MINUTES

Quarterly Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
Held, pursuant to notice
November 9, 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 Glenn Boyer; Member Mike Mowrer; Member Nancy Nelson; Member Chuck Wooten; Member Representative Rochelle Walton Gray;
Via Phone: Member Representative Denny Hoskins; Member Senator Dan Brown; Member Senator Scott Sifton

Guests and staff present:

1. Guests: Robert Osborn; Bill Patterson; James Whitfield; David Kollore; Robert Crecelius; Richard Heigert; Virginia Riehn; Dewey Riehn; Jessie Jones; Ruben Armenta; Tom Mundell; Stephen Gaither; Beau Harrison; Michael Haffner; Nancy Cowan; Chris Johnston; Jim Thorpe; Jack Cardetti; Wade Vlosich; Patricia Ten Haaf; Birch Wright; Paul Schmidt; George Newell
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; Lindsay Denny, Executive II; Terry McAdams, Director Human Resources;

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commission Meeting Minutes July 21, 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. Rebecca Bradley, Minority Veterans Coordinator office will be relocating to downtown Kansas City in the near future.

B. HJR 44 – This past session, HJR 44 proposed a constitutional amendment authorizing $50 million in bonds for an additional Veterans Home.
   - At this time the Missouri Veterans Commission has no formal plans regarding a new facility
   - The Mexico home is our oldest constructed home at 30 years old
   - We believe that Representative Lindell Shumake is planning to refile another HJR this next session proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing $50 million in bonds for an additional Veterans Home.

C. Medical Marijuana Amendment – Two separate petitions were submitted to the Secretary of State's Office. The main difference is where they would sit in the State Constitution if passed – Article 1 or Article 16.

D. Calendar – November 11th Veterans Day

E. Fiscal Year July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 Annual Report distributed

IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

Program reports were delivered by Bryan Hunt, Deputy Director

Chairman Englund noted the importance of security to the electronic health records system.

Chairman Englund requested to see the history of the Veteran Service Officer turnover rate.

Commissioner Mowrer inquired about CNA turnover rate at the Homes. Deputy Director Hunt stated this information is tracked and the Commission is below industry trends.

V. STAFF REPORTS

Tim Norton, Director Facilities Operations reported on construction projects. Commissioner Wooten asked the status of the Greenway. Mr. Norton stated it is anticipated the transfer to be finalized in the next two to three weeks.

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

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

Member Senator Brown is looking for input from the Commission and Veterans Organizations on addressing the Homes waiting list and utilizing private facilities. Director Kay will send letters to the VISN 15 and VISN 16 Directors asking for assistance in addressing the need for skilled nursing care for Missouri's Veterans.

Prefiled bills begins December 1, 2015.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Salary Adjustment Proposals – Director Kay reported that the Veterans Service Officer salary adjustment proposal was not included in the Department of Public Safety budget request for FY2017. Director Kay is working with Human Resources to update those job descriptions and will continue to address salary issues with the elected officials on the Commission. Chairman Englund instructed Director Kay to show the increased workload the Veteran Service Officers are performing. Member Mowrer noted how dedicated these men and women are to Veterans accessing benefits.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Increase for Veterans Monthly Contribution – Current monthly contribution is $2,050.00; recommended at the July meeting an increase to $2,100 monthly. After speaking with MAVO, Director Kay recommends no increase at this time, but to plan for an increase on 1/1/2017. Director Kay stated the last increase was effective in April 2015 making two increases in one year if approved this year. In addition MVC is a little ahead with the current rate of inflation. Member Boyer made a motion not to increase the Veterans Monthly Contribution rate for calendar year 2016. Member Wooten seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

B. Missouri Veterans Commission Resolution No. 15-01 Flags (attachment) - Director Kay recommended adoption of Resolution No. 15-01 as permanent part of Commission records. Member Wooten made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-01 as written. Member Senator Brown seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

C. United States Department of Veterans Affairs – Dr. William Patterson, Network Director VISN 15
    1. New Under Secretary for Health emphasis on Veteran Care
    2. VA stepping up its efforts to accelerate treatment for Veterans with hepatitis C
    3. New initiative MyVA Communities - Increase its engagement at the community level
    4. Care in the Community – consolidate non-VA (private) care programs into a single system designed to simplify Veteran care.

Wade Vlosich, Director Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital

1. Budget & Workload– FY2015 Budget was $325 million. This includes allotment for Hepatitis C patients ($12.8 million). Total expenditure for all non-VA care was $47 million. Still waiting on final FY2016 budget.
2. Access to Care Initiatives – Average waiting time for "New" Patients" 16 days for Mental Health, 11 days for Primary Care, 19 days for Specialty Care Patients.
3. Veteran Access, Choice, and Accountability Act (VACAA) – Currently 5,874 Veterans were identified as waiting longer than 30 days for an appointment or residing more than 40 miles from the nearest VA health care facility and of those only 8,878 requested care. Truman VA received 54.45 additional FTE for FY2015. A total of 50 positions were filled.
4. Access Stand-Down – November 14 all VA medical centers across the nation will participate in the VA Under Secretary for Health's Access Stand-Down.
5. Construction Update – Cardiology relocation, new Dental Clinic, new ICU and parking garage. Future projects include Specialty Care Clinic, relocation of inpatient surgery unit, patient education center and second parking garage. Leasing additional space for administrative support. Working on relocation of St James CBOC as well as the Jefferson City CBOC.
6. Announcements - Harry S Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital rated 4 Star Facility in the nation. Quarterly Town Hall Meeting for Veterans and Family Members will be held on Friday November 13 in Columbia.

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

1. New Associate Director, Bryan C. Matthews has been hired
2. Hosting Health Access Stand-Down on November 14
3. Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks has seen over 56,000 Veterans this year
4. FY2015 Budget was over $300 million
5. 4% increase in Women Veterans seen this year
6. Construction Update – announcement end of the month on Springfield CBOC location, Mt. Vernon CBOC will remain open till both Springfield and Joplin CBOC's have opened
7. Veterans Choice Program update
8. Fayetteville VAMC currently contracts with three private nursing homes in Missouri

Patricia Ten Haaf, Acting Director St. Louis VA Health Care System

1. FY2015 Budget was $500 million
2. St. Louis VA Health Care System largest treatment center in Missouri for Hepatitis C
3. Construction Update – Jefferson Barracks new Tenant Building and John Cochran renovation projects

D. Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO) – Tom Mundell, Chairman thanked the Commission for their continued support. MAVO will meet today to prioritize legislation for the upcoming session. Dewey Riehn, Legislative Chair introduced Jack Cardetti, Consultant with Show-Me Cannabis. Mr. Cardetti addressed the Commission to present "New Approach Missouri" which would legalize medical marijuana in the state. Currently there are 24 states with legalized medical marijuana. Mr. Cardetti stated proceeds from the sales tax and fees would go directly to the Missouri Veterans Commission for Veterans Homes and Veterans Services Programs.

E. Missouri Military Preparedness Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) – Director Kay recently attended The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Public Hearing held in St. Louis on behalf of the MMPEC.

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, January 25, 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