

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
January 28, 2019 — 10:00 AM  
Jefferson State Office Building,  
205 Jefferson Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor State Board of Education Room  
Jefferson City, MO**

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER and Roll Call**

- In attendance: Chairman Tim Noonan; Vice Chairman John Buckner; Commissioner Jose Dominguez; Commissioner Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Jill Schupp; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Steve Lynch; Ex-Officio Member Joe Driskill
- The Commission was minus two Commissioners for this meeting due to the terms of two Commissioners ending and the process of appointing two new Commissioners was currently underway.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Commission Meeting, Open Meeting Minutes, October 22, 2018  
Commissioner Buckner made a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2018 and Commissioner Dominguez seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.
- B. Commission Meeting Closed Meeting Minutes October 22, 2018  
Commissioner Dominguez made a motion to approve the Closed Meeting minutes of October 22, 2018 and Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## **III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- A. Recognition:
  - Daren Dorris, St Louis Veterans Home; DPS Employee of the Month
  - Melissa Skinner for being chosen for Leadership Academy
- B. Briefed Strategic Plan for upcoming year and provided printed copy to all
- C. Feasibility Study to look at the needs of Veterans in the State of Missouri
- D. Amendment 2: Veterans in MVC facilities are not able to use medical marijuana due to homes being a federal program.
  - There is not a specific dollar amount of projected income.
  - The Veterans Commission will set up a working group to prioritize use of funds and will seek commission approval
  - There will be an Annual Audit Schedule of the fund
  - Process for granting funds
- E. At this time there are approximately 370 Veterans on our Veterans Homes waiting list statewide that actually require 24-hour skilled nursing care. There are approximately 1100 Contracted skilled nursing home beds available in Missouri through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- F. Nikki Strong; Executive Vice President, Government Affairs and Member Services, Missouri Health Care Association (MHCA) briefed on teaming with MVC to improve our Veteran care within our homes

#### IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

- A. Director, Cemetery Program briefed:
- Bloomfield Columbarium Wall will be filled in six months
  - If money appropriated today, would be 2021 before complete
  - Columbarium walls are reimbursed 100% by VA
- B. Director, Veteran Services Program briefed:
- Korean and Vietnam Medallion Ceremony that was held at the National World War I Museum in October 2018
  - Grant Partner Expenditures: Explained that there are significant grant funds remaining, but anticipate more funds will be utilized in the remaining months of the fiscal year.
- C. Director, Homes Program briefed:
- Survey results for all homes
  - Reducing turnover of CNAs is our #1 priority
  - Anti-Psychotic usage
  - Annual Operating Costs
  - Private homes: Our biggest competitor in pay and retention of CNAs

#### VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Deputy Director, briefed on Veterans Innovation Task Force (VITF) and the Outreach and Advocacy Outreach Spotlight.
- B. Director, Human Resources briefed on updates and standardization of pay for staff at our Veterans Homes
- C. Director, Facilities Operations, reported on construction projects and facilities upgrades.
- D. Director, Commission Resources, briefed FY 18 and FY 19 fund balances and projections as well as recent efficiencies discovered by eliminating unneeded accounts.

- VII. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** Many veteran-related bills have been filed but very few have progressed because it is so early in the legislative session.

#### VIII. NEXT MEETING

- Commission Chairman announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, April 29, 2019. (Subsequent Date and Location Change: Tuesday, April 23, Missouri Gaming Commission, 3417 Knipp Dr. Jefferson City, MO)
- The Commission closed the meeting to conduct an executive session for the purpose of discussing concerns pursuant to Section 610.021, Subsection (1), (9), & (14) RSMo.
- The meeting was reopened.
- With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.



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Grace Link, Secretary