



Veteran Affairs

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The Polk County Veteran Affairs Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 1532 hrs on April 18, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vikki Palmer, James Marren
Commissioner Marty Smith present via teleconference
Assistant County Attorney Mark Taylor Present
Executive Director Pat Sweeney Present
Deputy Director Michael Mortensen Present

Minutes:

March's minutes approved no objections.

Claims:

Pat discussed the previous months' claims. 77.08% expended for this fiscal year. Currently projected to end fiscal year with 92% expended.

Moved by Smith, seconded by Palmer to approve the claims of March 2023

VOTE YEA: Palmer, Smith, Marren

Exception Report:

Pat discussed 51 exceptions above the allowable guidelines for the month of March 2023. The exception report is within guideline and ratified.

Moved by Marren, seconded by Smith to approve the exceptions for March 2023

VOTE YEA: Palmer, Smith, Marren

Executive Directors' Report:

Pat discussed the DART ridership totals continues to increase. Polk County Veteran Affairs and DART began a partnership allowing Veterans to ride the DART bus free in Polk County. DART identification cards are created in our office if a Veteran does not have a hospital ID or Veterans' status on their drivers' license.

Third quarter activity report was submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Notable increase to client contacts of 600 additional Veterans assisted compared to third quarter of the previous fiscal year. Federal claims also increased by 146 claims filed.

Our monthly Veterans' mobile food pantry continues to provide assistance with food insecurities in the Veterans community. Over that past 36 months of our partnership with the Food Bank of Iowa, Polk County Veteran Affairs has distributed 266,719 meals totaling a monetary food value of \$342,252.05. Deputy Director Michael Mortensen stated nineteen additional counties are now providing food pantries due to our success. Michael agrees with the Polk County motto "Leading the Way."

Office appointment schedule is currently under revision, looking at optimal efficiency by reconfiguring operations. All appointments will now go through the main office rather than contacting the assigned CVSO directly. All CVSOs attended Spring School and continuing education units have been received to maintain accreditation. Commissioner Marren shared

his desire to attend another schooling for Commissioners. Michael stated he will register the commissioners for Fall School.

Incarcerated Veterans Report:

Deputy Director Michael Mortensen discussed 37 total incarcerated Veterans in March. Nineteen of those are repeat offenders. Michael is maintaining an open line of communication with the Veterans Justice Outreach coordinator.

Mays' meeting scheduled for May 16, 2023 at 1530 hrs.

Adjournment

Vikki Palmer, Chair
Vikki Palmer, Chairperson