

Clayton County Meeting April 10, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:30 am by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Eilers.

Roll Call: Present were Director Jordan, and Commissioners Clark & Eilers. Absent was Commissioner Torkelson.

Commissioner Eilers moved to approve minutes from March 11, seconded by Commissioner Clark.

There were no Public Comments

Budget was reviewed and approved

- line items "070" were explained as budgeted from the \$10,000 Grant money

**OLD BUSINESS:**

DAV shuttle was discussed at length.

- 2 new drivers have volunteered (Beth Klimesh & Scott Clark) to work with the new Shuttle Director (Tanya Millard).
- Drivers are to be compensated with \$75/trip.
- Clark inquired if Jordan had heard from bus driver who approached Clark about possibly volunteering to drive – Jordan hasn't heard from her yet.
- Jordan shared his idea of having drivers commit to a reoccurring schedule (e.g. every Tuesday) so long term planning could be made. Eilers shared how previous Shuttle Director had managed scheduling by way of a rotating schedule. Discussion will continue regarding these options.
- Since drivers would be asked to commit to holding their reoccurring days in reserve, it makes sense to pay them even should there be no veterans requiring a ride on their scheduled days.
- Jordan introduced the idea of presenting the past Shuttle Director with some acknowledgment for his history with volunteering (Clark mentioned perhaps a plaque and something additional.)
- Jordan also shared that Delaware County also has a Shuttle Van which they do not use. How this may serve our needs for shuttling veterans to the various Vas is to be determined.
- Jordan mentioned cards have been made with announcement of our need for shuttle drivers on back.
- Jordan and Eilers are to meet April 21<sup>st</sup> with new drivers and go over the routes and discuss what option might work best with them regarding a recurring schedule vs. rotating drivers.
- The plan is to continue discussion about the need for Shuttle Drivers.

Engagement Strategy: Director Jordan is working on another "Mental Health Event" for the month of May.

Talent Pipeline Strategy: Director Jordan has plans to follow up on an internship opportunity with our office. He plans to have this begin in the Fall of 2023 (when colleges resume.)

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Flag Holders for the graves have been ordered. There appears to be a back-log on receiving these (as they were ordered past Dec/Jan.) The hope is to have them well enough ahead of Memorial Day for distribution to the Clayton County Service Organizations who request them.

Additionally, requests for flag holders need to be accompanied with name of whom the holder is for (this will prevent doubling up on requests made by the Service Organization simultaneous to a family coming in and requesting one also.) This will also prevent Service Organizations from stock-piling the holders for possible future needs.

Director Jordan is to be congratulated for becoming newly certified with the VA's VBMS program. This will allow him to access veterans' claims within the system to give them immediate answers to many claim-related queries.

- To accomplish this access we are in need of additional technical equipment. As such, Jordan has estimated a need for up to \$3,500 to purchase a laptop, docking station, and a separate monitor (which will be for the veteran to observe

what is being accessed through Jordan's laptop.)

- Money for this purchase is to come from the Grant money.
- this purchase was moved to approve by Eilers and seconded by Clark.

Eilers moved to approve an additional \$500 for "Postage Meter Cost"

Clark seconded this purchase

Meeting days were changed to the second Monday of each month.

Next meeting is May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Clark moved to adjourn and Eilers seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Clark, M.A. "Serving those who 1<sup>st</sup> served us."

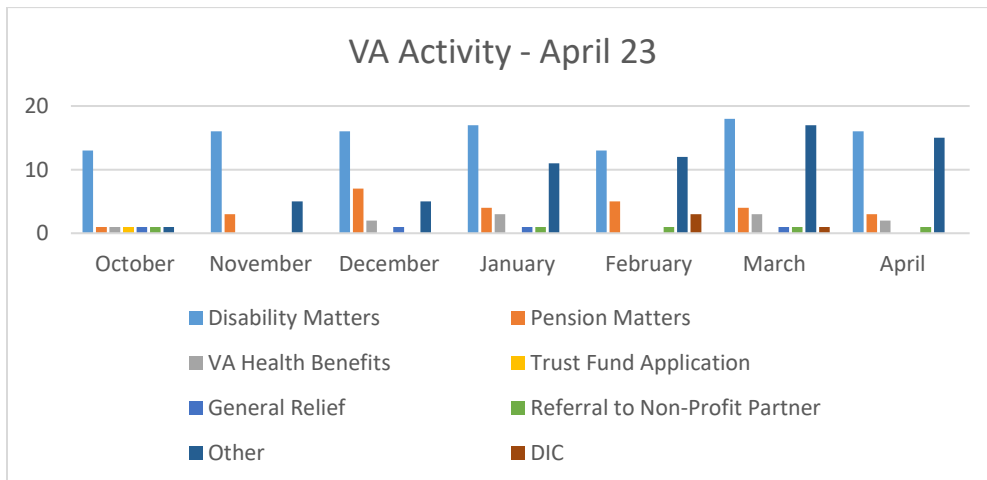
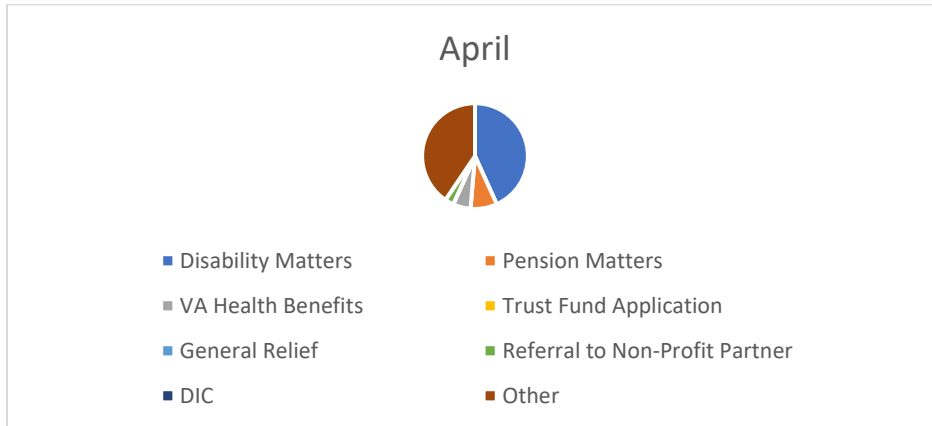
## April Report

28 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns.

5 total office visits from Veterans.

1 veteran outreach meetings.

1 veteran home visit.



### Notable Inquiries:

Increase number of requests relating to state agency's – normally DHS- requiring Veteran to provide income verification statements relating to their VA benefits in support of a household member (usually spouse) seeking Medicaid assistance. I have had instances where DHS is seeking an annualized statement similar to what Social Security provides to their recipients. In response to this request, where providing a letter that explains the VA Benefit, along with the Veteran award/benefit notice (only details monthly benefit amount) and bank statements as evidence of VA benefit amount.

### VA & State Updates:

Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs announce that they have begun accepting Trust Fund Applications. You will recall that late last fall that program was suspended due to insufficient funds. The Trust Fund Program is another option for Veterans to secure assistance for unemployment or underemployment assistance resulting from conditions related to military service, medical equipment, medical care (dental), housing repair, tuition assistance and other essentials and/or services necessary for the Veteran's well being.