

CLAYTON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS MEETING

600 Gunder Road NE, Elkader, Iowa 52043

June 10, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.

Veterans Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on June 10, 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 Eilers to approve the minutes from May 13, 2024. Motion was seconded by Clark; Motion carried.

III.) Public Comments: No public comments noted.

IV.) Budget Review. Jordan distributed the current Fiscal Budget for 2023-2024. The Veterans Affairs office spent \$9,750.32 during the month with 20.91% remaining in the budget. The \$10,000 grant monies received by the county were expensed. Clark made the motion to approve the budget, Eilers seconded the motion; motion carried.

V.) Old Business:

a). The new Veterans Services pamphlets are currently being distributed at the office and throughout the county. Jordan plans to distribute pamphlets before the end of the month in Strawberry Point, Edgewood, Elkader, Monona, McGregor, Marquette, and Prairie du Chien. Large employers will also receive pamphlets to distribute to veteran employees. Jordan indicated that he had not seen a lot of clients from the southern part of the county in the office. He is seeking additional places to distribute.

b). Fall Training of Commissioners will be on October 14, 2024. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The location for the training will be in the Des Moines area.

VI.) New Business

a). The VA is expanding Care Access and Benefits related to the Character of Service. The Department of Veteran Affairs recently posted a final rule that amended regulations regarding character of discharge under "other than honorable" or by "special court-martial." Veterans with such character of service discharges who then apply for VA benefits or services, the VA will then review their records to determine if the VA can provide the Veteran with the requested care and/or benefits.

b). The VA has created a new grant program to help service members and their spouses as they transition from military to civilian life. The grants are awarded to eligible organizations that provide employment-based resources and tools. These services can include resume assistance services, job recruitment training, interview training, employment placement services and other services that support successful transition to civilian life. The VA offers additional services such as Personalized Career Planning and Guidance (PCPG) and Veteran Readiness and Employment Program that supports the VA mission.

c). The May Statistical Report was distributed. 40 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns. 25 total office visits from Veterans, 0 home visits, and 0 training events.

VII. Review and approval of Claims.

VIII. Confirmation of Next Meeting. Next meeting will be on July 8, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.

IX. Adjourn. Clark made the motion to adjourn, Eilers seconded the motion; Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gerrie Torkelson

June Report

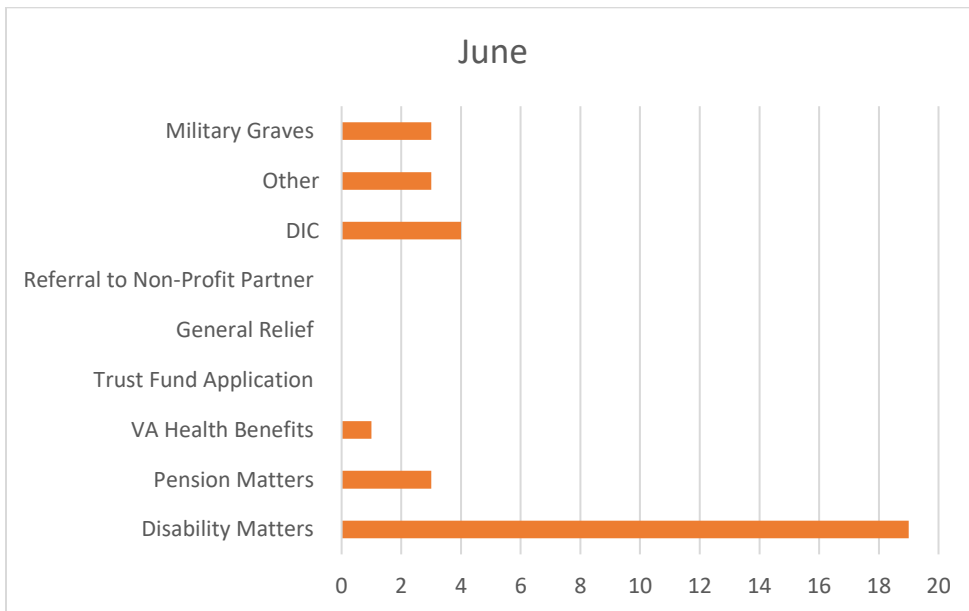
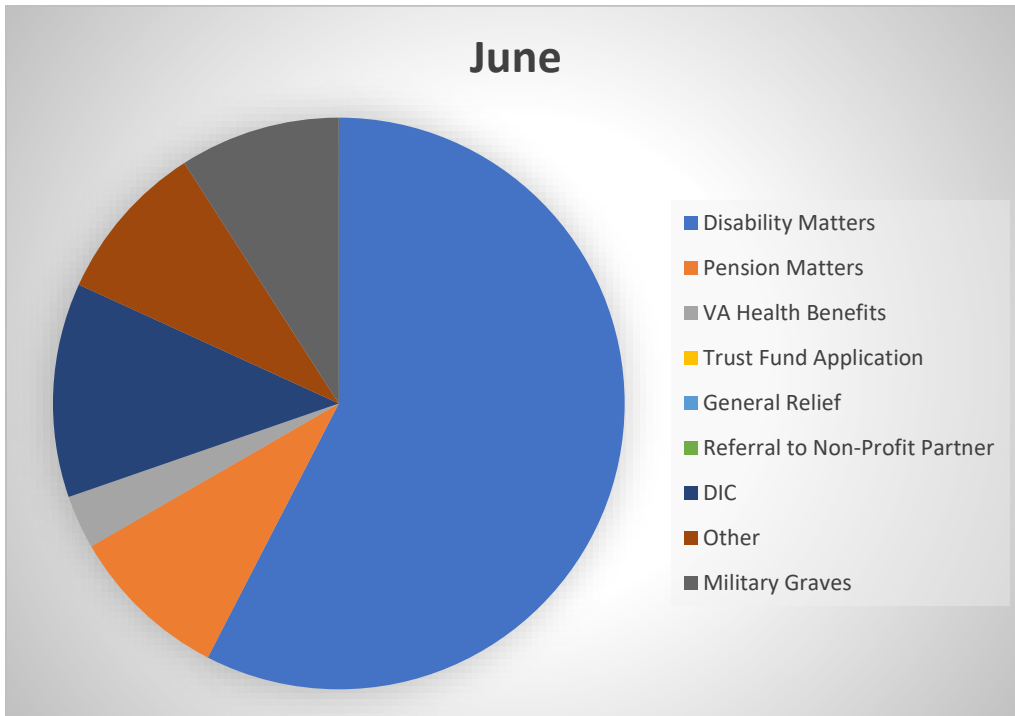
42 total number of calls received this month re: Veteran related concerns.

21 total office visits from Veterans.

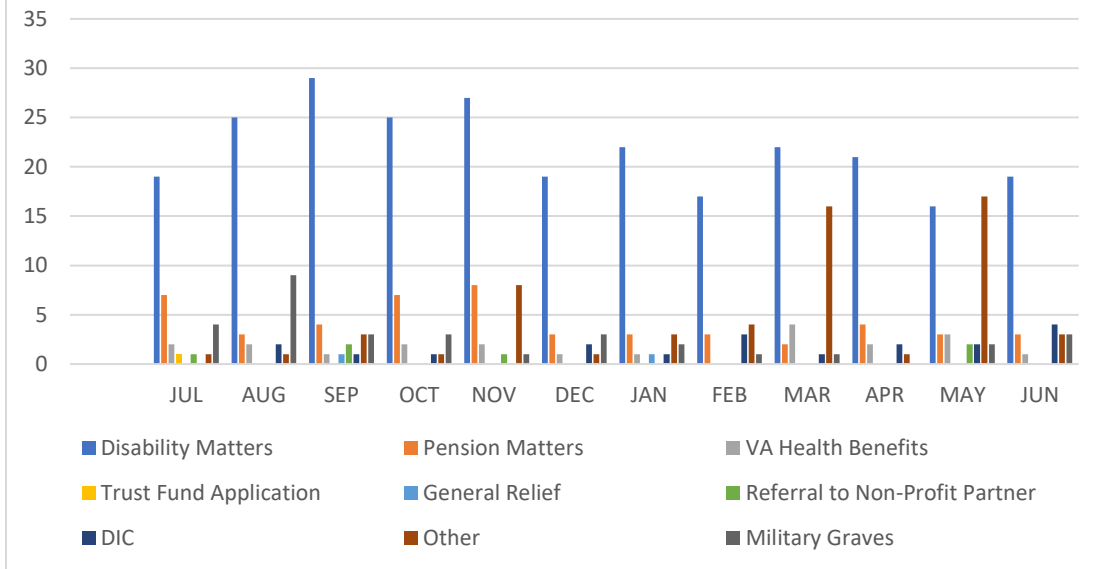
1 home visits

23 outreach events

0 training event



YTD-2024 Comparison-VA Activity



VA & State Updates:

VA Adds Three New Cancer Types to Presumptive List

The Department of Veteran Affairs is including three new cancer types to the list of presumed service-connected disability. The three cancer types are male breast cancer, urethral cancer and paraurethral glands. The conditions are established for eligible Gulf War and post 9/11 Veterans deployed to Afghanistan, Somalia, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Uzbekistan and the entire Southwest Asia theater of operations, which includes Iraq. Any Veteran who currently has or has previously had one of the listed cancers at any time during or after military service may be entitled to disability compensation benefits – with a retroactive payment of August 10, 2022 (the date that the PACT Act was signed into law). VA will review all claims of veterans and survivors who previously filed and were denied for these three conditions.

Co-Pays for Mental Health Care Visits

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that veterans will no longer need to pay co-pays for their first three outpatient mental care and substance use disorder visits each calendar year through 2027. This co-payment exemption will date back from June 27, 2023, and run through December 29, 2027. To be eligible for the exemption, the outpatient visit must be (i) with a qualified mental health professional at the VA or provided through the VA's network of community care providers. For Veterans who have already sought or obtained care, the VA will automatically refund payments for any co-pays paid to the VA on or after June 27, 2023 – so no further action needs to be taken by veteran.