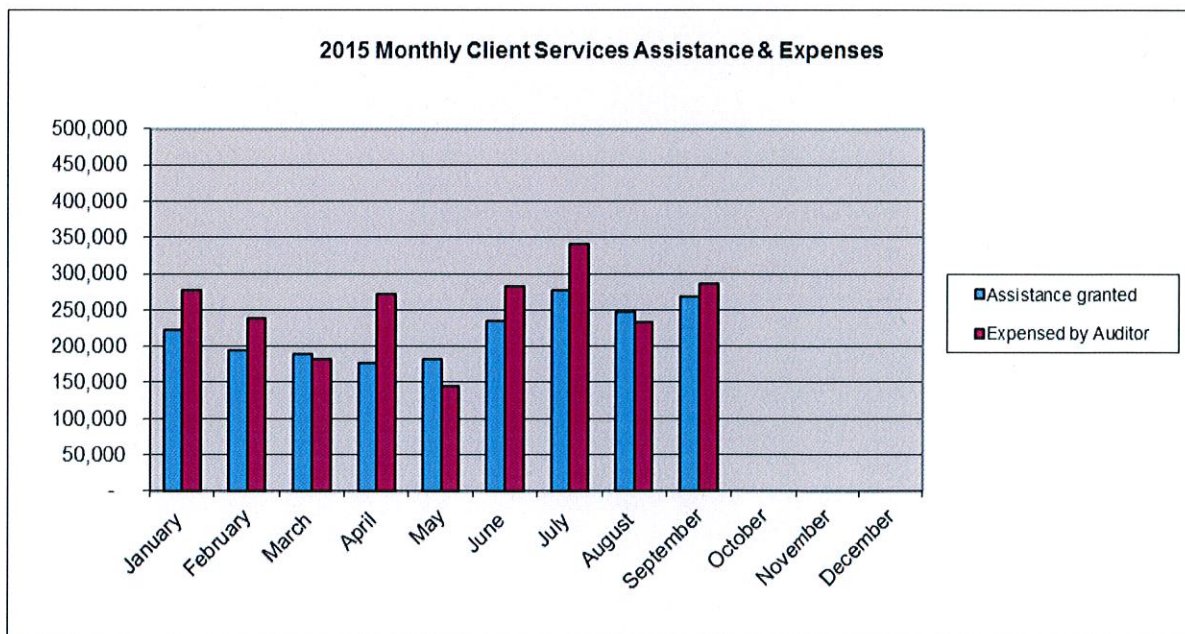
Below are selected September reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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 Budget	YTD Expenditure	YTD Encumbr	Remaining Expenditures	2015 Projection	Budget Variance
Salaries	1,859,336	1,333,459	-	457,217	1,790,676	68,660
Fringe Benefits	725,141	504,396	-	193,968	698,364	26,777
Commodities	33,250	23,579	-	7,871	31,450	1,800
Contract Services	428,610	222,304	204,847	206,306	428,610	-
Controlled Expenditures	205,879	(6,841)	-	212,720	205,879	-
Client Services	3,795,292	2,256,906	-	884,748	3,141,654	653,638
Other Expenditures	377,800	268,366	8,680	89,455	357,821	19,979
Capital Outlay	101,467	5,949	87,006	85,518	91,467	10,000
Total Expenditures	7,526,775	4,608,118	300,533	2,137,803	6,745,921	780,854

Assistance Department:

- September, 2015: \$286,487 (Up from \$217,948 in 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$2,256,908 (Down from \$2,482,367 in 2014)

The September Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	Sept. 2015	Sept. 2014	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	873	919	-5.0%
Applications taken	846	715	18.3%
Applications withdrawn	(45)	(13)	246.2%
Applications denied	(71)	(51)	39.2%
Applications approved	730	651	12.1%
Transportation only approvals	(541)	(500)	8.2%
F/A applications approved	189	151	25.2%

Indicator	YTD 2015	YTD 2014	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	6296	7225	-12.9%
Applications taken	6210	6377	-2.6%
Applications withdrawn	(427)	(169)	152.7%
Applications denied	(461)	(500)	-7.8%
Applications approved	5322	5708	-6.8%
Transportation only approvals	(4037)	(4064)	-.7%
F/A applications approved	1285	1644	-21.8%

- First Time Assistance
 - September 2015: 48 (Up from 30 in 2014)
 - 39 approved, 0 at Level III, 1 partial, 0 denied, 8 withdrawn
 - YTD 2015: 335 (Up from 328 in 2014)

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

Appeal Officer workdays	18
Cases on hand at beginning of month	1
Cases received	83
Cases worked	<u>83</u>
Cases on hand at end of month	1

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	47	254
Cases Denied	32	207
Cases Denied/withdrawn, no show	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	<u>4</u>	<u>41</u>
Total	83	502

<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>2015</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	6	62
Cases Denied	7	50
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>
Total	13	117

Medical and Other Transportation:

- September 2015: \$13,777.00 (YTD: \$116,459.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$13,722.00 (YTD: \$115,324.50)
- Other: \$55 (YTD: \$1,135)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- September 2015: \$1,254 (YTD: \$81,579)
 - Dental: \$1,254 (YTD: \$35,857)
 - Vision: \$0 (YTD: \$3,360)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$40,781)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- September 2015: \$6,932.00 (Up \$543.50 from September, 2014)
- YTD 2015: \$80,632.45
- 8 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 0
 - Marine: 1
 - Navy: 3
 - Army: 4

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

	Sept.	2015 YTD	Sept.	2014 YTD
DD-214 Search	90	861	82	924
Benefits Counseling	415	5444	669	7543
Undelivered-Incorrect Headstone/Research	3	87	24	109
Presidential Memorial Certificates	51	438	41	707
National Cemetery Referrals	47	352	36	497
Blue Star Service Banners	0	0	0	0
Indigent Burials	8	86	7	104

Veterans Service Officers:

	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Parma		
Compensation Claims	25	236
----- Follow Up	80	608
DIC Claims	0	6
----- Follow Up	1	5
Pension Claims	4	25
-----Follow Up	16	102
Medical	0	8
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	41	279
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	198	1638
All Other	<u>49</u>	<u>502</u>
Total	414	3409

- | |
|-----------------------|
| Interviews: |
| • 1,363 (YTD: 12,215) |
| FA Referrals: |
| • 32 (YTD: 261) |
| Total: |
| • 1,395 (YTD: 12,476) |
| Phone Calls: |
| • 3,616 (YTD: 26,912) |

	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Wade Park		
Compensation Claims	42	516
----- Follow Up	135	1618
DIC Claims	2	16
----- Follow Up	9	43
Pension Claims	26	155
-----Follow Up	135	678
Medical	1	28
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	51	428
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	407	3475
All Other	<u>168</u>	<u>1471</u>
Total	976	8428

Main Office	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Compensation Claims	88	924
----- Follow Up	310	3045
DIC Claims	2	35
----- Follow Up	17	97
Pension Claims	38	292
-----Follow Up	134	1274
Medical	14	67
Power of Atty. to Service Organizations	113	935
Misc. Applications/Correspondence	854	7763
All Other	<u>289</u>	<u>2923</u>
Total	1,859	17,355

Social Work

- September Total Signed In: 73 (YTD: 1190)
 - Seen: 49 (YTD: 1056)
 - Not Seen: 0 (YTD: 45)
 - Offline: 24 (YTD: 102)
 - New Veterans: 0 (YTD: 172)
- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 24 (YTD: 750)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 25 (YTD: 298)

Referrals

- Internal Referrals
 - FA: 13
 - VSO: 2
- Outside Agencies
 - VA Medical: 2
 - Employment
 - EC/ODJFS: 1
 - CEOGC: 0
 - Towards Employment (N4S): 1

Ohio Veterans Home Network:

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

There are currently 3 beds available in the nursing home and 0 in the domiciliary.

Network Changes

The new server for eVet Assists is up and running well.

PIV Cards

Complete with keyboard card readers for service officers.

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**