

Veterans Committee Minutes
June 5, 2012 – 3:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman M. Johnson; Supervisors Rowland, Kinowski, Lucia, Hargrave, Wright, Richardson and Southworth; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Andrew Davis, Frank McClement, Veterans Agency.

Chairman M. Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Rowland, seconded by Mr. Kinowski the minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Davis gave a brief update on Veterans', stating that roughly 45% of current war Veterans are seeking services from the VA compared to 21% during the Gulf War era and about 13% from WWII. Conditions have risen to an average of 14 conditions that Veterans are claiming as far as disabilities are concerned. In WWII the average Veteran claimed that two to four conditions were service connected.

It is unclear how much worse off these new veterans are than their predecessors. Many factors are driving the dramatic increase in claims, the weak economy, more troops surviving wounds, and more awareness of problems such as concussions and PTSD. Almost one third have been granted disability so far.

Mr. Kinowski said they have down sized clinics throughout the military and so the soldiers that were seen during their service period and even after going to bases that had clinics there, were drastically reduced.

Mr. Davis said the good news is that more Veterans are interfacing with the system which means they are more easily tracked.

Mr. Davis gave a brief overview of the Non Service Connected Pension that is provided through his office. He said all people in Maplewood Manor or assisted living facilities across the county receive this benefit. This is why referrals from Social Services and senior aide agencies are so important. This benefit exists for people who are under 65 and too disabled to work or over 65 regardless of their condition and who are in need of monetary compensation to care for them. Veterans who were discharged in any other condition, but dishonorable, are eligible for this benefit as long as they served just one day during a period of war, he said.

Mr. Davis said the Dependency Indemnity Compensation is a benefit if a Veteran that you are married to dies of a service connected condition, the spouse is eligible for a lifetime payment every month for the rest of their life. He said of the \$54 million that comes into the county in Federal money, roughly 2/3 of that is connected to non-service connected pensions.

Mr. Davis said he has been in contact with Mr. Nevins with regard to the War Horse Program and has learned that they are currently in transition moving the farm. Mr. Nevins as indicated he would be interested in making a presentation to the Veterans Committee, which has temporarily been put on hold.

Mrs. Johnson set a date for the next subcommittee meeting for June 19th at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Committee Room.

On a motion made by Mr. Hargrave, seconded by Mr. Richardson the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom