

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING
600 Gunder Road NE, Suite 6 Elkader, Iowa 52043
Clayton County Office Building/Public Meeting Room
January 10, 2023

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on January 10, 2023 by Commissioner Clark at the Clayton County Office Building/Public Meeting Room.

Roll Call: Eilers, Clark, Torkelson and Jordan.

Motion was made by Clark to approve the minutes with the correction of the date of the meeting. Date of the meeting should have been December 13, 2022 and not December 12, 2022. Motion was seconded by Eilers; Motion carried.

There were no public comments made.

Old Business:

- 1.) Jordan indicated that Mr. Ken Seney is ready to retire from his position as Volunteer Transportation Coordinator for the Veterans Administration Van. He currently oversees/schedules the van drivers to take veterans to Iowa City and Dubuque VA Clinics. Discussion ensued regarding his vacancy. The van currently runs the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month to the Dubuque VA Clinic, and weekly on Tuesday and Thursday to the Iowa City VA Clinic. It is hoped to establish van service to the Decorah VA Clinic in 2023.

Clark made the motion to enlist the help of the Veteran's Service Officer, Chris Jordan, to send a memo to local American Legion Posts and other affiliated organizations in Clayton County advertising for the positions of a Transportation Coordinator and Van Drivers to Dubuque and Iowa City from Clayton and Delaware Counties. Eilers seconded the motion; motion carried. It is hoped that a veteran from these organizations will be interested in applying.

Mr. Jordan is also going to contact businesses in the County to see if they have any veterans employed, and if they would be interested in helping the Clayton County Veterans Commission in this endeavor. If there are no applicants from these groups, the Commission is interested in advertising in the local newspapers for either a veteran or non-veteran for Transportation Coordinator and Drivers. The Veterans Service Officer would like to meet with the Board of Supervisors to pursue establishing a contract or service agreement to pay Transportation Coordinator. It is hoped that Ken Seney will receive compensation for his past services.

- 2.) It was noted that Clark's term was up in December 2022. His appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors, and he will serve on the Commission for three years beginning in January, 2023.
- 3.) Jordan stated that he still continues to serve a homeless veteran in our County.
- 4.) The telephone system's problems have been addressed. The phone is currently working in the Clayton County Veteran's Office.
- 5.) Jordan continues to research his needs in acquiring a new lap top computer for the office.

New Business:

- 1.) The current budget for Fiscal: 2022-2023 Period ending 12/31/2022 was presented by Jordan \$27,363.25 has been spent with \$56,563.75 remaining. 67.40% is remaining in budget. Motion was made by Clark and seconded by Eilers to approve the budget; motion carried.
- 2.) Jordan shared a copy of the VSO Monthly Activity report for December, 2022. 53 calls were received this month re: Veteran related concerns. 16 total office visits from veterans. 1 veteran home visit.
- 3.) Denise Lana, Veteran, has been asked to meet with Chris Jordan on Friday, January 13 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss a possibility of establishing an in-service for veterans sharing information on veterans affairs, resources, assistance available for the women and men who have served.
- 4.) Possible in-service for May of 2023 was discussed which would address questions or concerns, access to services, patient advocates, Bill of Rights, and helping enable—empower Veterans for needed services. Status Trust Funds – other resources to consider – Veterans working with Veterans.

Claims were approved.

Next meeting to be held on February 14, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.

Clark made the motion to adjourn, Eilers seconded the motion; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Geralyn Torkelson

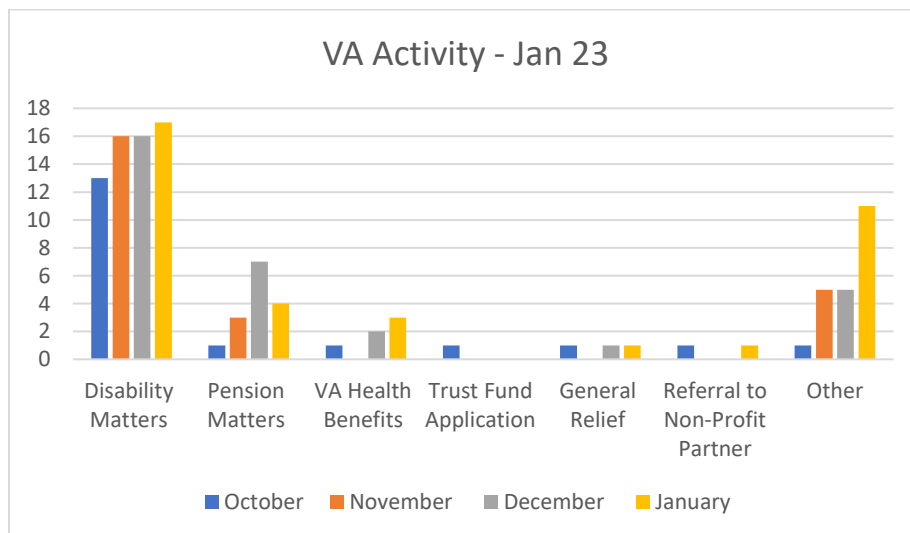
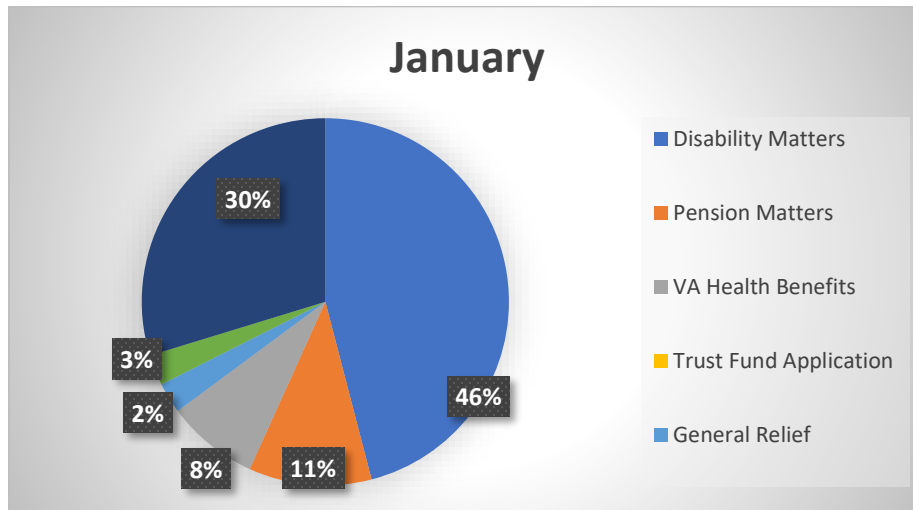
January Report

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

21 total office visits from Veterans.

2 veteran outreach meetings.

1 veteran home visit.



Notable Inquiries:

Managing two disability claims right now for applicants who did not directly serve in presumptive locations associated with Agent Orange, but who each may have experienced a toxic exposure. Both claims will be challenging, in that their claims do not satisfy all prongs of a prima facie case.

VA & State Updates:

1. Effective January 17th Veterans in an acute suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost. This is part of a 10-year National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and the current administration's commitment to reduce incidents. This includes inpatient care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for 90 days. Veterans do not have to be enrolled in VA system for this benefit. This effort allows the VA to provide, pay for or reimburse treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs and follow-up care. Eligibility for the benefit has expanded to include reserve service members (there conditions about service) and former members who experienced sexual assault.
2. Veteran Affairs Life Insurance (VaLife) is now available and provide low costs coverage for veterans who have a service-connected disability. May obtain up to \$40,000 in coverage in \$10,000 increments. The premiums are determined based on Veterans age when they apply and the amount of coverage the Veteran elects. Once enrolled, the premium does not increase. [Veterans Affairs Life Insurance \(VALife\) | Veterans Affairs](#)