



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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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115



MINUTES

DATE: March 16, 2016 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

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

A motion was made by Dan Weist 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 Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to accept the report of the Executive Director as given. Under discussion, the Board requested that the new client budget income and expense sheet be manually filled out by the Eligibility Specialist/Benefits Coordinator and scanned into eVetAssist.

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

Asst. County Prosecutor joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The date for the new and reappointed county veteran service commissioner training, originally scheduled for June 15, 2016, has been changed to June 22, 2016 at American Legion Post #171, 393 East College Ave., Westerville, Ohio 43081 at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 27th, Mel Baher, fellow commissioners and several members of the CCVSC staff, attended the 91st Anniversary Installation and Awards luncheon at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio. Honored were the top NCO's of the Marine Corps and Army, along with Jim Quisenberry, who also received the 2015 Outstanding Veteran of the Year Award. The following note from Jim Quisenberry was received:

"Dear President Baher. I would like to thank you and the members of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission for attending the awards luncheon. Your presence and support meant a lot to me and also helped to make the event a special memory. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation."

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss a client and personnel issue.

AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:35 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:25 a.m.


Employee compensation was discussed in Executive Session and the Executive Director was given instructions on how to proceed.


A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to authorize Metro Health dental expenses for a veteran client in the amount of \$6,281.00, a 75% reduction in the original cost.

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

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

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


Mel Baher, President


Bob Potts, 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 (216-698-2655)
- Social Work Dept.: Terry Walker, 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, 2016

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

Mel Baher –President, American Legion

Frank Pucci –Vice President, AMVETS

Bob Potts – Secretary, VVA

Clayton E. Uzell - VFW

Daniel Weist –DAV

March 16, 2016

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of February 29, 2016:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Met with the Vanderhaven Group
- Attended Veterans Treatment Court
- Attended the Landlord Open House at VOA
- Met with Sandy Green
- Attended the NEOCH meeting
- Met with Linear Creative
- Met with Stephanie Allen from Channel 5
- Spoke to group of veterans at the City Mission
- Spoke with Sue Fuehrer
- Conference call with Daniel Eakins

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

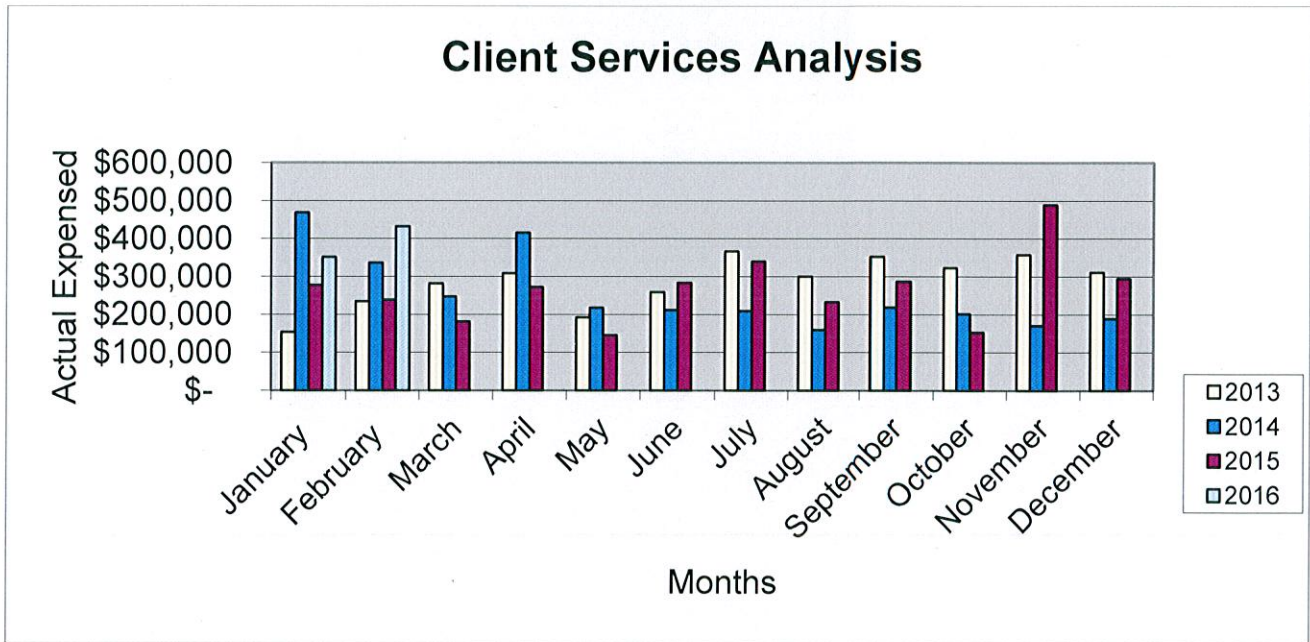
- Submitted: 13
- Positive: 13
- Negative: 0
- Neutral: 0

Finance Department

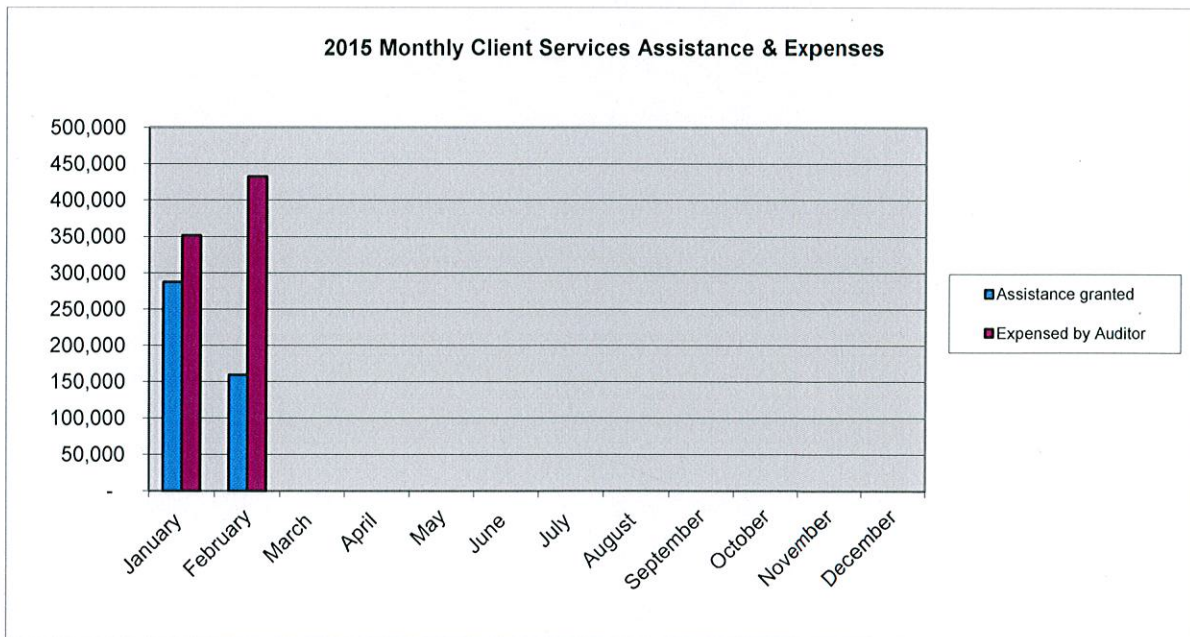
Below are selected February reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2015 Expenses



Total 2016 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2016	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
Salaries	1,837,426	257,650	-	1,491,011	1,748,661	88,765
Fringe Benefits	689,876	105,972	-	556,313	662,285	27,591
Commodities	30,776	2,949	-	18,644	21,593	9,183
Contract Services	386,765	40,957	120,371	345,808	386,765	-
Controlled Expenditures	225,081	-	-	225,081	225,081	-
Client Services	3,865,646	784,060	316,638	2,974,130	3,758,190	107,456
Other Expenditures	367,290	32,857	7,338	252,315	285,172	82,118
Capital Outlay	117,006	1,393	98,325	58,664	60,057	56,949
Total Expenditures	7,519,866	1,225,838	542,672	5,921,966	7,147,804	372,062

Assistance Department:

- February, 2016: \$159,604 (Down from \$194,999 in 2015)
- YTD 2016: \$447,054 (Up from \$416,998 in 2015)

The February Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	245	217	12.9%
Applications taken	230	214	7.5%
Applications withdrawn	(59)	(50)	18.0%
Applications denied	(44)	(43)	2.3%
Applications approved	127	121	5.0%

Indicator	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	793	505	57.0%
Applications taken	687	488	40.8%
Applications withdrawn	(101)	(104)	-2.9%
Applications denied	(119)	(103)	15.5%
Applications approved	467	281	66.2%

- First Time Assistance
 - February, 2016: 16 (Down from 26 in 2015)
 - 15 approved, 0 at Level III, 0 partial, 0 denied, 1 withdrawn
 - YTD 2016: 64 (Up from 60 in 2015)
- Withdrawn applications from January that were unresolved: 23 of 38

Listed below is a breakdown of appeals for the month of February, 2016.

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	20	49
Cases Partially Approved	1	5
Cases Denied	20	53
Cases Withdrawn	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
Total	45	116

<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>Feb.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	3	15
Cases Denied	5	17
Cases Partially Approved	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	1
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	8	33

Medical and Other Transportation:

- February, 2016: \$15,125.50 (YTD: \$29,853.00)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$14,940.50 (YTD: \$29,443.00)
- Other: \$185 (YTD: \$410)
- Transportation Approved: 539 applicants (YTD: 1,109)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- February, 2016: \$5,404 (YTD: \$13,196)
 - Dental: \$4,914 (YTD: \$6,455)
 - Vision: \$490 (YTD: \$900)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$5,841)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- February, 2016: \$7,361.00 (YTD: 14,354.00)
- 8 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 0
 - Marine: 1
 - Navy: 3
 - Army: 4

Service Department:

	Compensation	Pension	DIC	Follow-Up	Medical	POA	Miscellaneous Correspondence	DD214 Requests	Headstone	Presidential Memorial Certificates	National Cemetery Referrals	Other
Wade Park	51	5	1	330	23	61	323	46	0	0	0	93
Parma	44	5	1	129	7	47	240	19	0	0	0	36
Main Office	17	10	1	58	3	27	165	49	16	35	21	35
Federal Building	1	2	-	16	1	2	18	5	-	-	-	3
CRRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Benefits Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (Month)	113	22	3	533	34	137	746	119	16	35	21	167
Total (YTD)	254	54	9	1111	55	252	1609	243	26	88	46	391

Interviews:
 • 1,620 (YTD: 3,449)
 FA Referrals:
 • 39 (YTD: 70)
 Total:
 • 1,659 (YTD: 3,519)
 Phone Calls:
 • 2,976 (YTD: 6,684)

Social Work

- February, 2016: Total Signed In: 54 (YTD: 123)
 - Seen: 39 (YTD: 93)
 - Not Seen: 2 (YTD: 2)
 - Offline: 13 (YTD: 28)
 - New Veterans: 0 (YTD: 3)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 25 (YTD: 58)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 14 (YTD: 35)
- In February, no veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

Referrals

- VA Medical: 1
- Employment: 4
- Debt Counseling: 5
- Other: 12

Other

Federal Building computer installed and running, office opened on February 16, 2016.

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**