

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY AND DAVID H. UIBLE IN ATTENDANCE. LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COMMISSIONER PROUD WAS ABSENT THIS DATE.**

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE FEBRUARY 25, 2015 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>.**

**LET THE RECORD SHOW INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION STARTED SHORTLY BEFORE 11:00 A.M.**

**THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:**

- 1. Issue - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Amanda List, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, & Howard Daugherty, Executive Director, Clermont County Veterans Service Commission.**

**Discussion** - Ms. List provided the Board with a presentation and an update about the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) current programs and the requirements VA uses to assess an individual's eligibility for services, including those in the justice system. Ms. List provided a map of VA's Southwest Ohio coverage and the area of coverage for the Cincinnati VA Medical Center, as well as an overview of the services they offer Clermont County Veterans.

Ms. List noted there are several outpost facilities in the area called Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC's) which provide the following benefits:

- Primary Care Services
- Specialty Care: Optometry and Podiatry
- Nutrition Counseling
- Behavioral Health and Social Work Services
- Laboratory and Pharmacy Services

Ms. List also noted that we have a CBOC located in Batavia and that the Clermont County Veterans Service Commission will assist clients with transportation to and from appointments if necessary.

The Cincinnati VA has a specialty clinic for Veterans who are returning from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), or Operation New Dawn (OND) OEF/OIF/OND, Veterans are eligible for 5 years cost free health care after the date of their discharge or release from service. This clinic is set up specifically for Veterans returning from these deployments, to provide services such as case management and primary care services. The clinic has extended hours and offer limited office hours where no appointment is necessary for primary care services.

Ms. List emphasized that the Community Outreach Division is one of the VA's best kept secrets. This program provides an outreach program to the homeless Veterans. The VA is concentrating on educational outreach to the community on providing housing and other resources to homeless Veterans. Several programs exist to assist chronically homeless

Veterans find housing and other issues such as mental illness or substance abuse treatment through case management. The three main programs are outlined below:

- HealthCare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) – currently has a contract with Talbert House which provides six (6) 2-bedroom apartments with a 60 day exit plan and mental health services to homeless Veterans while helping them achieve an independent living arrangement.
- Housing & Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) – HUD-VASH provides Section 8 vouchers to homeless Veterans for independent.
- Grant Per Diem (GPD) – These services are available to Veterans that are not medically eligible for other services or for lack of a better word have an other than honorable discharge, you cannot have a bad conduct discharge. Ms. List provided further details regarding examples of these programs; The Joseph House is a residential treatment facility providing housing for male Veterans who are suffering substance abuse, employment and/or mental health issues for up to 2 years, the Brighton Center provides the same for women. Goodwill provides services to those focusing on employment issues for those who are not suffering from addiction issues. Volunteers of America provides services to Veterans needing assistance with substance abuse and legal issues.

Substance abuse is a large issue around the country, Ms. List stated she has attended several meetings with Commissioner Uible as a member of the opiate Task Force. Ms. List stated the VA offers a wide variety of opiate substance abuse services, both inpatient and outpatient to aid in combating the heroin outbreak being experienced throughout the State of Ohio. The VA has dedicated resources to aid county Veterans experiencing issues with addiction.

Ms. List stated that in addition the VA offers several behavioral and mental health treatment options, domiciliary care facilities for homeless Veterans who need assistance because of disability or finding employment, as well as a Trauma and Recovery Center for treatment of those Veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) or traumatic brain injuries.

Ms. List stated that the VA in Cincinnati has four Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialists who provide jail outreach; Veteran's treatment court, law enforcement training and collaboration as well as offering a legal clinic. Ms. List further noted that the VA and Clermont County partnered in a new approach toward the Justice-Involved Veteran's outreach thanks to the Information System Department (ISD) incorporating the Veteran Reentry Search Service (VRSS) system at the adult detention center (jail), which has aided in Veteran's receiving assistance earlier. When an inmate is booked into the jail they are asked a series of questions. One of these questions is "Have you ever served in the military?". A "yes" answer triggers an email to Amanda, providing her with that information so she knows to make a visit to that inmate. Clermont County is one of approximately 500 local jails that has implemented this system.

Ms. List stated she has also met with the Municipal and Common Pleas Court Judges regarding the number of Veterans being identified in our justice system, Clermont County has seen a significant rise over the last few years. Ms. List noted that we are obviously doing a better job at identifying the Veterans.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – Commissioner Uible commented that Clermont County Veterans Services will provide transportation to and from the VA Hospital so no Clermont County Veteran ever needs to go without treatment. Commissioner Humphrey thanked Ms. List and Mr. Daugherty for the efforts they have been making on behalf of Clermont County.

2. **Issue - Clermont County Convention & Visitors Bureau - Mark Calitri, Executive Director**

**Discussion** - Mr. Calitri provided discussion regarding the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) striving to increase its social media presence. Mr. Calitri also noted that the CVB now has a booking engine link on their website from which they are receiving a slight commission for every booking.

Mr. Calitri provided details regarding the USRowing Club National Championship which will run at Harsha Lake from July 14-20, 2015. This is one of the largest USRowing Regatta events in the country and will bring a large number of visitors to the area.

Mr. Uible noted that there were several other venues competing to host this event, stating Sarasota, Florida put \$40M into improvements seeking the bid for this particular event. Mr. Calitri did say that overall the State of Ohio has spent approximately \$1M on improvements such as the beach house being constructed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Mr. Humphrey stated nature provides amazing opportunities considering Harsha Lake in its natural state won the bid. The economic impact from this one event is estimated at \$2M.

Mr. Calitri stated that they have a contract signed with Kings Hammer elite soccer group and the Red Barn to develop 8 soccer fields at the red barn facility off Haskell Lane in Batavia. To which Kings Hammer has guaranteed to bring 16 major soccer events annually.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** – Commissioner Uible and Commissioner Humphrey would like for Mr. Calitri to keep us updated on the progress of the Kings Hammer soccer field progress and other activities of the CVB.

3. **Issue - Introduction – Wayne Gates, Editor, Clermont Sun & Brown County Press**

**Discussion** - Mr. Gates wanted to introduce himself and update the Commissioners on the changes being made at the Clermont Sun over the last few months. Mr. Gates provided some details such as hiring an additional full time reporter and a full time sports reporter, also noting they are generating 5-10 independent byline stories per week focusing on more local content. Mr. Gates will be working closely with George Brown and Matt Van Sant from the Clermont Chamber of Commerce on the Agenda 2025 project. Mr. Gates would like the Clermont Sun to focus on the relevant stories that citizens will be interested in that affect the community.

Commissioner Uible asked if Mr. Gates knew how long the Clermont Sun has been published in Clermont County. Mr. Gates stated he believes it has been in existence for between 168-170 years.

Commissioner Humphrey stated he is a regular subscriber to the Sun and he enjoys catching up on what is going on in the entire county and the Sun provides very good coverage.

**Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed** - Mr. Gates stated to please let him know if there are events coming up, they would love to cover items of interest such as the USRowing Regatta he heard about earlier.

**LET THE RECORD SHOW A MOTION TO ADJOURN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER UIBLE AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUMPHREY AT 11:35, ALL APPROVED AND MOTION WAS CARRIED.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

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**EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT**

ABSENT

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**ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT**

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**DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER**

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**STEPHEN H. RABOLT, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

03/09/15  
**DATE APPROVED**