



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: November 16, 2016 9:30 a.m.

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

EXCUSED: Jon Reiss, Executive Director
Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor

VISITORS: Steven Hawthorne
Diante Page

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 Clay Uzell 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:

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

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

Brian Gutkoski, Asst. County Prosecutor, joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-38 requesting the County Executive to set the compensation for the newly appointed or reappointed Veterans Service Commissioner representing the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) on the CCVSC Board, for a five-year term commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2021, as mandated in O.R.C. Title 5901.02. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-39 providing for the purchase of one (1) caravan SXT with power side doors, lift gate and stow away seats for the CCVSC, due to increase demand of usage for outreaches, administration and travel needs, vendor to be determined and expenses not to exceed \$30,000. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2016-40 providing for the purchase of three (3) full vehicle wraps and nine (9) window graphics for the CCVSC as part of enhancing the appearance of the three county vehicles and store front leased property. Competitive bids are being solicited and the vendor or multiple vendors are to be determined, and expenses are not to exceed \$16,400. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Clay Uzell to approve Resolution 2017-02 providing for the purchase of a maintenance agreement for the eVetAssist Veteran Software Program for the 2017 fiscal year, expenses not to exceed \$6,200. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:


Commissioner Uzell recently accompanied his grandson to the U.S. Navy Recruiting Station in Cleveland Heights to enlist. While there, he had an opportunity to meet Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Hawthorne, who was not familiar with the CCVSC. Mr. Uzell invited Mr. Hawthorne to attend today's meeting to learn of the services and benefits available to veterans. Mr. Hawthorne, accompanied by Petty Officer 3rd Class Diante Page, who was home on leave, were introduced and given brochures and benefits' books to take back to the recruiting station for active duty veterans.

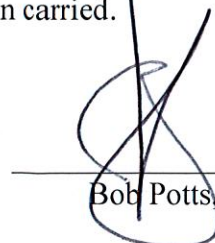
EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Dan Weist and seconded by Frank Pocci to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. AYES: Baher, Pocci, Potts, Uzell, Weist. NAYS: None. Motion carried. (10:22 a.m.)

The Board came out of Executive Session and returned to the regular order of business at 11:23 a.m. A personnel issue was discussed and no further action was taken.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bob Potts and seconded by Clay Uzell to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 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 Mgr. (216-698-2391)

Filing claims with the Dept. of

Veterans' Affairs/Memorial Affairs:

Melinda Halliburton, Service Office Mgr. (216-698-2639)

Social Work Dept.:

Terry Walker, Social Worker/Case Mgmt.) (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

October, 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

November 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 October 31, 2016:

Executive:

The Executive Director

- Met with Anson Hall from ESPN
- Guest speaker at St. Adalbert
- Attended meeting with JVCOCC
- Met with ABM parking
- Met with Linear Creative
- Met with Rick DeChant from Tri-C
- Met with Buck Bramlish from Franklin County VSC
- Met with Barb Karam from HUD/VASH
- Met with Mike Shafarenko from WVIZ Ideastream about Ken Burns series
- Met with Marion Gonzales from Bliss Healthcare
- Met with Sheila Locatelli from Women of Hope
- Attended Veterans Treatment Court

Customer Satisfaction Surveys

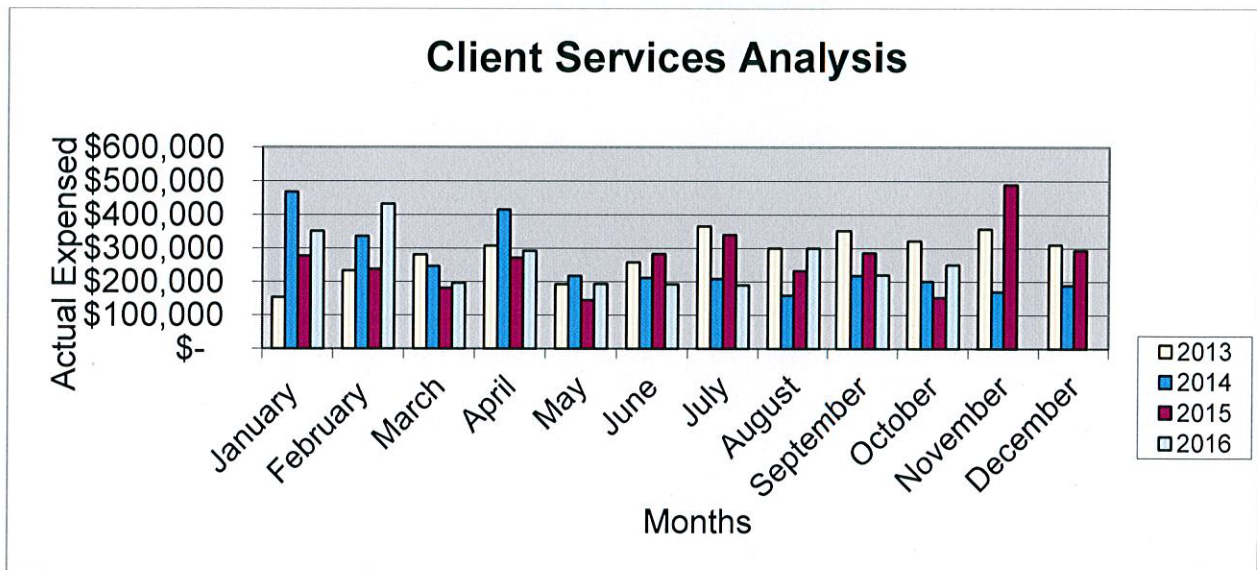
- Submitted: 45
- Positive: 43
- Negative: 2- One veteran felt that the Benefits Coordinator was not caring and made the veteran uncomfortable. One veteran was upset that after waiting almost two hours to be seen they were told that they were missing documents and would have to get a new number after retrieving the documents from his car.

Finance Department

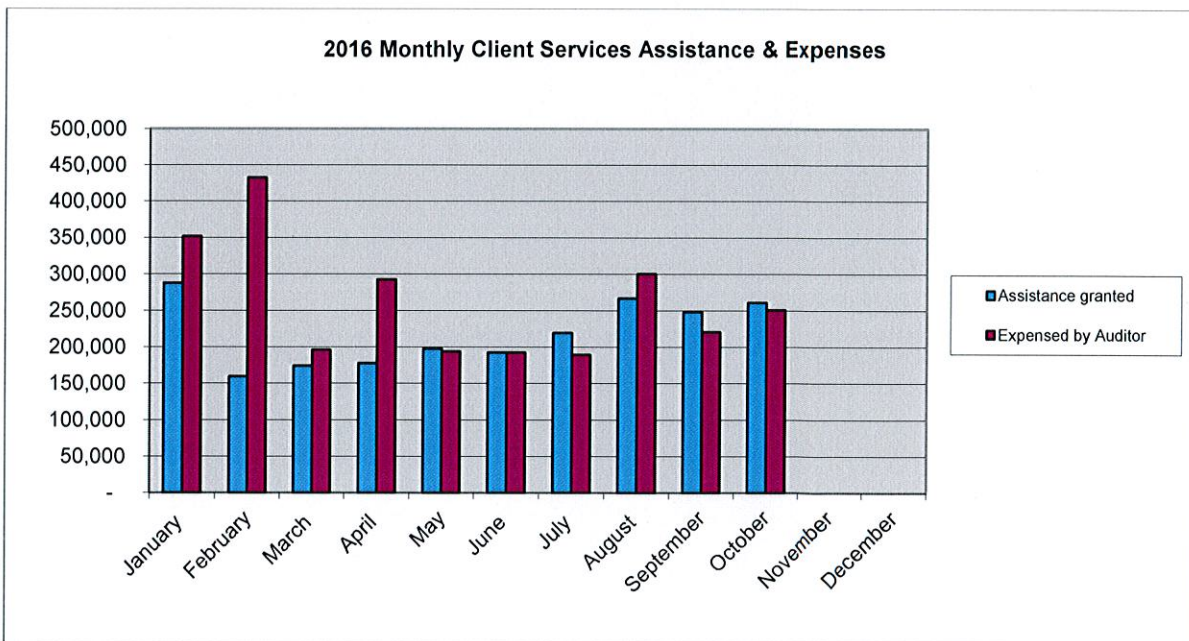
Below are selected October reports from the CCVSC Finance Department. The following charts/graphs depict the overall expenditures by area and type.

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

Comparative Chart Analysis



Actual 2016 Expenses



Total 2016 Expense Analysis

	Total	YTD	YTD	Remaining	2016	Budget
	Budget	Expenditure	Encumbr	Expenditures	Projection	Variance
Salaries	1,837,426	1,398,147	-	408,514	1,806,661	30,765
Fringe Benefits	689,876	555,714	-	106,571	662,285	27,591
Commodities	30,776	19,563	-	5,007	24,570	6,206
Contract Services	473,765	250,442	364	223,323	473,765	-
Controlled Expenditures	225,081	(2,452)	-	227,533	225,081	-
Client Services	3,778,646	2,620,648	-	640,826	3,261,474	517,172
Other Expenditures	367,290	293,613	3,279	58,559	352,172	15,118
Capital Outlay	117,006	36,800	3,962	38,257	75,057	41,949
Total Expenditures	7,519,866	5,172,475	7,605	1,708,590	6,881,065	638,801

Assistance Department:

- October, 2016: \$261,162 (Up from \$243,841 in 2015)
- YTD 2016: \$2,185,157 (Down from \$2,233,478 in 2015)

The October Financial Assistance Department activity report follows below.

Indicator	Oct. 2016	Oct. 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	389	350	11.1%
Applications taken	274	332	-17.5%
Applications withdrawn	(42)	(65)	-35.4%
Applications denied	(56)	(90)	-37.8%
Applications approved	176	177	-.6%

Indicator	YTD 2016	YTD 2015	% Change
Clients seeking assistance	3523	2609	35.0%
Applications taken	2703	2505	7.9%
Applications withdrawn	(439)	(492)	-10.8%
Applications denied	(523)	(551)	-5.1%
Applications approved	1741	1462	19.1%

- First Time Assistance
 - October, 2016: 37 (Down from 38 in 2015)
 - 31 approved, 0 at Level III, 1 partial, 1 denied, 4 withdrawn
 - YTD 2016: 274 (Down from 335 in 2015)
- Withdrawn applications from September that were unresolved: 24 of 44

In October, **74.4%** of all applications for assistance were approved, at Level I, II, or III.

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

<u>Appeal Officer Appeals</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	<u>2016</u>	
Cases Approved	18	216
Cases Partially Approved	3	33
Cases Denied	20	193
Cases Withdrawn	<u>1</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	42	461

<u>Board Appeals</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	<u>2016</u>	
Cases Approved	7	66
Cases Denied	5	53
Cases Partially Approved	0	0
Cases Withdrawn	0	0
Cases Verifying Fraud	1	3
Fraud Not Verified	0	0
Attempted Fraud	0	0
Fraud expunged	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	13	122

Medical and Other Transportation:

- October, 2016: \$14,541.50 (YTD: \$141,695.50)
- Medical Bus Tickets: \$14,371.50 (YTD: \$140,265.50)
- Other: \$170 (YTD: \$1,430)
- Transportation Approved: 545 applicants (YTD: 5,499)

Medical and Dental Programs:

- October, 2016: \$3,383 (YTD: \$58,006)
 - Dental: \$2,628 (YTD: \$48,130)
 - Vision: \$755 (YTD: \$4,035)
 - Hearing Aid: \$0 (YTD: \$5,841)

Memorial Affairs Department:

- October, 2016: \$7,817.00 (YTD: \$79,767.40)
- 8 Indigent burials
 - Air Force: 0
 - Marine: 2
 - Navy: 2
 - 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	68	8	3	361	12	65	388	65	1	2	-	166
Parma	41	6	-	64	3	37	24	21	-	1	-	148
Main Office	17	12	3	118	3	33	243	234	8	30	-	84
Federal Building	7	-	-	-	2	6	79	21	1	-	-	30
CRRC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Benefits Team	1	-	-	2	-	1	2	3	-	1	-	2
Total (Month)	134	26	6	545	20	142	736	344	10	34	-	430
Total (YTD)	927	220	25	3528	196	1079	5743	1870	140	452	77	2605

Interviews:
 • 1,991 (YTD: 18,273)
 FA Referrals:
 • 43 (YTD: 328)
 Total:
 • 2,034 (YTD: 18,601)
 Phone Calls:
 • 3,055 (YTD: 32,780)

Social Work

- October, 2016: Total Signed In: 91 (YTD: 743)
 - Seen: 70 (YTD: 583)
 - Not Seen: 10 (YTD: 50)
 - Offline: 11 (YTD: 110)
 - New Veterans: 0 (YTD: 9)

- Veterans Receiving Consultation: 28 (YTD: 307)
- Veterans receiving follow-up: 42 (YTD: 276)
- In September, 0 veterans were taken to the Ohio Veterans Home.

Referrals

- VA Medical: 0
- Employment: 1
- Debt Counseling: 2
- Other: 11
- Financial Workshop: 12 - 6 no-shows/late are included in the 'Not Seen' number
- Nutrition Workshop: 19 in 4 sessions – 2 no shows included in the 'Not Seen' number

Submitted by:

**Jon Reiss
Executive Director**