



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
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1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: April 20, 2016 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Frank Pocci, Vice President
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 Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell 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, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

STATE OF THE COMMISSION AND FINANCE REPORT (Attached)

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Employee interviews for the Dept. of Labor audit took place on Tuesday, April 12th & Friday, April 15th. Preliminary results will be presented to the Board as soon as they become available.

The 2017 final budget was distributed to Commissioners for their review. The item has been moved to the May 4, 2016 agenda for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Republican National Convention will take place in Cleveland from July 18-21, 2016. The Executive Director will approve vacation requests during that time and is currently working on a contingency plan to re-assign staff to other work locations.

A review of the Compensation and Exchange Time Policy has been set aside pending the results of the Dept. of Labor audit.

The Records Retention Policy was deferred to the May 16, 2016 public meeting in order to obtain further information.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Bob Potts noted that a federal court order was issued to the VA to reimburse veterans for past and current medical expenses that were incurred at non-VA medical centers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to go into Executive Session to discuss an employee issue.

AYES: Baher, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:55 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:27 a.m.

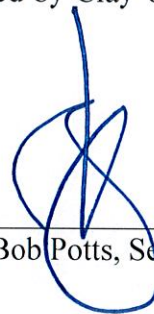
In Executive Session, the Executive Director provided the Board with an update on an employee health issue.

With no further business, a motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

AYES: Baher, 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

March, 2016

Issued by:

The CCVSC Commissioners

Mel Baher –President, American Legion

Frank Pocci –Vice President, AMVETS

Bob Potts – Secretary, VVA

Clayton E. Uzell - VFW

Daniel Weist –DAV

April 20, 2016

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

The following report summarizes the progress and state of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission as of March 31, 2016:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Attended Veterans Treatment Court
- Met with Mary Ellen Heaman – North Olmsted Council Member
- Met with Sandy Green and Tina Rice
- Attended OSACVSO Winter Quarterly meeting in Columbus
- Met with Chuck Calosina from the Akron Department of Aging
- Met with Jeff Harraman for ReadyNotify
- Attended a meeting at Ohio Means Jobs

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

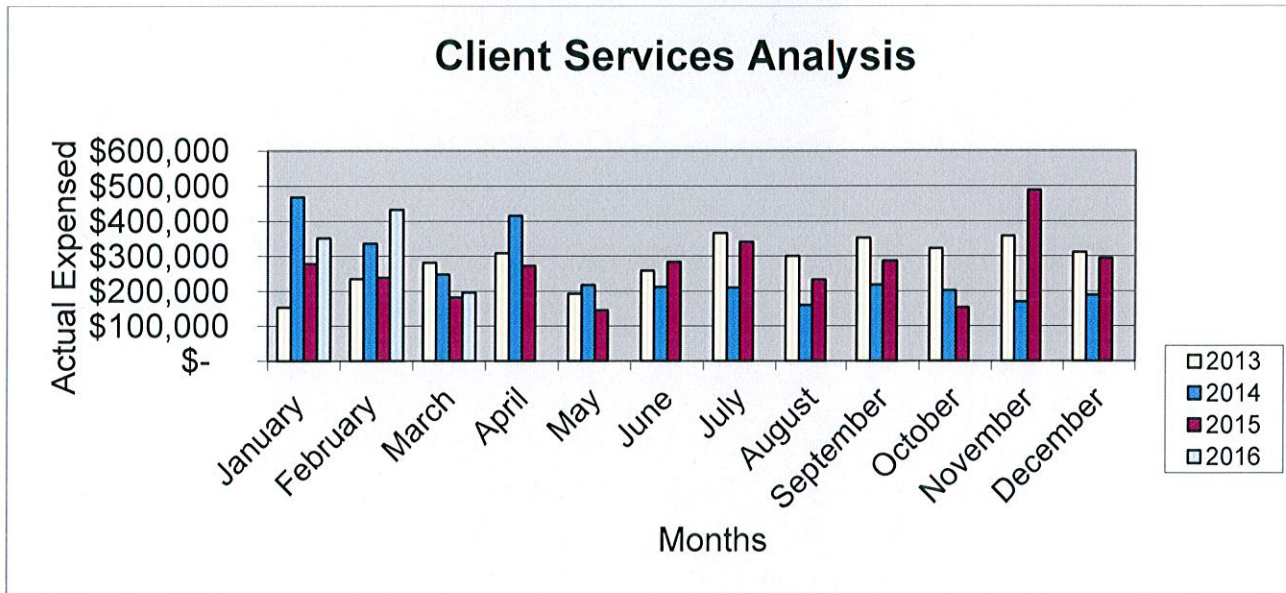
- Submitted: 21
- Positive: 21
- Negative: 0
- Neutral: 0

Finance Department

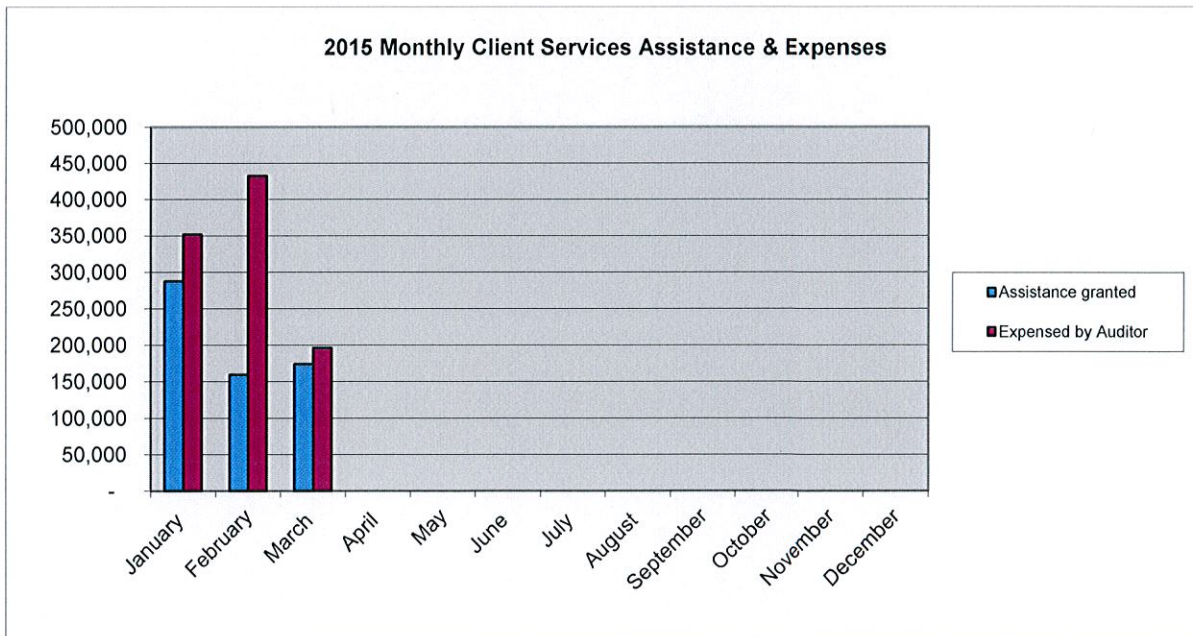
Below are selected March reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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	384,267	-	1,364,394	1,748,661	88,765
Fringe Benefits	689,876	157,930	-	504,355	662,285	27,591
Commodities	30,776	5,668	-	15,925	21,593	9,183
Contract Services	386,765	75,407	86,336	311,358	386,765	-
Controlled Expenditures	225,081	-	-	225,081	225,081	-
Client Services	3,865,646	980,164	316,638	2,676,717	3,656,881	208,765
Other Expenditures	367,290	77,772	5,654	207,400	285,172	82,118
Capital Outlay	117,006	10,755	88,963	49,302	60,057	56,949
Total Expenditures	7,519,866	1,691,963	497,591	5,354,532	7,046,495	473,371

Assistance Department:

- March, 2016: \$173,962 (Down from \$188,548 in 2015)
- YTD 2016: \$621,016 (Up from \$605,546 in 2015)

The March Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	March 2016	March 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	267	259	3.1%
Applications taken	242	254	-4.7%
Applications withdrawn	(41)	(41)	0.0%
Applications denied	(59)	(52)	13.5%
Applications approved	142	161	-11.8%

Indicator	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	1060	722	46.8%
Applications taken	929	742	25.2%
Applications withdrawn	(142)	(145)	-2.1%
Applications denied	(178)	(155)	14.8%
Applications approved	609	442	37.8%

- First Time Assistance
 - March, 2016: 29 (Down from 40 in 2015)
 - 24 approved, 0 at Level III, 0 partial, 2 denied, 3 withdrawn
 - YTD 2016: 93 (Down from 100 in 2015)
- Withdrawn applications from February that were unresolved: 21 of 42

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

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	March	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	19	68
Cases Partially Approved	3	8
Cases Denied	14	67
Cases Withdrawn	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>
Total	38	154

<u>Board Appeals</u>	March	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	4	19
Cases Denied	6	23
Cases Partially Approved	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	1	2
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	44

Medical and Other Transportation:

- March, 2016: \$14,521.50 (YTD: \$44,374.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$14,351.50 (YTD: \$43,794.50)
- Other: \$170 (YTD: \$580)
- Transportation Approved: 555 applicants (YTD: 1,664)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- March, 2016: \$895 (YTD: \$14,091)
 - Dental: \$0 (YTD: \$6,455)
 - Vision: \$895 (YTD: \$1,795)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$5,841)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- March, 2016: \$5,969.80 (YTD: \$20,323.80)
- 6 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 1
 - Marine: 0
 - Navy: 1
 - 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	54	12	1	338	14	64	357	72	3	0	0	88
Parma	52	12	0	87	9	49	117	27	0	0	0	25
Main Office	15	10	0	112	9	30	198	146	14	70	31	35
Federal Building	0	1	2	30	3	5	112	7	0	0	0	2
CRRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Benefits Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (Month)	121	35	3	567	35	148	784	252	17	70	31	150
Total (YTD)	375	89	12	1678	90	400	2393	495	43	158	77	541

Interviews:
 • 1,847 (YTD: 5,296)
 FA Referrals:
 • 39 (YTD: 109)
 Total:
 • 1,886 (YTD: 5,409)
 Phone Calls:
 • 3,149 (YTD: 12,754)

Social Work

- March, 2016: Total Signed In: 76 (YTD: 199)
 - Seen: 59 (YTD: 152)
 - Not Seen: 5 (YTD: 7)
 - Offline: 12 (YTD: 40)
 - New Veterans: 2 (YTD: 5)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 36 (YTD: 94)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 21 (YTD: 56)
- In March, no veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

Referrals

- VA Medical: 7
- Employment: 4
- Debt Counseling: 6
- Other: 14

Other

No IT or other updates to report.

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**