MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
May 4, 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 Mike Mowrer; Member Nancy Nelson; Member Chuck Wooten; Member Representative Rochelle Walton Gray; Member Representative Denny Hoskins; Member Senator Dan Brown;
Via Phone: Ex-Officio Member Michael Dunbar
Absent: Member Senator Scott Sifton

Guests and staff present:

1. Guests: J. Scott Adams; Mike Lederle; David Christian; Robert Osborn; Virginia Riehn; Dewey Riehn; Jessie Jones; Robert Crecelius; David Kollore; Charles Stapleton; Seth Barlage; Jon Sabala; George Newell; Dennis Woeltje; Timick Emerson; Nancy Cowan; Chris Johnston; Birch Wright; Wade Vlosich; Stephen Gaither; Bill Kiefer
2. Staff: Larry Kay, Executive Director; Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director; Jill Talken, Executive Secretary; Kevin Hall, General Counsel; Daniel Bell, Public Information; 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; Lindsay Denny, Executive II; Terry McAdams, Director Human Resources; Jamie Talken, Outreach

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting Minutes January 26, 2015
Member Wooten made a motion to approve meeting minutes as written and Member Senator Brown 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. HJR 44 – Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing $50 million in bonds for veterans homes

- The number of Veterans currently on the waiting list for admission is approximately 2,000
- The demand for skilled nursing care continues to rise while the number of Veterans in Missouri decreases
- The VA's planning formula for number of beds allowed in Missouri is currently 1,257
- The Mexico home is our oldest constructed home at 30 years old
- The cost to operate a 150-bed home today is approximately $12.5 million per year
- At this time there are no formal plans regarding a new facility to include funding source or location
- We are looking at current and projected Veterans demographics in Missouri to illustrate Veteran location
- We are looking at our waiting list to illustrate Veteran origin
- We will seek grant opportunities with the VA
- We will work closely with the VA in any strategic partnership opportunities
- We will work closely with our elected officials throughout this process.

B. 2017 Proposed Budget – Plan to meet with Commissioners for table top discussion this summer:
- Veteran Service Program: VSO Salary Increases, VSO Turnover
- Homes Program: Equity Raises

C. St. James Video Tour - Completed

D. Missouri Vietnam Veteran Memorial – Attended with Commissioner Mowrer at the College of the Ozarks

E. Vietnam Veteran Returning Home - SGT Rodney Griffin Memorial Service in Centralia MO – Chairman Englund attended

F. Calendar – Memorial Day May 25th

G. Introduction Director Department of Public Safety Lane Roberts

IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

V. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects.

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

FY 2016 Budget Changes:

- 1% Pay Plan – continuation no increase
- WWII Trust Fund line added
- Homes GR operating cost went from $8 million in FY15 down to $750,000 in FY16

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Session ends May 15, 2015 at 6:00 pm

Member Senator Brown – HJR 44 Status Update
Member Representative Gray – HJR 44 Status Update: Executive Session today expected to be reported out
Member Representative Hoskins – SCR 8 Status Update: House possible different version

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. United States Department of Veterans Affairs – Wade Vlosich, Director Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital reported on the following:

1. FY 2015 Workload- Overall growth of more than 5.4% in patients treated over the past two years. Significant increases at Ft. Leonard Wood CBOC, Sedalia CBOC, Lake of the Ozarks CBOC and the Marshfield CBOC. Outpatient expansion in Columbia: Behavioral Health, Clinical Support, Nursing, Pharmacy, PM & R, Specialty Care, and Surgery. Surgical workload has increased.
2. Budget Update – Current FY2015 Budget is $299.6 million. This includes allotment for Hepatitis C patients.
3. Access to Care Initiatives – 20,594 patients seen between October 1 and February 1. 99.3% of those appointments were completed within 30 days. Average Access to Care waiting time for "New" Patients" 10

days for Mental Health, 12 days for Primary Care, 19 days for Specialty Care Patients.

4. Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) – Veterans going beyond 30 day wait times – 1,253 patients as of May 1. To dates, only 52 authorizations have been made. Rule changes to 40 miles drive time than the straight line 40 miles
5. Customer Satisfaction – Continue to closely monitor the results of ongoing national customer service surveys. Waiting announcement from U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill's office on results.
6. Construction Update – Cardiology project in nearing completion, parking garage construction update.
7. Announcements - Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital rated 4 Star Facility in the nation. Quarterly Town Hall Meeting for Veterans and Family Members was held May 2.

Timick Emerson, Assistant to Director, VA St. Louis Health Care System reported in the following:

1. Continue to hire and recruit
2. Cardiac Surgery Unit opened
3. Clinic opened in February at Scot Air Force Base
4. Access to Care waiting time for "New Patients" 17 days for Specialty Care Patients, 15 days for Mental Health

Seth Barlage, Associate Director, John J. Pershing VA Medical Center

1. Expansion of Clinic at Cape Girardeau from 8,000 sq. feet to approximately 43,000 sq. feet to include specialty services. Projected completion date by November 2019.

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

1. Actively recruiting for new Director
2. Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) Update
3. The VAMC-Fayetteville Fee Basis Office has been centralized to the VA in Washington, DC
4. Construction Update – parking garage, step down unit, second MRI, clinic contract extended for three additional years (target for opening Springfield CBOC 2018) at the Missouri University Vocational Rehab Center in Mt. Vernon

B. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Dewey Riehn, Legislative Chair advised status HJR 44 - Proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing $50 million in bonds for veterans homes and SCR 8 - Creates a state buildings project list to be funded by revenue bonds issued by the State Board of Public Buildings (MVC $14.5 million). MAVO is contacting Veterans to communicate with their Senator/Representative to support these bills.

C. Jefferson Barracks POW/MIA Museum – Bill Kiefer, Vice Pres. VVA 794 Florissant, MO and Member POW-MIA Museum at Historic Jefferson Barracks reported on museum and fundraising efforts.

D. Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) – Michael Dunbar, Chairman that the Listening Session held at Fort Leonard Wood was well attended.

The next MMPEC meeting will be held on May 28 in St. Louis to demonstrate support of keeping the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency based in St. Louis, MO.

The Strategic Deterrent Coalition (SDC), a national organization dedicated to supporting and maintaining the United States strategic nuclear deterrent, has selected the University of Central Missouri as the site for its first symposium, May 4-6.

Member Senator Brown advised the money for the salary and EE for the "Office of the Military Advocate" position under the MMPEC passed out of the Senate.

IX. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Member Wooten made a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing legal issues and Member Senator Brown seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

X. VOTE TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION

Member Wooten made a motion to go into open session and Member Senator Brown seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the Missouri State Veterans Cemetery Higginsville.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Larry D. Kay, Secretary