MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
January 25, 2016 — 10:00 AM
205 Jefferson Street, 1st Floor State Board of Education Room,
Jefferson City, Missouri

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

In attendance: Chairman Scott Englund; Member Mike Mowrer; Member Chuck Wooten; Member Senator Dan Brown; Member Representative Rochelle Walton Gray; Member Representative Denny Hoskins; Ex-Officio Member Michael Dunbar - MMPEC
Via Phone: Member Nancy Nelson; Member Senator Scott Sifton
Absent: Member Glenn Boyer

Guests and staff present:

1. Guests: Randy Whitehead, Dick & Carolyn Sanford, Debbie Griffin, David Kollore, Robert Crecelius; Richard Heigert; Dewey Riehn; Jessie Jones; Carol Thompson, Bill Kiefer, Mike Haffner, Kenny Goth, George Scarborough, Nancy Cowan, Nancy Kellog, Bryan Bradford, Seth Barlage, Fabian Grabski, Olin Parks, Dennis Woeltje, Cary Kellett, Elizabeth Gonzales, Kim & Tim Tatham, Melissa Mizio, Alex Hernandez, Laurence Truman, James Hattaway, Bill Rieger, Tom Dolenz, Arvid West, Stephen Gaither, John Kramer, Steve Sheltmire, Charles Stapleton, Tom Mundell, Claudie & Charles Goodin, Lynn Dorrell, Wade Vlosich, Audrey Mack, Barbara McCaslin, Michael Hutchko, Mitzi Marsh, Mary Beth Barnett, Lowry Finley-Jackson, Tom Goodin, Kathleen Fogarty, Jack White, Birch Wright, Richard Polk, Drew Wheatley, Mary Kramer, Representative Charlie Davis, Sean McLafferty
2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Kevin Hall, General Counsel; Daniel Bell, Public Information; Kim Packard, Director Homes Program; Stan Baughn, Director Cemetery Program; Doug Meyer, Director Veteran Services Program; Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations; Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manager; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Terry McAdams, Director Human Resources; Melissa Skinner, Research Analyst; Patty Faenger, Assistant Director Homes; Kevin Onstott, Capital Improvement Specialist; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; Kevin Colyott, Workforce Education & Development; Bonnie McNeill, Workforce Education & Development

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting Minutes November 9, 2015
Member Wooten made a motion to approve meeting minutes as written and Member Mowrer seconded the motion. By a voice vote the minutes were passed unanimously as written.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was delivered by Larry Kay, Executive Director.

A. Calendar – MAVO Legislative Days
B. House Veterans Committee Hearing Tuesday, January 26 HJR 54 - Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing $50 million in bonds for Veterans Homes
C. Meeting today with St. Louis VA Regional Office reference VA Digits-to-Digits (D2D) initiative. The D2D initiative's goal is to produce an electronic submission process for VSOs to prepare and submit electronic claims from their individual CMS directly into VA's Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).
D. Meeting today with Senator Dan Brown reference Capitol Improvement Project at MVH- St. James

Chairman Englund requested Director Kay to provide him with the Executive Director Performance Assessment for 2015.

IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

V. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects.

Discussion was held regarding construction of a new Veterans Home versus replacement and expansion of the MVH-Mexico (HJR 54). Director Kay explained that the MVH- Mexico is an aging facility which is multi-level, does not meet current VA building standards, and will need water and sewer upgrades in the near future. A replacement Home would expand from 150 to 200 beds. The City of Mexico has potential sites to be donated for a replacement Home. The operational costs for a replacement Home would be much less than building an additional Home, in addition, the state is capped at 1,259 skilled nursing beds with VA. Director Kay reported statistics show through 2030 Missouri Veterans will experience an increase demand in skilled nursing care. Senator Brown expressed interest to fix the Mexico Veterans Home and work on the getting funding from the VA for private nursing home care for Veterans.

Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manager reported on MVC Operating Appropriations by Fund.

Governor's FY 2017 Budget Recommendations:

- Core funding remain the same
- Additional funding for food and medical supplies inflation $273,563
- Additional funding for routine nursing care $545,149
- Increase in VSO salaries $200,000
- Statewide 2% pay plan increase

Governor's FY 2017 CI Budget Recommendations:

- $500,000 maintenance and repair funds
- Construct new columbarium wall Springfield State Veterans Cemetery
- Construct new columbarium wall Higginsville State Veterans Cemetery
- $500,000 planning and design of new Veterans Home
- **Construction of a new chapel and pavilion at the St James Veterans Home was not included as a line item on the Governor's list.

Senator Brown requested Director Kay to provide him with information on full funding of VSO salaries and the CI Budget line items.

Mr. Norton advised that the Commission has requested a construction grant from the VA for the St. James, Higginsville and Springfield projects. These projects have been given a project # and are eligible for a grant, although we need an appropriation to move onto the VA's priority one list to be eligible for the grant. It will normally take between 2 to 4 years to move up VA's priority list and we do not anticipate starting these projects until federal funds are available.

Daniel Bell, Public Information reported on new MVC publications.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update was delivered by Members Senator Brown, Senator Sifton, Representative Hoskins and Representative Walton Gray.

Senator Brown has reviewed MAVO Pending Legislation list and does not expect any problems.

Representative Hoskins reported Veteran King Roberson Sr. will receive the French Legion of Honor at a ceremony at the Warrensburg Veterans Home on Friday, January 29 at 9:00 a.m.

Representative Walton-Gray reported she attended the Holiday Program at the St. Louis Veterans Home.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Salary Adjustment Proposals – Director Kay reported that the Governor's FY 2017 Recommendations included $200,000 from GR for Veterans Service Officer (44 VSO's) salary adjustments. The Commission is working on job reclassifications with the Office of Administration. Director Kay advised that the Commission will continue to work on getting significant raises for the Veteran Service Officers. Member Senator Brown requested Director Kay to provide him with the Budget line item.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers - Member Englund opened for nominations for Chairman of the Commission. Member Mowrer made a motion to re-elect Scott Englund to serve as the Chairman for the Missouri Veterans Commission. Member Wooten seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.
Chairman Englund then opened for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission. Member Mowrer made a motion to re-elect Chuck Wooten to serve as the Vice Chairman for the Missouri Veterans Commission. Member Senator Brown seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

B. Wade Vlosich, Director Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital

1. Budget & Workload– FY2016 Approved Budget is $292 million. Preliminary specific line item allotments include $1.27 million for Hepatitis C patients.
2. Access to Care Initiatives – Average waiting time for "New" Patients" 14 days for Mental Health, 19 days for Primary Care, 18 days for Specialty Care Patients. Looking for new location for Jefferson City CBOC (Optometry will be available in FY 2017 after new clinic). Truman VA's attention areas for Access to Care continue to be Eye Care, Podiatry, Dermatology, Orthopedic Surgery as well as Surgical Waiting Times.
3. Construction Update – Current projects underway include a parking garage (phase 1), a new Dental Clinic and phase 2 of the Cardiology relocation. Construction of a new ICU will begin soon. Future projects include: Specialty Care Clinic Addition, relocation of the inpatient surgery unit, a patient education center, and parking garage (phase 2).
4. FY2015 Accomplishments - Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital received a 4 Star Rating for Quality for three consecutive quarters.
5. Quarterly Town Hall Meeting for Veterans and Family Members will be held on Friday March 4th in Columbia.

Kathleen Fogarty, Director Kansas City VA Medical Center

1. Tri-Annual Survey currently going on at the Kansas City VA Medical Center.
2. Expanded 13% in virtual health services.
3. Participating in the Annual Homelessness Count this week.

Birch Wright, Operations Manager, Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks

1. New Medical Center Director Bryan C. Matthews has been hired.
2. Construction Update – announcement this winter on Springfield CBOC location, Joplin CBOC approved, Fort Smith CBOC looking for new space for expansion.
3. Access Stand-Down – February 27th.

Fabian Grabski, Associate Director, VA St. Louis Health Care System

1. Access Stand-Down February 27th
2. VASTLHCS opened a clinic on Scott Air Force Base in 2015. The VASTLHCS continues to increase workload through the DoD/VHA Joint Venture at Scott SFB.
3. Construction Update: Jefferson Barracks major $360 million project. FY16 estimate a total of $17 million in additional design and construction awards.

Seth Barlage, Acting Deputy Director, John J. Pershing VA Medical Center, Poplar Bluff

1. Quarterly Town Hall Meeting for Veterans and Family Members will be held in March, 2016 in Paragould Arkansas.
2. FY2015 Budget was $120 million.
3. Saturday, February 27th, the John J. Pershing VAMC will participate in the VA Under Secretary for Health's National Access Stand-Down.
4. Construction Update – new Cape Girardeau CBOC.
5. Dr. Patricia Ten Haaf has been selected as the Medical Center Director.

Mitzi Marsh – Director, St. Louis VA Regional Office

1. Claims & Claim Backlog Update.
2. 90,000 Veterans served at the STL VA Regional Office.
3. $137.6 million monthly going to Missouri's Veterans
4. Electronic Record System Update.
5. St. Louis VA Regional National Call Center received the highest JD Powers Customer Service Satisfaction Ratings.
6. St. Louis VA Regional Office will continue to reduce backlog claims.
7. March 29, 2016 Nationwide Event Honoring Vietnam Veterans.

C. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Tom Mundell, Chairman invited Commission attendees to attend MAVO Legislative Days. Dewey Riehn, VFW Legislative Chair introduced Sean McLafferty. President MU Student Veteran Association and guest.

D. Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) – Michael Dunbar, Chairman

1. MMPEC meeting will be held on February 9th.
2. March 3rd Missouri Military Awareness Day.
3. Fort Leonard Wood Update: A Committee has been formed that will provide a forum for local leaders to discuss partnership opportunities and collaborations that are beneficial for the central Missouri post and the region.
4. Participated National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Public Hearing.
5. Thanked those who attended the hearing reference proposed personnel cuts at Fort Leonard Wood.

E. Missouri Veteran History Project (MVHP) – Audrey Mack, Executive Director reported that MVHP is a not-for-profit corporation organized to interview and record the stories of Missouri Veterans. She commended Melissa Wilding for her support with MVHP.

F. Jefferson Barracks POW/MIA Museum – Bill Kiefer Board Member reported that Museum is currently closed and undergoing a complete restoration and renovation with plans to be partially open by September, 2016. Friday, September 16th POW/MIA Recognition Day will be the first event at the museum.

IX. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

No motion

X. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at

10:00 AM in Jefferson City, Missouri

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Kay, Secretary