MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
January 26, 2015 — 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 Nancy Nelson; Member Chuck Wooten; Member Representative Denny Hoskins; Member Senator Dan Brown; Member Senator Scott Sifton

Absent: Ex-Officio Member Michael Dunbar

Guests and staff present:

1. Guests: William Smith; Curtis Gist; Curry Sanders; Arvid West; Lee Smith; Harry McLane; Raphael Wahwassuck; Keith Repko; Charles Stapleton; Mike Mowrer; Glenn Boyer; Bob Crawford; Morris Cox; Randy Whitehead; Sheryl Smith; Dennis Woeltje; Geroge Newell; Sam Crane; Ernie Lee; Steve Sheltmire; Bob Osborn; Virginia Riehn; Dewey Riehn; Jim Whitfield; Chris Bell; Representative Charlie Davis; Charlie Jamis; Chris Johnston; Andrew Edwards; Thomas Dolenz; David Kollore; Robert Crecelius; Bryan Bradford; Michael Elmore; Eric Olson; Bill Rieger; Willis Farless; Janice Howard; Jerry Bay; Mary Cummings; Cheryl Goss; Harold Goss; Darryl Ostman, Mary Cummings; Ron Carr; Nancy Cowan; Tom Mundell; Lawrence Truman; Richard Heigert; Cary Kellett; Carolyn Sanford; Jessie Jones; Kenny Goth; Geroge Scarborough; W. Keith Neeley; Steve Vonderhoof; Rachel Bauer; Lowry Finley Jackson; Charles Goodin; Tom Goodin; Stephen Gaither; Robert Ritter; Kristen Wright
2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Kevin Hall, General Counsel; Daniel Bell, Public Information; Kim Taddeucci, 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; Melissa Skinner, Research Analyst; Becky Wolken, Administrative Assistant; Melissa Wilding, Ombudsman; Jerilyn Cornelius, Administrative Assistant; Keisha Montgomery, Administrative Assistant, Kevin Onstott, Capital Improvement Specialist; Tom Baldwin, Procurement Officer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting Minutes November 5, 2014

Member Wooten made a motion to approve meeting minutes as written and Member Representative Hoskins seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

A. Introduction of new Commissioner Senator Dan Brown
B. Announcement new Commissioner Representative Rochelle Walton Gray
C. Introduction of Commission Appointees:
   Sheriff Glenn Boyer – Jefferson County, Hillsboro MO
   Judge Michael Mowrer – Kennett MO
D. Farewell- Commissioners Senator David Pearce, Representative Michael Frame, Emmett Fairfax, Paul Connors
E. Calendar – "Veterans Appreciation Day" activities

IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

Chairman Englund inquired as to what the Commission is doing to protect the Electronic Medical Records the Homes Program is using. Deputy Director Hunt advised that the Commission continues to work with OA-ITSD and the vendor in making sure we have the highest security in place. Commissioner Nelson also asked that the Commission contact the VA to see what type of security system they use. Director Kay advised that the Commission will inquire.

Arvid West asked the Commission where the new State Veterans Home location will be built. Chairman Englund advised it is dependent on funding and that the Commission will look at demographics and work with MAVO.

Chairman Englund suggested the Commission provide recognition plaques next year to Prime Trucking for the delivery of the Wreaths Across America Project.

Chairman Englund inquired as to how the Commission determines Veteran Service Officer Grant allocation. Deputy Director Hunt advised that the Commission reviews historical data, and number of completed claims filed. These numbers are provided by the VA.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects. Commissioner Representative Hoskins inquired as to what the Commission plans to do with additional space left from the CBOC's at the

Homes. Mr. Norton advised that each facility has one or more needs for additional space at the Homes for training rooms, staff offices, VSO offices, medical records, etc.

Julie Miller, Fiscal and Administrative Manager reported on MVC Operating Appropriations by Fund.
Governor's FY 2016 Recommendations:

- $8 million core cut from Homes E&E
- FY15 COLA 1% continue into FY16
- FY15 funding increase for nurses continue into FY16
- $375,000 from the WWII Memorial Trust Fund, which is a dedicated fund for the Memorial

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislative Update was delivered by Members Senator Sifton, Senator Brown and Representative Hoskins.
Member Senator Sifton noted a record number of Veterans bills have passed the legislature the past few years. Member Representative Hoskins reported the House has developed a new committee structure called Select Committees. Member Senator Brown stated it is an honor to serve on the Veterans Commission and over the past two years eleven Veterans bills have passed the legislature.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendation for Veteran Monthly Contribution – Director Kay recommended a $50 increase from $2,000 to $2,050 effective April 1, 2015. The Commission receives three sources of funding: Federal Per Diem, Veterans and the State of Missouri. Director Kay stated that he has been in contact with MAVO Leadership and they are in agreement with the increase. After much discussion member Wooten made a motion to accept the recommended resident rate increase of $50 per month. Member Nelson seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. United States Department of Veterans Affairs – Robert Ritter, Associate Director, Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital reported on the following:
    1. FY 2015 Workload- Overall growth of more than 6% in patients treated over the past two years.
    2. Budget Update – Current FY2015 Budget is $277 million
    3. Access to Care Initiatives – Average waiting time for "New" Patients 20 days, 8 days for Mental Health, 16 days for Primary Care, 23 days for Specialty Care Patients.
    4. Columbia VA Medical Center rated top 25% nationally in providing care

5. Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) – Currently 37,000 Veterans enrolled at Columbia VA Medical Center
6. Construction Update - Inpatient Psychiatry Renovation; Audiology Relocation; Parking Garage; and new building for ICU
7. Announcements - Efforts underway through a partnership with Truman VA, the Columbia Housing and Welcome Home, Inc. a "Community for Veterans" is being developed in Columbia which houses 25 one bedroom apartments for homeless Veterans; Truman VA was recognized for promoting employment of individuals with disabilities by Show Me Careers Columbia; With emphasis on Patient Centered Care the Truman VA is establishing a facility Veteran and Family Advisory Council; Quarterly Town Hall Meeting for Veterans is scheduled for Friday, February 27.

W. Keith Neely, Associate Director Veterans Healthcare of the Ozarks reported in the following:

1. Currently 57,000 Veterans enrolled at Fayetteville VA Medical Center, 40% are from Southern Missouri area
2. VA Clinic contract extended for three additional years (target for opening Springfield CBOC) at the Missouri University Vocational Rehab Center in Mt. Vernon.
3. Looking into new clinic to be located in Joplin MO
4. Branson CBOC maintain its presence
5. Construction Update – new parking garage Fayetteville VA Medical Center
6. New Residential Rehab Treatment Program (90 days)
7. Veteran eligibility requirement changes on total asset valuation for Veterans
8. Changes in My HealtheVet –easier access
9. Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) Update
10. Enhanced safety and security of VA Medical Centers – computers access local police departments

Keith Repko, Deputy Director VA St. Louis Health Care System reported the following:

1. VACA A Update- 900 Veterans eligible
2. New Programs – Neuro Surgery Program; Open Heart Surgery Program; CBOC opened at Scott Air Force Base
3. Construction Update- Jefferson Barracks currently in Phase III of Phase V adding five new buildings (project completion 2018); John Cochran - finishing up land acquisition of 6 of the 7 parcels needed for new construction (project begin 2017-18)
4. Organizational Update – Director position still open, beginning interviews for Chief of Staff position

B. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Michael Elmore, Chairman reported on MAVO Legislative Days. Dewey Riehn, Legislative Chair advised MAVO is working with the Legislators and the Governor's office on MAVO 2015 Legislative Agenda List:

1. Maintain the current funding for the operation and maintenance of state veterans homes and state veterans cemeteries and, in addition, reinstate and recover General Revenue funding to cover the Missouri Veterans Commission administrative costs, veterans' capital improvement projects, the Veterans Service Officers program, the Veterans Service Organizations' Service Officer Grant Program and other needs of Missouri's veterans;
2. The "Veterans Family Healthcare Act" pertains to low income veterans and their families

C. Kristen Wright, Staff Assistant Congresswoman Senator Claire McCaskill's Office reported on "Veterans Customer Satisfaction Survey". This Program allows Missouri veterans to complete a confidential survey about their experiences at Missouri VA facilities. Armed with direct feedback from veterans, Senator McCaskill's Office partners with Veterans' Service Organizations and the VA to compile a report detailing survey findings and recommendations for improvement at Missouri's VA Medical Centers. The survey can be accessed by visiting Senator McCaskill's website, VA Medical Centers and the VA Clinics.

D. Missouri National Guard Foundation – Scott Englund, President reported the Missouri National Guard Foundation is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation that supports the activities of the Missouri National Guard. The Foundation's current initiative is to raise $600,000 to fund a Family Resiliency Center at the Missouri National Guard Headquarters in Jefferson City.

IX. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

No motion.

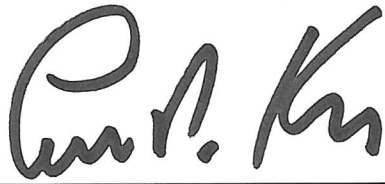
X. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Jefferson City, Missouri

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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



Larry D. Kay, Secretary