



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1536 hrs on July 19, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vikki Palmer

Commissioner James Marren Present via teleconference

Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Present via teleconference

Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present

Assistant Director Michael Mortensen Absent

Minutes:

Junes' minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous months' claims. Year-end expenditures at 88% for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Palmer to approve the claims of June 2022.

VOTE YEA: Palmer, Marren

Exception Report:

Pat discussed fifty-one total exceptions for the month of June- thirty-two shelter, eight utility, and eleven food assistance vouchers. The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Palmer to approve the exceptions for June 2022

VOTE YEA: Marren, Palmer

Commissioner Kolleen Dahl present at 1540hrs

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat discussed the total Veteran ridership for this fiscal year of 112,908 rides provided by DART this is an increase from the previous fiscal year of 106,156. The necessity of DART identification cards continue to increase, several other approved VA ID cards are utilized to ride the DART bus.

Fourth quarter activity report reflects an increase to all services; total clients seen from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 increased by 1000 clients. Federal claims also increased for that period by 269 claims filed. Benefits awarded to our county residents continues to make Veterans and their families more self-sufficient creating a decrease in financial assistance requested.

Governor Reynolds appointed Matt Peterson as the Commandant of the Iowa Veteran Home in July of 2021, most recent changes within in his position he will also oversee the Iowa Dept of Veteran Affairs as the Director and the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. Commandant Peterson has been making necessary changes to best assist the Veterans of each county. Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs will no longer be assisting with federal benefits referring them to their specific county office.

The Iowa State Fair shuttles provided by DART will have three advertisement campaigns running the entirety of the fair for our office; allocation funds will be utilized for our advertising.

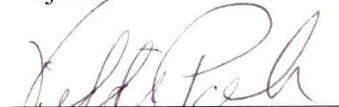
Pat would like to thank the staff, commissioners and board of supervisors for their continued support.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Executive Director Pat Sweeney reported 24 Veterans incarcerated in June. The decrease in total Veterans incarcerated reflects the period of program changes within the Sheriff's office. Assistant Director Michael Mortensen will be meeting with the jail administrative staff to ensure the reports received have the necessary information for us to assist while incarcerated.

Augusts' meeting will be held on August 16, 2022 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment


Vikki Palmer, Chairperson