

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING

600 Gunder Road NE, Elkader, Iowa 52043

January 8, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on January 8, 2024 at the Clayton County Office Building Meeting Room.

I.) Roll Call: Commissioners Clark, Eilers, Torkelson and Jordan, Director present.

II.) Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Clark to approve the minutes from December 11, 2023. Motion was seconded by Eilers; Motion carried.

III.) Public Comments: No public comments noted.

IV.) Budget Review. Jordan distributed the current Fiscal Budget for 2023-2024. Veterans Affairs office spent \$4410.33 during the month with 72.73% remaining. Eilers made the motion to approve the budget, Clark seconded the motion; motion carried.

V.) Old Business:

a). A new cell phone was purchased from U.S. Cellular for the Driver Coordinator. The Driver Coordinator can now use the new phone to contact drivers in case of inclement weather and/or other announcements deemed necessary.

b). Internship role is still being considered. The new Human Resources Consultant will be contacted with requirements for the position including pay and starting date. Jordan has been engaging in dialog with colleges for interns having enrolled in civic engagement and social studies. Veterans with these requirements would be considered. Pay is above the minimum wage/marketable expense.

VI.) New Business

a). Discussion was held regarding the location of the van storage building. A question was raised as to why the Garnavillo location was selected. Jordan would investigate this. The van serves the Clayton and Delaware County veterans. The Commission is seeking to best serve the veterans for both counties.

b). Richard Eilers was approved by the Board of Supervisors to continue serving as Clayton County Veterans Commissioner for another term of three years.

c). The December Statistical Report was distributed. 34 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns. 20 total office visits from Veterans, and 2 home visits.

VII. Review and approval of Claims.

VIII. Confirmation of Next Meeting. Next meeting will be on February 12 at 7:30 a.m.

IX. Adjourn. Eilers made the motion to adjourn, Clark seconded the motion; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

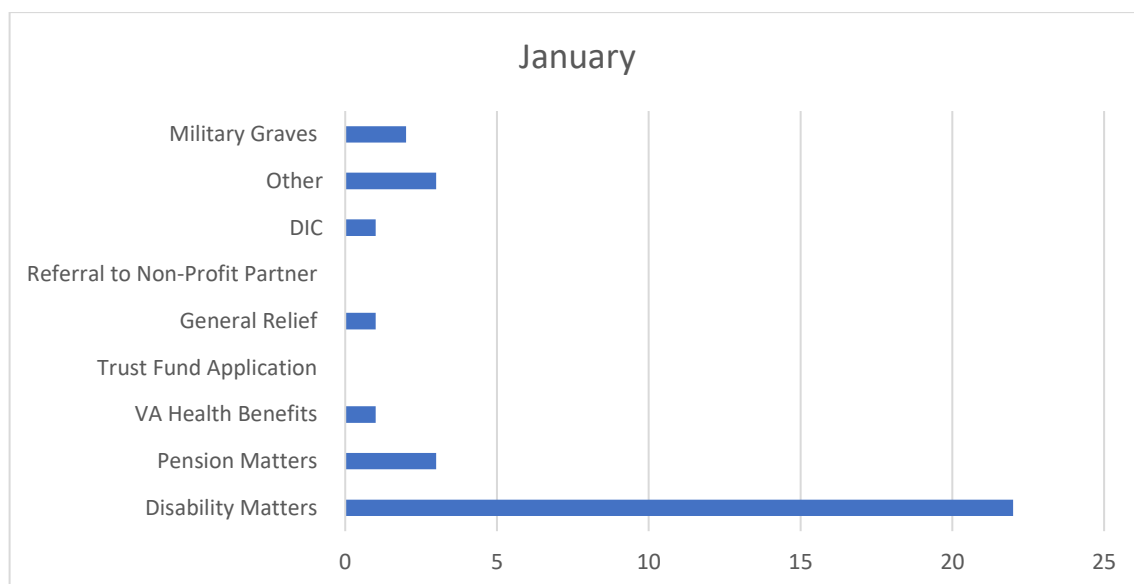
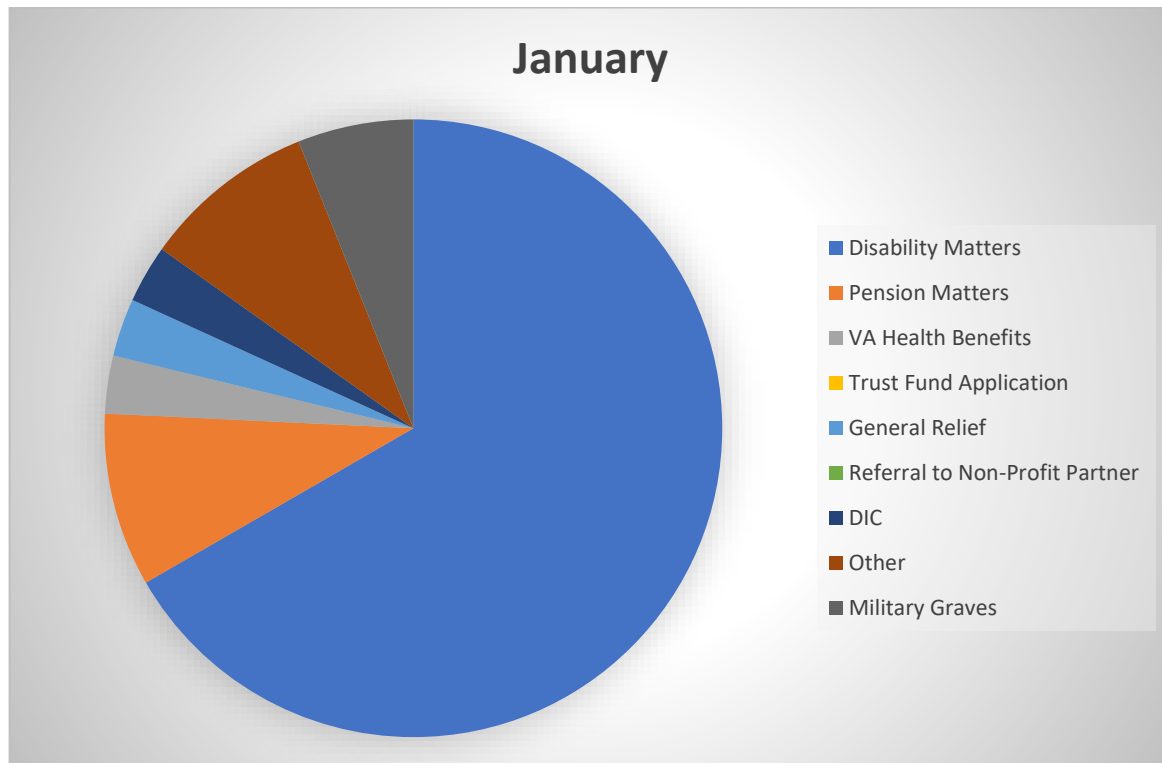
Respectfully submitted by Geralyn Torkelson

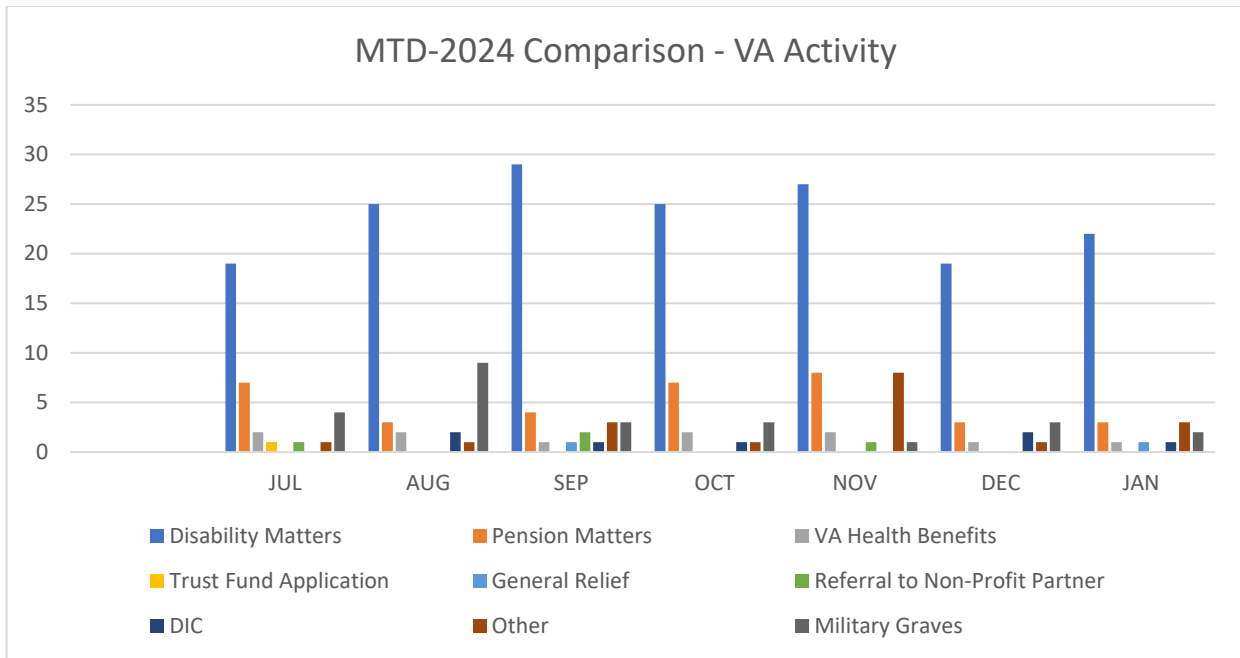
January Report

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

25 total office visits from Veterans.

2 home visits





VA & State Updates: -

Addition of Vet Centers and Satellite Locations

The VA announced the addition of three (3) new Vet Centers and six (6) satellite locations. Vet Centers serve community-based sites where Veterans/service members and/or their families can access social and/or psychological services (i.e. depression, PTSD, military sexual trauma support service, transition after service). Additionally, the centers provide referrals to connect Veteran with health care and/or VA benefits. The new centers will be in several states, including the US Virgin Island and Commonwealth of Mariana Islands. The closest new satellite office to Iowa would be St Cloud, Minnesota that is slated to open in early 2024. Presently, Iowa has Vet Centers located in West Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Additionally, there is the Veteran Freedom Center located in Dubuque, Iowa that does not offer this level of support but would be able to make referrals to various support services to assist veterans.

Suicide Prevention Program – Update

Last year the VA introduced a new policy that allowed eligible Veteran in acute suicidal crisis to obtain emergency care that any VA or non-VA health care facility. This program included emergency room care, inpatient /crisis residential care for up to 30 days and out-patient care for up to 90 days – which included transportation cost. The program increased access to care and did not required Veteran to be enrolled in VA system to use the benefit. The program was expanded to cover reservists and National Guard members with at least 100 days on active duty. More than 49,000 Veterans used this benefit.