

CLAYTON COUNTY COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
COUNTY MEETING MAY 8, 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 April 10 meeting were reviewed and approved by Eilers, seconded by Clark.

There were no Public comments

Budget was reviewed and approved

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion continued regarding the VA Shuttle Van. 2 new drivers were added (Dick Eilers & Ted Eilers.) This brings our total number of drivers to 4. These drivers met with Director Jordan, Commissioner Eilers, and Tanya Millard (Shuttle Director) on April 21st to discuss routes.

There will be 10 trips/month scheduled.

Dialog continued regarding the best manner of scheduling drivers (assigning recurring days or just going through the “Driver list” as to who is the next driver up on the list.) No consensus was reached, but Director Jordan, while highlighting the benefits of utilizing a “recurring schedule”, suggested leaving this matter up to the Shuttle Director.

As some drivers may be gone for parts of the winter, it was suggested by Director Jordan that the drivers might get together among themselves and decide how to best handle this concern in an equitable manner to all.

The fact that there exists different routes to get to the Iowa City VAMC was brought up by Eilers. These routes should be shared with all drivers in the event weather &/or construction might require taking alternate routes at times.

NEW BUSINESS: Denny Mason (NE IA. Vietnam Veterans president) contacted Director Jordan with a potential Commissioner candidate, but he was not a veteran.

Clark inquired about the update of Hypertension being potentially service connected. Jordan said that Hypertension is presumptive from Agent Orange and dependent upon when and where veteran was stationed.

Clark brought up his concern that most veterans and their families likely do not know about DIC and the requirement that a doctor-signed Death Certificate should include mentioning 1) anything/illness potentially related to any claims the veteran may already have or 2) anything/illness that may qualify as presumptive secondary to where/when they served during their military service.

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY: Director Jordan handed out flyers for the next Outreach Event he has scheduled. It is titled, “Your Mental Health Matters, Part 2”. It is to be held May 25th, 2-4pm at the Guttenberg Marina Visitor Center. (Director Jordan is achieving great PR/exposure by moving these events to different communities.) Jordan will be getting press releases out on this event.

It was noted that Iowa DVA has begun accepting Trust Fund Applications.

Flag holders for cemeteries remain back ordered. Jordan has followed up with vendor with little luck and he will look into alternative vendors as we are just a cpl. weeks away from Memorial Day.

The technical equipment that was approved to order at last meeting remains being processed.

Next meeting is Monday June 12th @ 7:30 am.

Clark moved to adjourn and Eilers seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Clark, M.A. "Serving those who 1st served us."

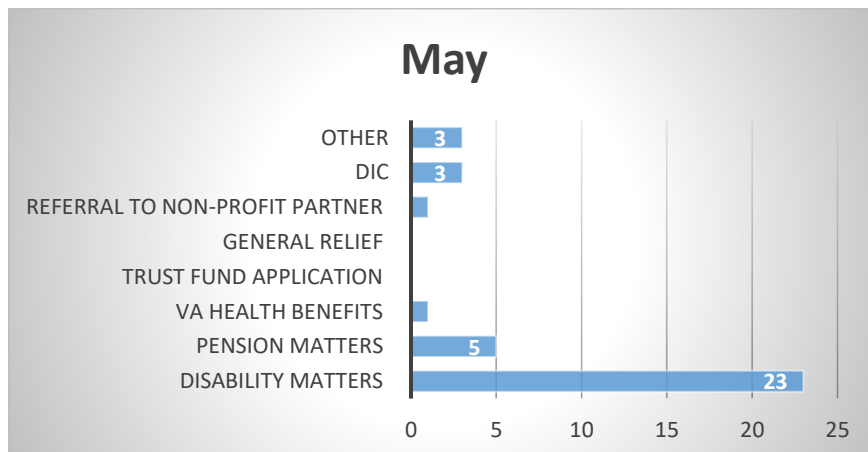
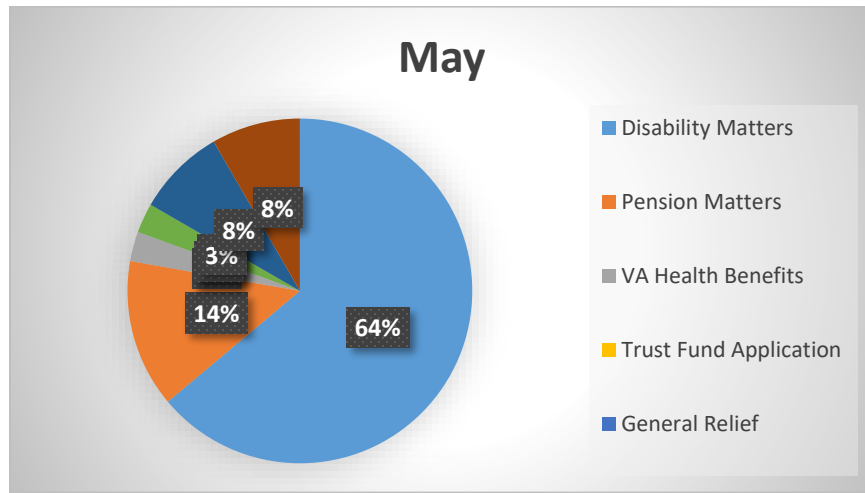
May Report

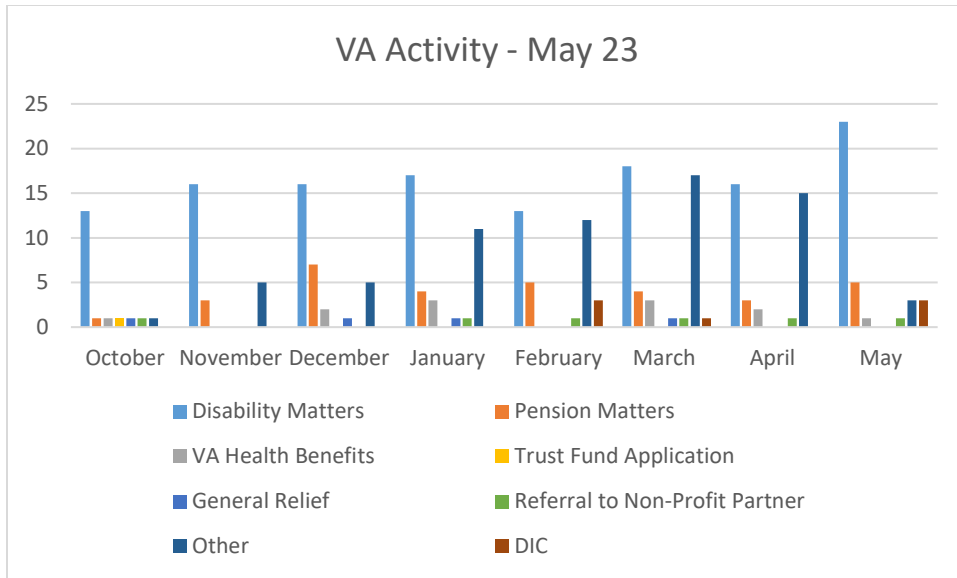
62 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns.

19 total office visits from Veterans.

2 veteran outreach meetings.

3 veteran home visits





VA & State Updates:

Caregiver and Family Resources Fairs – The VA’s Caregiver Support Program (CSP) is working to connect with veteran caregivers who may need support. Iowa City’s support services team will host mobile events at various VA Clinics in Iowa. The mobile events will focus on providing resource information to veterans and their caregivers about support and resource information or programs designed to help the caregiver and the veteran. Two fairs are taking place in the NE Iowa area:

Wednesday, July 19th – VA Clinic in Decorah

Thursday, July 27th – VA Clinic in Dubuque

VAMC in Iowa city is hosting a fair on Tuesday, July 18th from 1-3PM. We may want to consider promoting this opportunity and leveraging use of the shuttle to transport veterans resource fairs.