



Meeting Minutes of the Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission April 9, 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:

- Kim Frisco, Director
- Stacy Schulte, Clerical Support Specialist

Josh Shaw, Assistant County Prosecutor

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 Howley moved to approve March 12, 2025, minutes without change. 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 5-0.

V. Public Comments

There were no members of the public in attendance to deliver comments.

VI. Old Business

- a.) Consideration of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance for the period of March 1 - 31, 2025. Commissioner Dare moved to approve, and Commissioner Theobald 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		

The motion was approved. 5-0

- b.) Follow up on Mobile Access to MCVSC website
Executive Director Kim Frisco delivered an update on the Website Improvement Project.
- Please see the attached report for details.
 - The first phase will be completed in approximately 60 days and then the second phase will begin.
 - Director Frisco thanked Commissioner Theobald for bringing the website issues to the attention of management.
 - Commissioner Theobald thanked the management team for their efforts, commenting that the meeting minutes are already easier to find.

c.) Annual Report

Executive Director Frisco presented to the Commission the 2024 Annual Report.

- Commissioner Howley remarked that it is a very nice product.
- Commissioner Theobald commented that the report is quite impactful referencing the astounding increase in service claim award amounts and it should be included on the newly revamped website. Commissioner Fried echoed Mr. Theobald's comments and included the Annual Report should be made a priority item on our website.

VII. New Business

a.) Personnel Matter

Commissioner Theobald moved to enter into executive session for purposes outlined in ORC. 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the employment of a public employee (the VSC's attorney position). 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 into executive session was approved. 5-0

Commission entered executive session at 10:14 a.m.

Commission exited executive session at 10:32 a.m.

Upon exiting executive session Executive Director Frisco provided a staff update. Ashley Wendler, our new Mentor Coordinator, is doing great. She has attended her first Veteran Treatment Court and has held her first mentor meeting. She is currently working on changes that the mentors have requested, such as support groups at the VA. The mentors have also requested to begin having regular lunches with Judge Melnick, which Ashley is working to organize. Veteran Treatment Court Graduation will be June 18th.

Director Frisco also advised the commissioners that yesterday, April 8th was Courtney Griffith's last day as our Community Health Worker. She will be rejoining the YWCA as the Director of the Domestic Abuse Program. While here Courtney developed an outstanding case management program, a resource guide, new forms and a transition plan for her successor.

After the exit interview with Ms. Griffith and discussions with Judge Melnick, Executive Director Frisco suggested changing the position description for the job vacancy.

Commissioner Theobald moved to enter executive session for purposes outlined in ORC. 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the employment of a public employee (the VSC's community health worker position). 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 into executive session was approved. 5-0

Commission entered executive session at 10:45 a.m.

Commission exited executive session at 11:06 a.m.

VIII. Management Report

a.) Executive Director Kimberly Frisco presented the Staff reports

- Please see the attached reports.
- The Hiring committee interviewed 4 candidates for the open attorney position. Mr. Gary Hruska was selected and has accepted the position.
- Paul and Amie attended New VSO school and passed their exams. They will attend the national accreditation school next week.
- The VSO's and Kim will attend Spring School April 30th - May 2nd.
- There will be a staff meeting today at 3:30 p.m. - the commissioners are invited to attend.
- The VSO's will be attending the National Conference in July.
- Ms. Frisco shared a letter from Montgomery County resident, Dr. Tom Hardy, praising Mr. Fried's presentation of our 2024 Annual Report.
- She also shared a thank you card from a veteran.
- Discussion was had regarding the budget, encumbrances and ensuring there will be enough money for the rest of the year.
- Management is currently working on editing the Financial Application. Commissioners Theobald and Fried offered suggestions regarding layout, wording and some details that they would like to see in the application.

b.) Executive Director Frisco also presented the Budget, Outreach, Productivity and Transportation reports.

- Please see the attached reports.
- We are seeing a lot more appeals and requests for higher reviews of

service claims. Commissioner Theobald would like to see a report on service claims that are denied or claims that are in the appeal process. Commissioner Fried added that he would also like to see a report on claims in process.

- Several bus passes were issued along with food vouchers to help veterans in need of being able to get to the grocery store.
- Commissioner Fried states that he anticipates an increase in the transportation budget due to rising costs.
- Commissioner Theobald complimented Director Frisco and staff for keeping the cost per trip low.
- Per Commissioner Fried's recommendation, there will be a mentor recruiting event to be held in August, Judge Adkins is slated to speak.
- A variety of outreach programs have been completed and several more are scheduled to take place in the upcoming weeks and months, please see the attached report for more information.
- Commissioner Theobald requested that an email be sent to the commissioners with addresses for the library events to be held in May.

IX. Commissioner's Reports

- Commissioner Hays (DAV)
 - DAV meets tonight
 - Elections were held last month – all positions are full.
- Commissioner Theobald (AMVETS)
 - Presented our Annual Report with a very positive response.
 - His post is looking for a zero-cost leadership training.
 - He has contact information for a gentleman who has offered himself and his organization to consult on risk management to any interested post in the area.
 - His post has almost fully recovered from the theft of \$625,000.
- Commissioner Fried (VVA)
 - Scholarship applications are due 4/15/25.
 - Students who have won scholarships in the past are eligible to apply again.
 - The VVA are adding new members. They have grown to 215.
 - The election will be held 4/17/25, Mission BBQ is providing dinner at 5:30 p.m.
 - He will be in Los Angeles from 4/15/25 – 4/22/25
 - He published the minutes for the District Meeting.
 - He thanked Director Frisco and staff for all the efforts reflected in the 2024 Annual Report.
 - Mr. Fried shared some Best Practices and ideas shared at the district

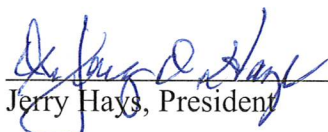
meeting and requested that the following be sent out to staff: Butler County working with the VA to house homeless veterans at a local hotel. Clinton County began an optical program for vets., Greene County offers a SAFE program for suicide prevention, Warren County hosts a mentor appreciation breakfast for VTC mentors, another veteran service commission provided bus trips to local events for veterans, and recognized veterans who are in hospice.

- Scott Kuhnen has been booked to present at an upcoming event.

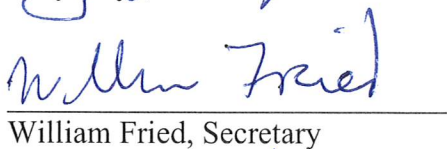
- Commissioner Dare (American Legion)
 - Mr. Dare thanked Mr. Fried for a well-run district meeting.
 - His post held elections, and all slates are now full.
 - They will be sending 13 young men to Buckeye Boys State
 - They will be sending 8 to 10 young women to Buckeye Girls State
 - They recently conducted a financial audit, only one issue was found and it was a question of which fund should be used.
- Commissioner Howley (Kettering VFW)
 - He has been a victim of Identity Theft/Fraud and it is affecting his duties.

X. Adjournment

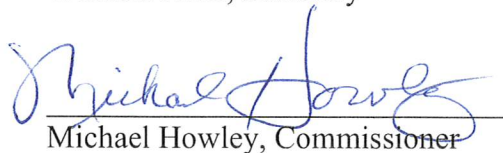
The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.


Jerry Hays, President


John Theobald, Vice President


William Fried, Secretary


James Dare, Commissioner


Michael Howley, Commissioner



MONTGOMERY COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
April 9, 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. March 12, 2025
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Consider Approval of Soldiers and Sailors Financial Assistance Report for the Period of March 1-31, 2025
 - b. Follow up on Mobile Access to MCVSC website
 - c. Annual Report
- VII. New Business
 - a. 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
April 2025**

1. Data Statistics

a. Financial Assistance:

i. March 2025

1. Approved: 30/\$32,967.14
2. Shelter: 10/\$11,620.44
3. Utilities: 24/\$11,019.42
4. Disapprovals: 6
 - a. Incomplete – 1
 - b. Excessive spending – 2
 - c. Partial Approval – 2
 - d. Utilities Paid by Other Agency – 1

ii. 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

iii. 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

b. Approvals YTD: 80/\$93,714.91

- i. Shelter YTD: 33/\$42,791.94
- ii. Utilities YTD: 58/\$22,382.44
- iii. Dental: 2/870.00
 - 1. YTD: 3/\$1,305
- iv. Emergency Repair (Assistance): 2/1,089.28
- v. YTD: 6/\$4,827.53
- vi. COVID: 0/\$0
 - 1. YTD: 0/\$0
- vii. Indigent Burial: 1/\$1,000
 - 1. YTD: 6/\$5,993.00
- viii. Kroger Voucher Update: 106/\$5,300 (20 Veterans)
 - 1. YTD: 324/\$16,200 (60 Veterans)



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Productivity and Assistance Report | March 2025

Emergency Assistance

- 110 Kroger vouchers were issued
- \$38,761.08 for rent, mortgage, utilities, transportation and food in March
- \$46,996.10 for rent, mortgage, utilities, transportation and food in February
- \$127,982.28 for rent, mortgage, utilities, transportation, dental and food in 2025

Financial Appointments

- 60 total appointments (average month)
 - 14 Walk In appts
- 55 clients processed

Service Appointments

- 213 Appointments and in-home appts
- 17 Walk In clients were seen and served

Service Success Reported

- 28 claims awarded in **March (\$550,143)**
- 30 claims awarded in **February (\$729,042)**
- 47 claims awarded in **January (\$1,532,276)**

Service Claim Awards Reported Year Over Year

\$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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Transportation Report | February – March 2025

March 2025

Appointments

Client Appointments*
2025 YTD Total

242
724

February 2025

Costs

RTA/UBER/Valley
Average Cost Per Round trip ride
2025 YTD Total

\$6,212.89
\$27.49
\$12,716.98

February Trip Totals**

• RTA Uber & Private Acct Uber	158
• RTA/Paratransit	184
• Valley Transport	32
• Catholic Social Services	2
• RTA Bus Pass (Medical)	32
• RTA Bus Pass (Grocery/Other)	18

Veterans served in February
New transportation clients

51
3

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*



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Outreach Report March and April 2025

Completed Outreach Events:

- Thursday, March 20, Sycamore Glen Retirement Community Presentation
 - Bill, Loren, Ashley
- Saturday March 22, VMAS Cornhole Tournament
 - Paul and Donald

Upcoming Outreach Events

- 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
- June 11, PNC Bank Military Appreciation Lunch
- June 11, MCJFS Elder Care Symposium

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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Website Improvement Project March – June 2025

Priority Items

- **Front Page Redesign (mobile first)**
- **Restructured Site Navigation (bread crumb nav)**
- **Update to Forms page**
- **Adding Minutes Page to Top Navigation**
- **Converting Minutes to Page instead of PDF archives**

Phase Two

- **New header and footer (mobile first) for easier navigation**
- **Solicit and create testimonial page**
- **Updates to community and meeting calendar**
- **Site Map inventory and update with redirect pages created**



Montgomery County
**VETERANS
SERVICE
COMMISSION**

2024 Annual Report

Jerry Hays

Commission President
Disabled American Veterans

John Theobald

Vice President
AMVETS

William Fried

Secretary
Vietnam Veterans of American

James Dare

Commissioner
American Legion

Michael J. Howley

Commissioner
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Kimberly Frisco

Executive Director

SERVICE WITH
**COMPASSION
DIGNITY
& RESPECT**

Claims

 **\$8,500,000**

One of the primary missions of the Veterans Service Commission is assisting and advising Veterans who are making a claim for disability compensation. Our team of 7 Nationally and State Accredited Service Officers filed more than 600 claims for compensation. More than 80% of those claims had a positive award.

2021 **\$2.2M**

2022 **\$5.2 M**

2023 **\$6.1 M**

2024 **\$8.5M**



 **82%**

Consistently since 2020, the amount of reported claim awards has increased annually year over year. More than 80% of all claims filed in 2024 were granted an award. Those monthly awards, one time retro pay and single payments, amounted to more than \$8.5 million for 2024.

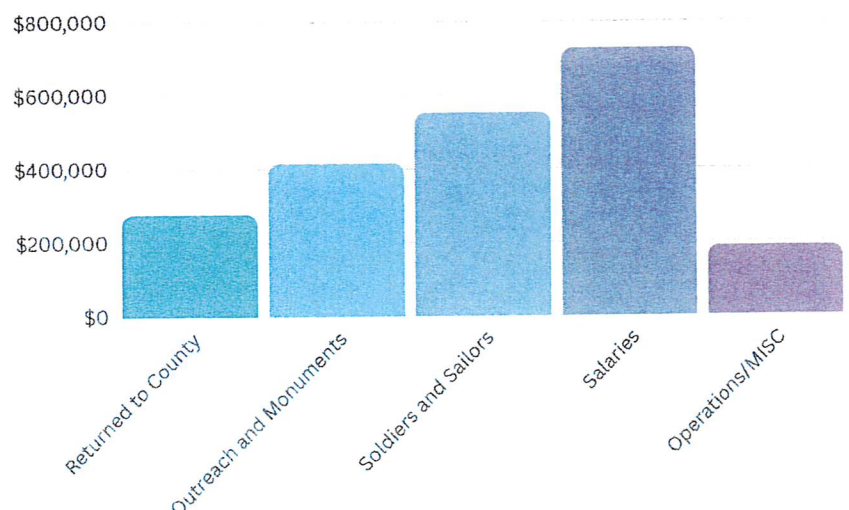
 **40%**

More than 40% of all awarded claims went to Vietnam Era Veterans. 2024 saw a record number of Vietnam Era Veterans (service between August 1964 and May 1975) making application for disability compensation. Most of these were PACT Act related.

Budget

At-A-Glance

The 2024 Budget Appropriation was set at \$2,744,858.44. Of that appropriation \$2,402,518 was expended. Expenditures represent 90% of the budget allocations. The majority of unused budget was due to unfilled vacancies.



Financial Assistance

■ \$552,391.00

More than 690 applications for Financial Assistance were taken in 2024. More than \$500,000 was awarded to Veterans in need of rent, mortgage, utility and food assistance. Additionally more than \$32,000 was awarded to more than 34 applications for indigent burial assistance.

Increased food and housing costs drove an increase in the number of Financial Assistance applications this year.

The continued partnership with Community Action Partnership (CAP) resulted in a lower expenditure of Utility Assistance this year over last year. This allowed more families to be served in 2024 than in 2023. More than 100 Veterans received assistance from CAP.

Transportation

■ \$87,614.00

More than
200 +
rides per month.

From 2020 with an average of 18 rides per month to 2024 where the monthly average is more than 200 rides, no program has grown faster.

Medical appointment transportation continues to be one of the most popular services provided by the Commission.

Driven by partnerships with RTA and private liveries, Veterans are transported to the VA, WPAFB, dialysis, and routine medical appointments daily.

Under the direction of Loren Scott, Transportation Coordinator, the program boasts an average of less than \$30 per roundtrip.

Coat Giveaway

For the 5th year qualifying Veterans were able to pick up a new winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves. This program runs from November through January. Annually more than 300 new winter coats are distributed to Veterans in need.

Aldi Gift Card

278 gift cards for food from local Aldi Supermarkets were distributed to indigent Veterans during the 2024 Holiday Season. Valued at \$200 each, this program provides holiday meals to qualifying Veterans with household incomes at 250% or below the federal poverty line. This program is scheduled for a return in 2025.

Dental Assistance

The Dental Assistance Program provided routine dental care to a number of Veterans who lacked dental insurance or access to care. Local providers partnered with the MCVSC to insure that every Veteran who needed routine preventative care and more were treated. This year \$6,165 was spent on Veteran Dental Care.

Outreach

News appearances, parades, fairs, festivals, concerts, poker runs, Post events, Golf Outings, Base events, non-profit partnerships and more totaled more than 50 occasions staff represented MCVSC in our community.

100%

Percent of MCVSC Staff participated in 5 or more Outreach Events during 2024. MCVSC participated in parades, fairs, festivals and presentations to dozens of organizations.

About Us

The Montgomery County Veterans Service Commission is a county agency dedicated to serving Montgomery County Veterans. It is not affiliated with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The agency provides these services:

- Assistance when dealing with the VA including compensation claims and widows' benefits
- Emergency financial assistance to eligible Veterans and family members
- No cost legal consultations for Veterans
- Medical transportation to any medical appointment in Montgomery County
- Dental vouchers for low-income veterans to receive basic annual dental care

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