



Meeting Minutes of the Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission March 12, 2025, 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

Stacy Schulte 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:

- Bryan Suddith, Deputy Director
- Stacy Schulte, Clerical Support Specialist

Guests present:

- Kevin Keller, Commander of AMVETS Post 24
- Cheryl Habel, Mission BBQ
- Fred Rojas, Commander – VFW Post 9550

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a.) Commissioner Fried moved to approve February 12, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Theobald.

<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 4-0.

V. Public Comments

- Cheryl Habel - Mission BBQ, 2500 Miamisburg Centerville Rd., will be honoring Vietnam Veterans with a FREE sandwich on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29.
- Kevin Keller, AMVETS Post 24, stated that he is in attendance today as an observer.
- Fred Rojas, Commander – VFW Post 9550, announced the VFW National Convention will be held in Columbus Ohio August 9th through the 14th. He invited Montgomery County Veteran Service Commission to come and set up a table. Mr. Rojas stated that the MCVSC Meeting minutes are hard to find on the website and suggests that they are made more easily accessible. Mr. Rojas also stated that he read in past meeting minutes that removing Veteran Service Officers (VSO) from the Dayton VA was discussed. He expressed concern that this action could potentially limit resources available to veterans and he is against the idea. A discussion was had about the random office hours and that it was difficult to reach the VSO's at the VA. Deputy Director Suddith responded that MCVSC VSO's are accredited by the Ohio Department of Veteran Services and they travel to the VA weekly and will go into hospital rooms to see veterans who are in-patient to assist with their claims. Mr. Rojas asked the Commission how the Montgomery County Veteran of the Year award was determined. Mr. Suddith and President Hay responded that MCVSC does not play a role in that process.
- Commissioner Fried addressed the guests present and explained that the VVA in conjunction with the American Legion will award (6) \$1,000 scholarships to high school students. Information that he would like to make available to them.

VI. Old Business

- a.) Consideration of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the period of February 1 - 28, 2025. Commissioner Theobald moved to approve, and Commissioner Dare seconded the motion.

Discussion: After reviewing the denial list, Mr. Howley asked if guidelines are available to help the VSO's and management determine a financial emergency. Deputy Director

Suddith explained that there are guidelines, and each case is looked at individually. President Hays pointed out that all policies and procedures are reviewed and approved by the Commission. They could be reviewed again if requested.

<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		

The motion was approved. 5-0

VII. New Business

a.) Annual Report

The Annual Report was not ready in time for today's meeting.

b.) Personnel Matter

Commissioner Howley moved to enter executive session for purposes outlined in R.C. 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment and compensation of public employees. The motion was 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		

The motion to enter executive session was approved. 5-0

Commission entered executive session at 10:36 a.m.

Commission exited executive session at 10:49 a.m.

No action was deemed necessary as a result of the executive session.

VIII. Management Report

a.) Deputy Director Suddith presented the Staff, Budget, Outreach, Productivity and Transportation reports

- Please see the attached reports.
- Explained a situation in which Courtney, our Community Health Worker has been working for several weeks to place a veteran's widow into safe housing.
- Capital improvements – will need to purchase two new laptops for staff as we will now have 15 workstations.
- Ashley Rehbein will start on March 17 as the new Mentor Coordinator / Outreach Coordinator. She will begin to expand our outreach programs and recruit mentors for our Veterans Treatment Court.
- We are looking forward to our official library event, in which we will be hosting events throughout the county on various days during the month of May. We will be running newspaper ads and Kim will be on Living Dayton to promote this event.
- An updated staff directory was provided to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Theobald requested that management look into updating www.mcvsc.org to create a better mobile website experience.

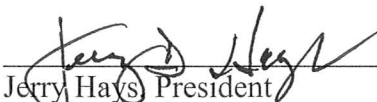
IX. Commissioner's Reports

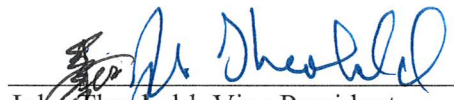
- Commissioner Hays (DAV) –
 - DAV meets tonight (3/12/25) at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion in Kettering.
 - Attendance has been up and down.
- Commissioner Theobald (AMVETS) –
 - His post is growing! 30% are transfers.
 - The level of organization in the face of the challenges they have experienced is remarkable. People are stepping up to serve.
 - He asks that the Commissioners be made aware when the next Mental Health First Aid training will be held.
- Commissioner Fried (VVA)-
 - He is the chairman of the Scholarship Committee. He has emailed out the info to the commissioners – asked that they disperse to their posts. They will mail out to 42 high schools and 6 trade centers.
 - Veterans Breakfast at Longhorn Steakhouse, 6418 Miller Lane on 4/5/2025 at 9:00 a.m.


- Their post meets the third Thursday of the month, 3/20/25 at 6:00 p.m.
 - On April 17th they will elect officers.
 - On May 15th they will have the awards banquet.
 - He is donating a brick in honor of MCVSC.
 - Mr. Fried is excited to welcome Ashley as our Mentor/Outreach Coordinator.
- Commissioner Dare (American Legion) –
 - Last month Mr. Dare completed the “Be the One” suicide prevention training for veterans. It was very valuable training.
 - The American Legion sponsors these FREE training sessions, and he will provide more information when more training becomes available.
 - For the last two weeks he has been working on Buckeye Boys State, going to high schools and interviewing candidates. He is very impressed with the boys he has met with so far. Buckeye Boys State will be held at Miami University in Oxford June 8th through the 14th.
 - The last post meeting was held on 3/10/2025 and new veterans were voted into leadership roles.
 - Commissioner Howley (Kettering VFW) –
 - VFW attendance is the same, but attendance at events is up.
 - He is working to be more involved at his post.

X. Adjournment

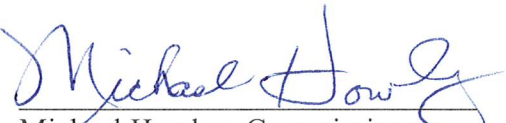
The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.


Jerry Hays, President


John Theobald, Vice President


William Fried, Secretary


James Dare, Commissioner


Michael Howley, Commissioner



MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
March 12, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance Followed by a Moment of Silence
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. February 12, 2025
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Consider Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance Report for the Period of February 1 - 28, 2025
- VII. New Business
 - a. Annual Report
 - b. Personnel Matter
- VIII. Management Report
- IX. Commissioners' Reports
- X. Adjournment

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION**



627 Edwin C. Moses Boulevard
4th Floor, East Medical Plaza
Dayton, Ohio 45417
Phone: 937-225-4801
Fax: 937-225-4854
www.mcvsc.org

**Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission
Soldier and Sailors Report
March 2025**

1. Data Statistics

a. Financial Assistance:

i. February 2025

1. Approved: 36/\$43,749.26
2. Shelter: 18/\$23,262.65
3. Utilities: 29/\$7,483.36
4. Disapprovals: 9
 - a. No emergency – 2
 - b. Excessive spending – 1
 - c. Partial Approval – 3
 - d. Incomplete – 3

ii. January 2025

1. Approved: 14/\$16,968.51
2. Shelter: 5/\$7,908.85
3. Utilities: 5/\$3,879.66
4. Disapprovals: 6
 - a. No emergency – 1
 - b. Not eligible – 1
 - c. Incomplete – 4

iii. December 2024

1. Approved: 34/\$37,249.91
2. Shelter: 16/\$17,036.08
3. Utilities: 32/\$7,624.42
4. Disapprovals: 10
 - a. No emergency – 2
 - b. Not for sustainment – 1
 - c. Incomplete – 7

b. Approvals YTD: 50/\$60,747.77

- i. Shelter YTD: 23/\$31,171.50
- ii. Utilities YTD: 34/\$11,363.02
- iii. Dental: 1/\$435
 - 1. YTD: 1/\$435
- iv. Emergency Repair (Assistance): 4/\$3,738.25
 - 1. YTD: 4/\$3,738.25
- v. COVID: 0/\$0
 - 1. YTD: 0/\$0
- vi. Indigent Burial: 1/\$1,000
 - 1. YTD: 3/\$3,000
- vii. Kroger Voucher Update: 164/\$8,200 (30 Veterans)
 - 1. YTD: 218/\$10,900 (40 Veterans)



Case Management Productivity Report

Case Management

- Clients Referred to Case Management: 81
 - Reviewing financial applications: 61
 - 2024: 20
 - January 2025: 14
 - February 2025: 27
 - Staff referrals: 20
 - 2024: 5
 - January 2025: 9
 - February 2025: 6
- Initial Contact: 81
 - Letters: 64
 - 2024: 19
 - January 2025: 12
 - February 2025: 33
 - Phone: 13
 - 2024: 4
 - January 2025: 7
 - February 2025: 2
 - In-person: 4
 - 2024: 2
 - January 2025: 2
 - February 2025: 0
- Outcome: 81
 - Letters mailed, will follow up w/ call: 30
 - Declined services: 3
 - Inactive phone/voicemail: 6
 - Left voicemails: 8
 - Interested and scheduled initial appointment: 34
 - No show (followed up but no response): 3
 - Showed: 30
 - Scheduled for future date: 1
- Non-Client One Time Assistance Calls: 9
- PIPP Appointments
 - January attendance: 11
 - February attendance: 7
- Budget 101 Workshop
 - January attendance: 4
 - February attendance: 2



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Productivity and Assistance Report | February 2025

Emergency Assistance

- 129 Kroger vouchers were issued
- \$46,996.10 for rent, mortgage, utilities, transportation and food in January
- \$89,221.20 for rent, mortgage, utilities, transportation, dental and food in 2025⁴

Financial Appointments

- 58 total appointments (average month)
 - 10 Walk In appts
- 49 clients processed

Service Appointments

- 196 Appointments and in-home appts
- Donald saw the most with 58 scheduled client appointments
- 7 Walk In clients were seen and served

Service Success Reported

- 30 claims awarded in **February**
- 47 claims awarded in **January**
 - \$729,042.71 in February
 - \$1,532,276.79 in January
 - \$2,261,319.50 for 2025

\$8,545,025.01 was awarded/reported in 2024

\$6,100,000.00 was awarded/reported in 2023

\$5,159,091.82 was awarded/reported in 2022

\$2,246,428.51 was awarded/reported in 2021



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Outreach Report | Spring 2025 March 12, 2025

Upcoming Outreach Events:

- Saturday March 22, VMAS Cornhole Tournament 11:30 – 4:30
- April 26th Invite a Vet Anniversary Event
- April 30, Senior Expo, 10a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- May 21, Vets Moving Forward, 3=7 pm
- June 7, Invite a Vet Car Show
- June 10, Washington Township Rec Center Lunch

Library Events (May):

Branch	Date	Time
• Southeast	Tuesday May 6	6pm
• Vandalia	Saturday May 10	2pm
• West	Monday May 12	6pm
• Miami Township	Saturday May 24	11am

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Transportation Report | January – February 2025

February 2025

Appointments

Client Appointments*	232
2025 YTD Total	488

January 2025

Costs

RTA/UBER/Valley	\$6,504.09
Average Cost Per Round trip ride	\$25.31
2025 YTD Total	\$6,504.09

January Trip Totals**

• RTA Uber & Private Acct Uber	181
• RTA/Paratransit	216
• Valley Transport	31
• Catholic Social Services	1
• RTA Bus Pass (Medical)	34
• RTA Bus Pass (Grocery/Other)	23

Veterans served in January	51
New transportation clients	5

2024 Review

Total Rides to medical appointments	2,824
Total Veterans Served in 2024	188
2024 Monthly Average	\$6,195.82
2024 YTD total	\$74,349.85

*Appointments are generally round trip.

**One-way trips