



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: vscmail@cuyahogacounty.us

1849 Prospect Avenue • Suite 150 • Cleveland, OH 44115

MINUTES

DATE: June 22, 2016 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: VFW Post 6676
590 N. Rocky River Drive
Berea, Ohio 44017

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

EXCUSED: Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: James Wallace, Bob Murphy, Jim Dombrose, Shirley Colbeck, Darlene Schaefer, Rickie Johnson, Jeff Myers, Sandra Uzell, John Slivka

PURPOSE: GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Mel Baher followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Baher thanked Commander Jim Wallace and members of VFW Post 6676 for hosting the evening meeting.

A motion was made by Dan Weist 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, Weist. 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

A revision to the current Time and Attendance Policy will be presented to the Board at the July 6, 2016 open public meeting for review and approval.

The Board requested that the Executive Director look into the VOIP Cisco phone system to see if there is a problem with line messages and drop off calls.

Discussion took place concerning an inconsistency in policy concerning mortgage payments and property taxes. The issue was tabled to the July 6, 2016 open public meeting for more discussion and input from the Asst. County Prosecutor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Clay Uzell and seconded by Bob Potts to accept Resolution 2016-17 providing for the purchase of a training agreement with the Red Cross Preparedness, Health & Safety Services for 29 employees, expenses not to exceed \$2,057.50.

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

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Clay Uzell attended the VFW State Convention at the Holiday Inn in Independence from June 8-12, 2016.

President Baher opened the floor to visitors for comments and/or questions. Discussion took place concerning wait time for VA claims, assistance for widows, and services provided by the CCVSC. Service Officer Luis Santiago addressed some concerns and was available after the meeting to talk further with some members of the audience regarding their individual claims.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no items for Executive Session.

With no further business, a motion was made by Frank Pocci and seconded by Bob Potts to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.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

May, 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

June 22, 2016

Submitted By: Jon Reiss – Executive Director

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

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Attended Veterans Treatment Court
- Met with Ray Ramero from Linear to discuss plans for re-branding
- Met with the United Way
- Met with Ray Wilson
- Met with LSS
- Met with Terry Hardigan regarding the County SAP system
- Met with Bob Segar from Money Saver
- Met with Barb Kraus from WVIZ
- Attended meeting about creating a Veterans Pod in Cuyahoga County Jail
- Met with UAW 1250
- Met with group providing construction training for Veterans
- Met with Mike Ellis from Ohio Means Jobs
- Recorded interview with the WAVE
- Attended the Homeless Summit in D.C.

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

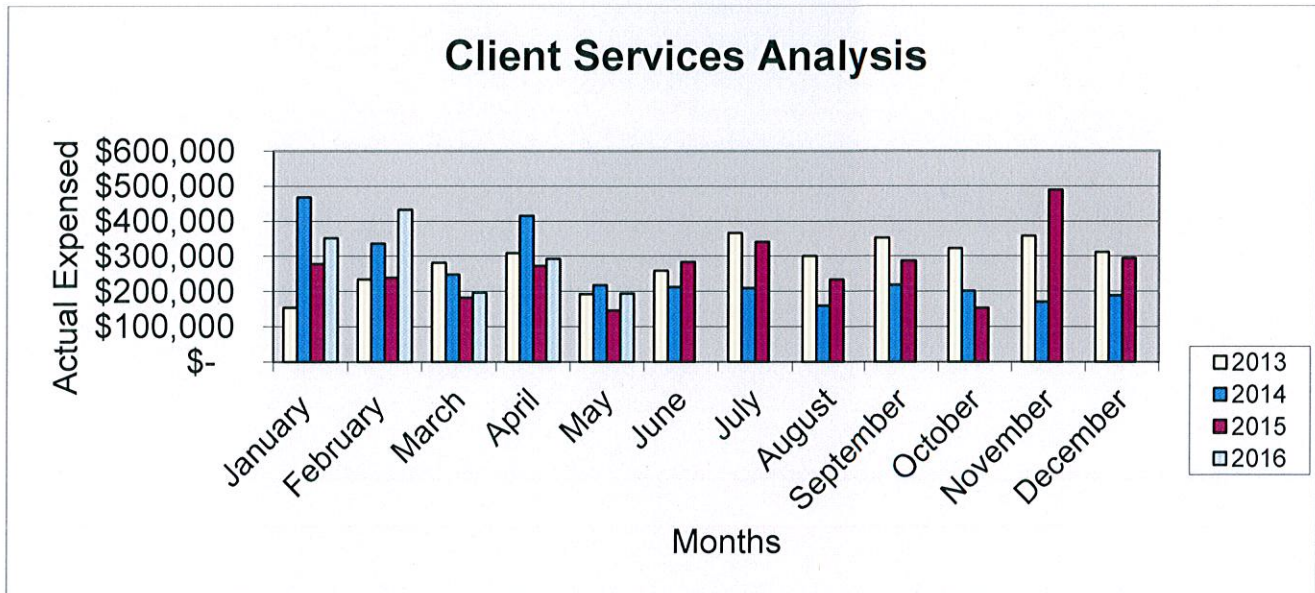
- Submitted: 31
- Positive: 31

Finance Department

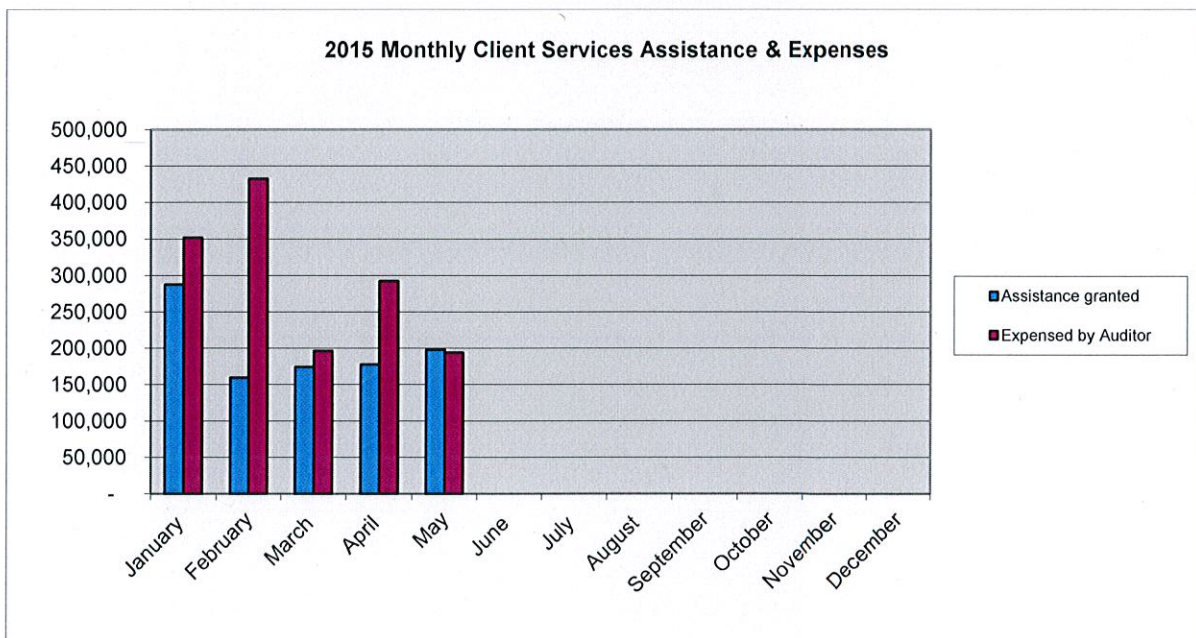
Below are selected May reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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	642,248	-	1,106,413	1,748,661	88,765
Fringe Benefits	689,876	265,285	-	397,000	662,285	27,591
Commodities	30,776	9,230	-	12,363	21,593	9,183
Contract Services	386,765	99,658	69,221	287,107	386,765	-
Controlled Expenditures	225,081	-	-	225,081	225,081	-
Client Services	3,865,646	1,466,506	316,638	2,081,891	3,548,397	317,249
Other Expenditures	367,290	142,363	3,279	142,809	285,172	82,118
Capital Outlay	117,006	10,755	88,963	49,302	60,057	56,949
Total Expenditures	7,519,866	2,636,045	478,101	4,301,966	6,938,011	581,855

Assistance Department:

- May, 2016: \$198,085 (Up from \$181,455 in 2015)
- YTD 2016: \$996,741 (Up from \$963,668 in 2015)

The May Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	May 2016	May 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	342	255	34.1
Applications taken	244	243	.4%
Applications withdrawn	(50)	(59)	-15.3%
Applications denied	(45)	(57)	-21.1%
Applications approved	149	127	17.3%

Indicator	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	1663	1256	32.4%
Applications taken	1401	1216	15.2%
Applications withdrawn	(227)	(251)	-9.6%
Applications denied	(276)	(251)	10.0%
Applications approved	898	714	25.8%

- First Time Assistance
 - May, 2016: 38 (Up from 35 in 2015)
 - 29 approved, 0 at Level III, 2 partial, 0 denied, 7 withdrawn
 - YTD 2016: 155 (Up from 151 in 2015)
- Withdrawn applications from April that were unresolved: 23 of 33

In May, **70.0%** of all applications for assistance were approved, at Level I, II, or III.

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

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>May 2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	12	99
Cases Partially Approved	2	15
Cases Denied	16	99
Cases Withdrawn	<u>1</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	31	228

<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>May 2016</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Cases Approved	6	33
Cases Denied	5	33
Cases Partially Approved	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	0	2
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	11	68

Medical and Other Transportation:

- May, 2016: \$13,031.50 (YTD: \$70,825.00)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$13,001.50 (YTD: \$70,160.00)
- Other: \$30 (YTD: \$665)
- Transportation Approved: 541 applicants (YTD: 2,755)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- May, 2016: \$1,769 (YTD: \$24,222)
 - Dental: \$1,354 (YTD: \$15,756)
 - Vision: \$415 (YTD: \$2,625)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$5,841)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- May, 2016: \$6,783.80 (YTD: \$36,737.60)
- 7 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 0
 - Marine: 1
 - Navy: 1
 - Army: 5

Service Department:

	Compensation	Pension	DIC	Follow-Up	Medical	POA	Miscellaneous Correspondence	DD214 Requests	Headstone	Presidential Memorial Certificates	National Cemetery Referrals	Other
Wade Park	55	6	2	350	13	59	353	78	2	0	0	169
Parma	45	4	0	164	10	48	77	30	0	0	0	182
Main Office	16	12	1	122	3	32	115	134	21	73	0	103
Federal Building	2	7	0	58	3	7	65	2	0	0	0	22
CRRC	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Mobile Benefits Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (Month)	118	29	3	694	29	146	612	245	23	73	0	476
Total (YTD)	493	118	15	1372	119	546	3005	740	66	231	77	1017

Interviews:
 • 1,810 (YTD: 9,089)
 FA Referrals:
 • 32 (YTD: 170)
 Total:
 • 1,842 (YTD: 9,263)
 Phone Calls:
 • 3,237 (YTD: 19,984)

Social Work

- May, 2016: Total Signed In: 83 (YTD: 368)
 - Seen: 67 (YTD: 288)
 - Not Seen: 4 (YTD: 16)
 - Offline: 12 (YTD: 64)
 - New Veterans: 0 (YTD: 6)
- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 36 (YTD: 175)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 31 (YTD: 113)
- In May, no veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

Referrals

- VA Medical: 0
- Employment: 3
- Debt Counseling: 11
- Other: 4
- Financial Workshop: 9
- Nutrition Workshop: 4

IT

- Received 9 #800 numbers for CCVSC
- Waiting on installment date for phone line in lobby for Captel phone
- Installed new printers VA Wade Park, and CBOC
- Signature pads installed at Wade Park VA

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**