MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
May 2, 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 Nancy Nelson; Member Bill Wallace; Member Chuck Wooten; Member Representative Rochelle Walton Gray; Ex-Officio Member Michael Dunbar - MMPEC

Via Phone: Member Senator Dan Brown; Member Senator Scott Sifton; Member Representative Denny Hoskins

Welcome new member William "Bill" Wallace awaiting confirmation to the Commission.

Guests and staff present:

1. Guests: Bill Kiefer, Robert Crecelius, David Kollore, Randy Whitehead, Matthew Cooper, Mitzi Marsh, Mary Barnett, Robert Osborn, Kevin Inkley, Stephen Gaither, Patricia Ten Haaf, Jessie Jones, Tom Mundell, Carol Thompson, Jim Thorpe, Michael Elmore, Larry Probst
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; Kevin Onstott, Capital Improvement Specialist; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting Minutes January 25, 2016

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 – Memorial Day Events
B. Audit Release - Public Safety/Missouri Veterans Commission March 2016 at the MVH- Mt. Vernon
C. History of the State Federal Soldiers Home distributed in packets

IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

Member Senator Brown commented the Peer Review process is a very honest and positive review for programs.

Member Mowrer expressed his appreciation to staff for the new chapel at the St. James Veterans Home.

Director Kay advised the Commissioners that beginning FY2017 the Commission is requiring the Veteran Service Organization Grant recipients to report the number of Fully Developed Claims.

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). Chairman Englund suggested taking a vote on the Commissions stand of a new Veterans Homes verses to make the first priority of the Commission to replace the Mexico Veterans Home prior to construction of any new Home. Member Mowrer made a motion to approve replacing the Mexico Veterans Home first. Member Senator Brown seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously. Director Kay stated the Commissions 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan will be updated for the August meeting.

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

HB 2008 Approved By House and Senate:

- Additional funding for food and medical supplies inflation $273,563
- Additional funding for routine nursing care $545,149
- Increase in VSO salaries $200,000

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Member Senator Brown reported on legislation reference Veteran/Military college funding.

Member Senator Sifton reported on SB 968-Guard/Reserves receive in-state residency status for the purpose of tuition was passed out of the Senate.

Member Walton Gray reported on bills reference tax exemption, tuition assistance and compact agreement for nurses.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Salary Adjustment Proposals – Chairman Englund noted discussions were held at previous meetings reference VSO salaries. Director Kay advised per a directive in July 2015 from the Commissioners, he requested $600,000 for increase for VSO's salaries, $200,000 has been approved effective July 1, 2016. He stated at the August meeting he will make a recommendation for FY2018 an increase not to exceed $400,000 for VSO salaries. He also advised that he is working with HR and OA in changing classifications and pay range to attract and retain VSO's. Member Senator Brown stated the goal is to get to $600,000 total. Director Kay also stated that he would bring a recommendation to the August meeting regarding potential salary adjustments and shift differentials for two nursing positions in the Homes Program.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Stephen Gaither, Public Affairs Officer, Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital

1. Leadership Change – Wade Vlosich, Director has been appointed Director of the Oklahoma City CA Health Care System effective late May. Robert Ritter, Associate Director will serve as Interim Director. A nationwide search for a permanent Director is underway.
2. Budget & Workload– Significant decrease (38.2%) in the number of Veterans referred out for non-VA care because of ability to provide those services in-house.
3. Access to Care Initiatives – Average waiting time for "New" Patients" 14.9 days for Mental Health, 14.6 days for Primary Care, 17.1 days for Specialty Care Patients.

4. Construction Update – $58 million dollars in construction projects.
5. Upcoming Activities and Events in May – Farewell Reception for Mr. Vlosich is scheduled for May 16. VA2K events will be held nationwide on May 18 to benefit homeless Veterans. Truman VA's Research Service will host the National VA Research Symposium in Columbia on May 18-19. The Patriot Place Apartments for homeless Veteran will be dedicated o May 26. Distribution of the 2015 Annual Report.

Kevin Inkley, Associate Director Kansas City VA Medical Center

1. Access to Care and Waiting Times
2. Belton CBOC moving August 2016; Relocating Cameron CBOC soon.
3. Construction – Phase I – New Emergency Room (increase 8-18 beds); increase inpatient surgical beds and inpatient psychiatry.
4. Budget – Choice Program is used more this year than previous year due to VA is working with Tri-West closely.

Patricia Ten Haaf, Director, John J. Pershing VA Medical Center, Poplar Bluff

1. April 21 Dedication to Access to Care - 10 days or less to schedule appointments. 90% of appointments are within 30 days.
2. Town Hall Salem MO (seen 200+ Veterans)
3. Construction Update - New handicap access entrance ribbon cutting next week. New generator, laundry and energy projects underway. Expansion urgent care and CBOC Cape-Girardeau from 8,00 to 43,00 square feet.
4. Excellent recruitment of staff; Cardiologist and a Neurologist.

Mitzi Marsh – Director, St. Louis VA Regional Office

1. The St. Louis VA Regional Office serves over 494,000 Veterans of which over 90,000 receive $137.6 million per month in compensation /pension benefits.
2. Claims & Claim Backlog Update.
3. May 7 move into national work que
4. Additional staff has been hired to work Appeals (2 Teams). The VA is working to simplify the appeal process with a goal of wait time 1 year by 2012.
5. VA St. Louis Regional Office exceeds the Outcome Accuracy rate; currently at 92%.
6. St. Louis Regional Office processes education claims
7. Voc Rehad – Assisted 165 Veterans this fiscal year to become successfully rehabilitated.
8. VA St. Louis Regional Office 1 of 7 National Call Centers in the nation. Nationwide initiative to have more call agents (added 81 to STL).

9. VA St. Louis Regional Office is scheduled to move to Page Avenue beginning in October 2016 (5 moving phases).
10. Town Hall Meeting June 14, 2016 Madison Courthouse, Edwardsville, IL.

C. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Tom Mundell, Chairman thanked the Commission for all they do for Veterans and to the House and Senate members of the Commission for the ease of access.

D. Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) – Michael Dunbar, Chairman announced that Joe Driskill has accepted the position of the new Military Advocate. "Military Awareness Day" held in March was successful.

E. Bill Kiefer, Vietnam Veterans of America announced an Agent Orange Town Hall will be held on August 27, 2016 in St. Louis.

Member Wooten announced the new CBOC in Springfield will be located at Kansas Expressway.

IX. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Englund made a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. Member Wooten seconded the motion. The meeting was closed.

X. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION

Member Wooten made a motion to go into open session. Member Mowrer seconded the motion. The closed meeting was adjourned.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in August at the Missouri State Veterans Home – Cape Girardeau.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Larry D. Kay, Secretary