

MINUTES
Wednesday, March 04, 2020 10am
Public Health Department, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Name	Position	Present	Absent
James Marden	Chairman	✓	
Marie Shankle	Vice-Chairman	✓	
Larry Mason	Board Member		✓
George Dodd	Board Member	✓	
Rico Barrientes	Board Member	✓	
Heidi Palmer	Veterans Benefit Specialist	✓	

- **Welcome**

Jim called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

- **Public Comment**

None

- **Advisory Board Business**

Minutes – Minutes were reviewed from February meeting. Marie made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim second. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report – Was review. MTD: \$11,114.32, YTD \$86,396.71. There is \$93,009.35 left in the funds and \$27,095 in the Self Sufficiency Fund. George made a motion to accept the financial report. Marie second. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

By Law Committee – Nothing to report

Communication Committee – Rico

Jail Committee – Heidi saw 3 inmates at the jail.

- **Old Business**

- How to determine who is a Veteran and receives SNAP benefits for the Farmer Market benefits. Are we going to be serving ALL Veterans or just Veterans eligible for VRF? We could have a punch card or a card with my signature to show they are approved. Should we put a cap for benefits for each month? Since it is going to be a 2 for 1 benefit, we could do a total of \$100 a month.
- Together for Veterans program. Heidi informed the board someone else needs to take this project on if they want to see it happen in Lewis County. This needs to be separate from

the Veterans Advisory Board. Rico and Frank are interested in the program and are willing to take it on. Heidi will email Katy and Gina from WDVA to get them connected with Rico and Frank.

- **New Business**

- Heidi presented her housing idea for our Strategic Plan for 2020. Put an RFP out for housing. Example would be, we have this much money for 4 units and will pay a certain amount for case management. It is a 2 year transitional housing program. Veterans who are homeless will be able to stay in an apartment rent free for 2 years max. During that time, the client would be under intensive case management. They would see a social worker to work on housing barriers, how to be a good renter (Rent Well class), how to budget, and whatever other barriers the client has that can effect housing. There would also be a payee service. The client would also have to pay “rent” which would end up going into a savings account. That money would then be used as their down payment for their own rental. There will also be a board that will meet to go over the application and vote on who moves into the living spaces. One of the board members needs to be a member of the VAB. George made a motion to move forward with housing plan. Marie second. Motion passed.
- We received an application for a new applicant who would like to join as a voting member, Frank Corbin. Board voted on approving Frank Corbin’s application. Marie made a motion to accept Frank’s application. Rico second. Motion passed.
- The board voted in Jim Marden as the new Chair until June and Marie Shankle as Vice-Chair. Marie will take over as Chair once Jim leaves in June.
- We talked about building a relationship with the CBOC. Possibly inviting the manager or someone to come participate in our meetings. Some of the nurses don’t know about the ride share program and what other services we provide.
- Heidi informed the board she will be going out to East Lewis county more so they can get more needed services met. The Morton PD Dept. has a space available for service providers to set up and meet with clients out there. Marie suggested having a Lewis County Stand Down. Which will be in the works.

Next meeting – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 1st 2020 at 10am in the PHSS Conference room.

Action Plan:

Who	Will Do What	By (Date)