

CLAYTON COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
COUNTY MEETING JUNE 12, 2023

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

Roll Call: Present were Director Chris Jordan, Commissioners Eilers and Clark – Commissioner Torkelson was absent.

Minutes for May 8 meeting were reviewed and approved by Eilers, seconded by Clark.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Present was Rick Blitz from Monona AmVets. Mr. Blitz wished to follow up on previous emails regarding Flag Holders/Markers. His concern was basically not having markers on hand to install at the time of burial. After some discussion it was agreed upon by all that Mr. Blitz would contact the County Sheriff and inquire if he would be willing to use his deputies, while on patrol, to pick up needed emblems from Director Jordan and deliver them to law enforcement in the town where the emblem request was initiated.

OLD BUSINESS: The internship program is scheduled for this fall.

The Mental Health Event in Guttenberg had no veterans attending. However, this time was used productively to brainstorm some ideas regarding just how to reach out to our veterans and encourage participation in events we want to offer them.

Greg Clark invited Chris to attend the NE IA. Vietnam Veterans annual steak fry. This will be a good opportunity for these veterans to interact with Chris as well as ask him questions about benefits/services he can provide.

NEW BUSINESS: It was mentioned by Chris that the **Iowa City VA Caregiver Support Program's Mobile Resource Fair** will be hosting an event on **July 19 at the Dubuque Clinic and July 27 at the Decorah Clinic**. Chris will look into opportunities to support these event with advertising.

Chris has contacted both Mercy Hospital in Guttenberg and Dubuque and is awaiting a recall from their Military Veteran Coordinators to discuss networking.

Chris is also planning to attend an event in July with Clayton County Emergency Management to discuss networking.

The shuttle drivers and coordinator are up and running smoothly.

Claims were reviewed, approved, and signed.

Next meeting set for July 10, 2023

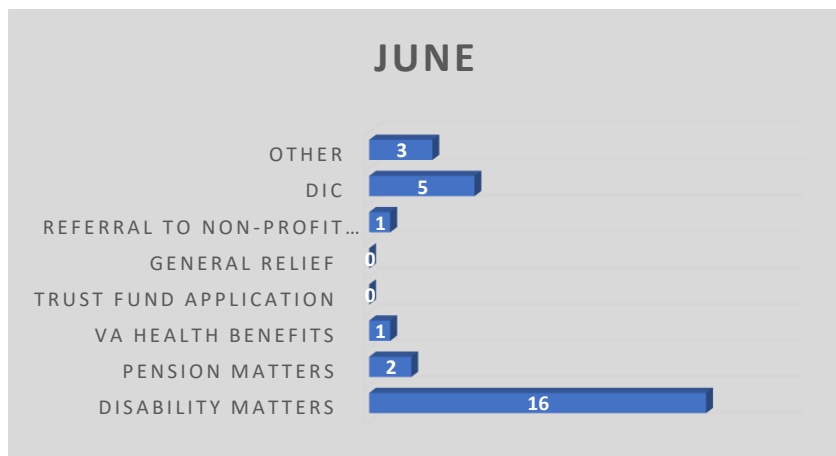
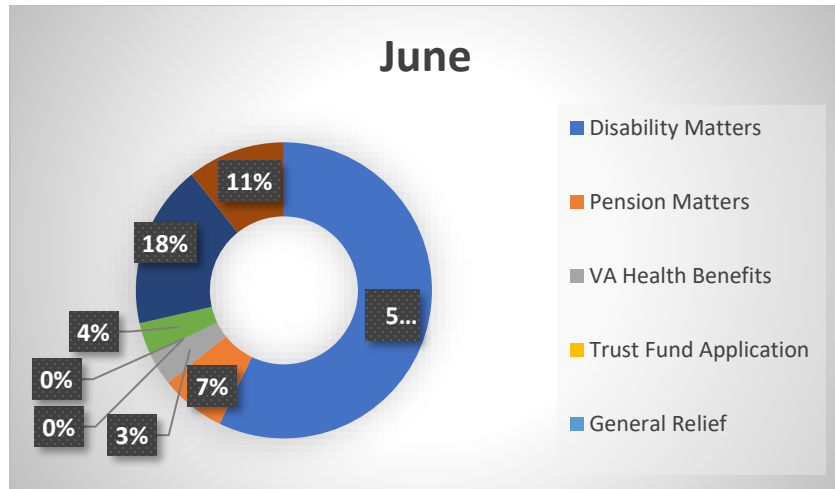
Meeting adjourned

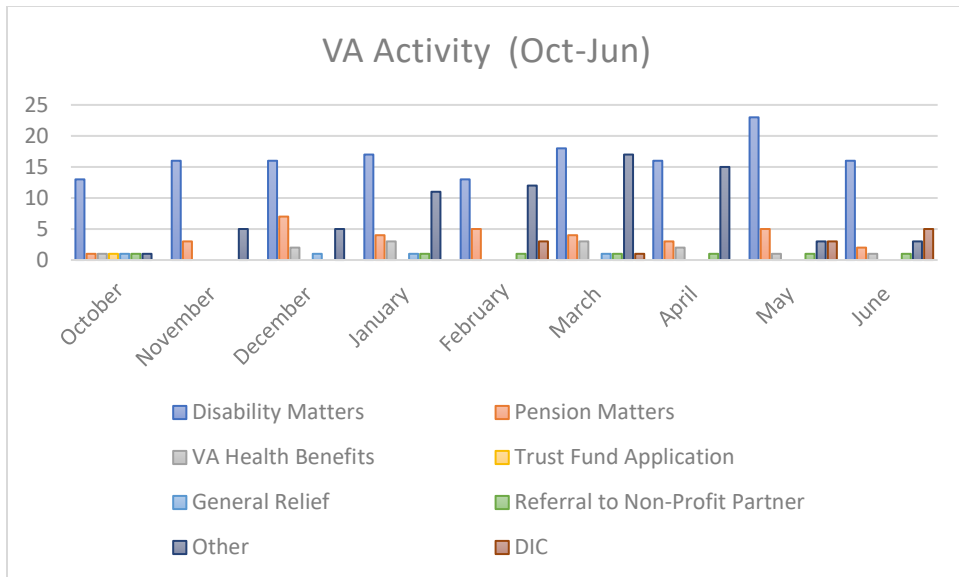
June Report

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

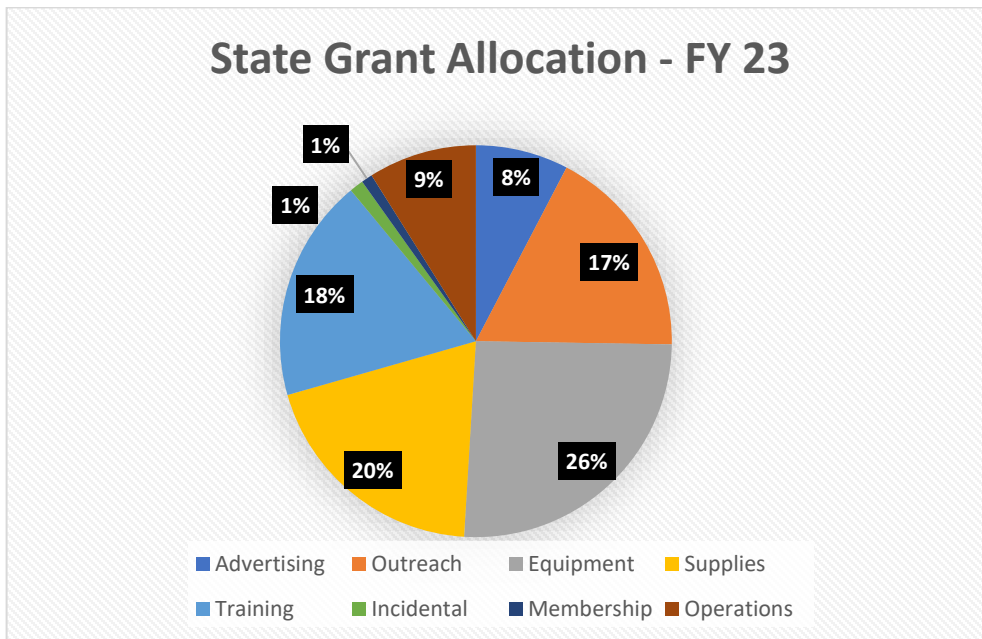
20 total office visits from Veterans.

3 veteran home visits





State Grant Allocation for FY 2023



Outreach Programming

- Three Events (2 -Mental Health, 1 Female Veterans)
- Allocation includes venue rental, catering, give away items.

Supplies (Business Cards / Presentation Folders / Postage)

Operations – Telecommunications

- Phone and cell phone DAV Shuttle
- Includes cost/expense share with Delaware County

Equipment

- Office Equipment (Laptop/Monitor)
- Platform as a Service Renewal – VetraSpec

Incidental – Travel for VSO to VAMC for Fingerprinting

VA & State Updates:

VA to Improve Efforts to Reach Veterans: VA implements its **Solid Start Program**, which is designed enable to VA representatives to connect with newly discharged Veterans to provided support with their transition and to provide information about VA resources and benefits that Veterans may be eligible for- including but not limited to Life Insurance, Housing Assistance, Pension, Records, and Healthcare. These are telephone calls that are placed at 90, 180 and 365 days after discharge. The is effort is required by law, as part of federal legislation that passed in 2022 and the program will be a permanent entity within the VA. The legislation does require that representative tailor their calls to the needs of Veteran with unique situations. To ensure that Veterans are contacted, the VA will also send mailings. Toll Free Number is 1 800 827-0611

<https://benefits.va.gov/transition/solid-start.asp>

Obtaining VA Record and Documents

While Veterans may submit request via mail and/or fax, Veterans can also access VA records and documents online. Specifically, military services records (including DD214) can be requested online. This requires signing into milConnect using a Premium DS Logon account. My HealtheVet or ID.me credentials **will not** work on milConnect website therefore service members must sign-in or register on milConnect and upgrade their DS Logon account to premium.

Veterans need VA Benefits letter summaries can be access via the VA's new Health and Benefits mobile app. Existing Login.gov, ID.me, DS Logon and My HealtheVet accounts work with the mobile app. If Veteran does not have an account, one can be created an account at Login.gov or ID.me for free. Benefits summary letters can be downloaded from this platform; however, should a veteran experience issue that may contact MyVA411 main information line at 800-698-2411.

VA Health Enrollment (Special PACT Act Enrollment)

Post 9/11 combat veterans who served between 2001-2013 have until **September 30th** to enroll in VA Health care. The PACT Act included language that an automated assumption of exposure for troops who served in particular locations. This enrollment period is to ensure that Veteran deemed to have been exposed to toxin based on their deployment have access to the VA system and care. Once enrolled, the individual veteran's circumstances will determine how much care they are able to receive.