Governor’s Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee
VAAC

• 17 members, appointed by the Governor
• Represent veterans & their families to the Governor and the WDVA Director
• Hold meetings in different areas of state
  – Find out what is happening in various communities
  – Share information with veterans and service providers on new programs, services or changes to state or federal law.
WDVA Snapshot

- Vision: All Washington Veterans & Their Families will be Connected to the Benefits and Services they Earned.

- Cabinet level agency
  - Veterans Cemetery & Agency Administration
  - Veterans Homes
  - Veterans Services & Behavioral Health
State Veterans Cemetery – Medical Lake

- Dedicated in 2010
- 1,347 Interments through 2012
- $374,000 of annual operational budget earned through the sale of Armed Forces License Plates.
State Veterans Homes

• Located in Orting, Retsil and Spokane
• 516 Beds for veterans, their spouses, widows, or Gold Star Parents.
• $93 million biennial budget

• Walla Walla in design phase, 80 beds, small house model, 100 jobs will be created. (State funds 35% and federal VA funds 65% of construction/equipment costs.)

• Increased demand for dementia and gero-psychiatric services. Budget request to determine how we can meet this demand.

• Health and Safety budget request to demolish 2 buildings at Retsil.
Veterans Services & Behavioral Health Program

- Support for Transitioning Military Personnel
- Homeless Veterans Services & Transitional Housing
- Veterans Innovations Program
- Veterans Estate Management Program
- Contracts with Veteran Service Organizations
- Veterans Estate Management Program
- Behavioral Health & PTSD Counseling Outpatient program
  - Serves 3,500 veterans and family members
  - Veteran Training Support Center trains first responders, community providers and others who may be the first to encounter a veteran in crisis.
  - Support to County Veteran Treatment Courts
Vet Corps

• WDVA started the first Vet Corps in the nation
• 50 Members funded through an AmeriCorps Grant
  – Members serve 43 Campuses, JBLM, Fairchild and Naval Base Kitsap
  – Work with College Certifying Officials or Veterans Representatives, encourage schools to become Partners for Veteran Supportive Campuses
  – Help students navigate the GI Bill and Financial Aid Office
  – Provide connections with federal, state or local veterans benefits
Vet Corps Results:

- Eastern Washington University Veterans Resource Room.
- WSU Tri Cities Veterans Memorial
- Seattle area Vet Corps Members now coordinate the Seattle Stand Down
- Spokane Falls Community College Bikes for Veterans