



**Meeting Minutes of the
Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
February 14, 2024, at 10:00 AM**

I. Call to Order

President Jerry Hays called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. at 627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard, 4th Floor, East Medical Plaza, Dayton, Ohio 45417.

II. Roll Call

Bryan Suddith called the roll.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
John Theobald, Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
James Dare, Commissioner	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		

Staff members present:

- Kim Frisco, Director
- Steven Strain, Veterans Legal Counsel
- Bryan Suddith, Deputy Director
- Nathaniel Peterson, Assistant County Prosecutor
- Stacy Schulte, Clerical Support Specialist

Guests: Fred Rojas

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Commission President Jerry Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Commission observed a moment of silence.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Theobald moved to approve the January 10, 2024, minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Fried.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
John Theobald, Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
James Dare, Commissioner	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		

Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

V. Public Comments

Mr. Rojas reminded the commission that all Veterans and their families are invited to their monthly breakfast located at Archer's Tavern in Kettering on February 24.

VI. Old Business

a) Pending Litigation

Commissioner Theobald moved to enter executive session for purposes outlined in ORC 121.22 G (3), to discuss pending litigation. Commissioner Dare seconded the motion.

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
John Theobald, Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
James Dare, Commissioner	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

Commission entered executive session at 10:03 a.m.

Commission exited executive session at 10:19 a.m.

b) Consideration of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for period January 1 – 31, 2024.

Commissioner Theobald moved to approve, and Commissioner Fried seconded the motion.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
John Theobald, Vice President	X		
William Fried, Secretary	X		
James Dare, Commissioner	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		

President Hayes declared the motion approved. 5-0

- c) RTA Customer Service Survey
 - a. Kim Frisco and Bryan Suddith presented the survey completed by the Transportation team to the Commission. 20 Veterans were polled, and the results averaged 7.95 out of 10 in customer satisfaction. The survey only included veterans who used the RTA Paratransit program.

VII. New Business

- a) Commissioners agreed to move the regular April meeting to April 17, 2024, from the 10th. 10:00 a.m. at the MCVSC office to accommodate two commissioners who will be out of town, motion moved by Commissioner Fried and seconded by commissioner Theobald.

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jerry Hays, President	X		
William Fried, Vice President	X		
James Dare, Secretary	X		
Michael Howley, Commissioner	X		
John Theobald, Commissioner	X		

President Hays declared the motion approved. 5-0

- b) Deputy Director Bryan Suddith proposed exploring the idea of a Community Health Worker with access to the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) HUB Pathways network. This position will help Veterans navigate and follow through with required steps in the service/financial assistance process. The idea was endorsed by Commissioner Theobald as this could expand the reach of the Veteran Service Officers. The commission agreed to proceed with the exploration.

VIII. Management Report

Executive Director Kimberly Frisco presented reports from Staff.

- Performance Reviews are in progress.
- The MCVSC Annual Meeting “Aging in Place” Seminar is scheduled for May 21, 2024, at Sinclair Community College.
- The next Commissioner’s meeting will be March 20, 2024.
- March 12 – 14th is the scheduled dates that the Collective Bargaining negotiations will begin.

Bryan Suddith presented the Budget, Outreach, and Transportation reports.

- Presented the Budget and Transportation report.
- Explained the renovations that will take place in the employee kitchen.
- Updated the commissioners of the upcoming training travel plans of the staff.

Steven Strain presented the legal report.

- Presented his written report.
- Discussed that he has seen an uptick in Veteran's seeking assistance with Discharge/Character of service upgrades.
- Greene County Legal Clinic Day will be June 7, 2024.

Commissioner Fried commented that he recently saw and approves of the television commercial regarding the Mentor program. He also suggested that an Employee Recognition for good deeds/work be considered as an addition to the new e-newsletter. Commissioner Theobald added that some of these stories be captured on video.

IX. Commissioners' Reports

1. Commissioner Hays – No report

2. Commissioner Theobald – No report

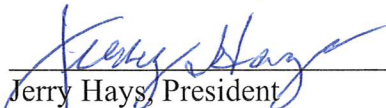
3. Commissioner Fried – VVA will be accepting applications for the Award Scholarship.

4. Commissioner Dare – The American Legion will be holding interviews for the Buckeye Boys State training at Miami University.

5. Commissioner Howley – Kettering VFW post will be providing meals for homebound Veteran's this Easter.

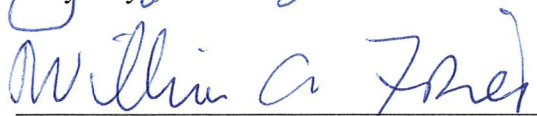
X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.




Jerry Hays, President

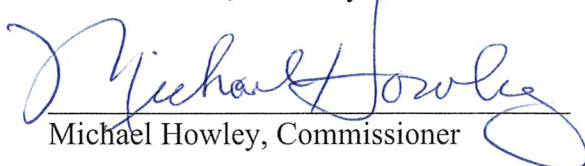
John Theobald, Vice President



William Fried, Secretary



James Dare, Commissioner



Michael Howley, Commissioner



**Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
Soldier and Sailors Report
February 2024**

1. Data Statistics

a. Financial Assistance:

i. January 2024

1. Approved: 26/\$27,143.30
2. Shelter: 16/\$13,805.00
3. Utilities: 18/\$3,685.07
4. Disapprovals: 8
 - a. Incomplete – 5 (Partial assistance provided to 2)
 - b. Other Agency Assistance – 1
 - c. Ineligible – 1
 - d. No attempt to improve conditions - 1

ii. December 2023

1. Approved: 31/\$34,366.76
2. Shelter: 19/\$19,774.33
3. Utilities: 27/\$4,413.94
4. Disapprovals: 7
 - a. Incomplete – 4 (Partial assistance provided to 2)
 - b. No emergency – 3 (Partial assistance provided to 1)

iii. November 2023

1. Approved: 28/\$29,111.46
2. Shelter: 11/\$13,755.73
3. Utilities: 19/\$3,278.73
4. Disapprovals: 9
 - a. Incomplete - 4
 - b. No emergency – 2

- c. Assistance by another agency - 1
 - d. Partial approval – 2
 - b. Dental: 0/\$0
 - i. 2024 YTD: \$0
 - c. Emergency Repair (Assistance): 3/\$2,403.21
 - i. 2024 YTD: \$2,403.21
 - d. COVID: 0/\$0
 - i. 2024 YTD: 0/\$0
 - e. Indigent Burial: 2/\$2,000
 - i. 2024: YTD: \$2,000
 - f. Kroger Voucher Update: 105 Vouchers/\$5,250 (20 Veterans)
 - i. 2024 YTD: 105 Vouchers/\$5,250 (20 Veterans)
- 2. VSO Service Appointments/Information (in-person/phone) – 267 **(2024 YTD: 267)**
- 3. VSO Financial Appointments/Information (in-person/phone) – 65 **(2024 YTD: 65)**

Transportation Program 2023 Year End Review

Program Coordinator: Loren Scott

Program Assistant: Stacy Schulte

Objectives

The Transportation Program was established to fulfill Ohio Revised Code 5901.03(H), the Montgomery County Veterans Services Transportation program is to provide regularly scheduled transportation for veterans to and from Veterans administration medical appointments, or other such medical appointments as are necessary for the Veterans care, through contractual agreements or through other arrangements determined to be the most cost effective.

Key Accomplishments in 2023

- Completed draft of Transportation program policies & procedures.
- Provided transportation to 2,601 medical appointments.
- 58% (1502) of all appointments assisted were to the Dayton VA.
- 27 disabled Veterans received Life-time Paratransit accounts through our Transportation Program, increasing their independence and access to essential services.
- Created partnership with Catholic Social Services to refer clients to their Volunteer Driver Program for cross-county medical appointments.

Key Insights from 2023

- 173 Montgomery County Veterans received Transportation assistance.
- 43% of all Transportation clients have met with a MCVSC Service Officer for VA benefits counseling.
- 14% of all Transportation clients have received Legal assistance from Steven Strain.
- Tri-weekly dialysis treatment is the most common assisted appointment.

Transportation Program 2023 Year End Review

Issues

- Veterans needing transportation assistance to out of county C&P exams on short notice.
- Veterans cancel Colonoscopy appointments due to lack of signed release transportation.

Open Items

- 2023 RTA Client Survey

Future Goals

- Increase Transportation client use of other MCVSC services.
 - 50% for benefits assistance with Service Officers
 - 25% for legal assistance with Steven Strain
- Increase awareness of available Transportation services through community outreach, social media, and in-office education.



Legal Services
January 2024

New Client Appointments.....67
YTD Monthly Average.....67

Practice Areas

Housing Defense.....9
Civil/Family.....18
Estate Planning.....21
Miscellaneous Legal Advice.....16
Discharge/Character of Service Upgrades.....3

Service By County

Montgomery.....48
Greene.....2
Clark.....4
Miami.....3
Butler.....3
Hamilton.....1
Darke.....1
Crawford.....1
Allen.....1

Champaign.....1
Highland.....2
Total Counties Served.....35

2023 Total

Consultations.....747 (62/Month)
Cases.....11
Legal Fees Saved.....\$355,050
Pending Litigation.....2

2022 Total

Consultations.....705 (58/Month)
Cases.....4
Legal Fees Saved.....\$198,800

2021 Total

Consultations.....377 (41/Month)
Cases.....17
Legal Fees Saved.....\$99,300

Mentors

Program Participants.....36

Absconder.....12

Active Mentors.....16

Mentor Leads.....4