

OPEN MINUTES

**3rd Quarter Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
August 11, 2025 — 10:00 AM
Missouri Veterans Cemetery - Jacksonville
1479 County Road 1675
Jacksonville, MO 65260**

WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call (Did not reach a quorum)

A. Commissioners in attendance in person or via WebEx Conference Call:

- i. Chair Kelly McClelland; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Will Jobe; Commissioner Randy Alewel
- ii. Absent: Commissioner Joe Nicola; Commissioner David Griffith; Vice Chair Steve Roberts; Commissioner Meredith Knopp

B. Chair Opening Comments

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Open Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2025, 2nd Quarter Commission Meeting
- B. Closed Meeting Minutes from April 28, 2025, 2nd Quarter Commission Meeting
- C. Minutes approved unanimously
- D. Open Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2025, Special Commission Meeting
- E. Closed Meeting Minutes from June 25, 2025, Special Commission Meeting
- F. Minutes approved unanimously

II. COMMISSION UPDATES

1. Executive Director

A. Construction / Renovations Meeting 4 August 2025

- i. OA-FMDC do not have enough staff to properly monitor all projects
- ii. When there are problems, MVC pays the price
- iii. Empowered Administrators and Facility Managers to monitor and scrutinize contractor work
- iv. Providing facilities with access to construction contracts
- v. If/when issues are seen or suspected tasked with calling HQ Facilities team to confirm/deny

B. Homes Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

- i. Seniors (to include Veterans) are waiting longer to enter long-term care facilities
- ii. By waiting longer, their acuity level is higher requiring a greater number of staff hours for proper care
- iii. To reach full occupancy, MVC will require more FTEs
- iv. Plan to take a staggered approach to our request for these FTEs

2. Legal

A. Clinics Held This Quarter

- i. Springfield, 5/12/25
- ii. St. Louis, 6/17/25
- iii. DeSoto, 6/26/25
- iv. Cape Girardeau, 7/25/25
- v. Columbia, 7/28/25

B. Future Clinics Scheduled

- i. Branson, 8/14/25
- ii. Clayton, 8/15/25

- iii. Columbia/Kirksville, 8/25/25
 - iv. Jefferson City, 9/26/25 – in collaboration with the Lt. Governor's Office
 - v. Columbia, 9/29/25 Clients Served: 2,446
- C. Documents Drafted: 8,763
- D. Estimated Cost Savings to Veterans: \$4,381,500.00
- 3. Facilities
 - A. In Progress Construction Projects
 - i. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
 - C Unit construction on hold - litigation
 - A Unit construction Prebid 8/11/25
 - Project over budget
 - ii. C Unit construction on hold - litigation
 - iii. A Unit construction on hold
 - iv. Project over budget
 - B. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
 - i. Flooring projects at Cameron, Mt. Vernon, and Warrensburg are completed, Mexico flooring is in construction
 - ii. HVAC improvement for Isolation and Quarantine areas in Mexico is completed. Cape Girardeau is pending bid award, St. James, St Louis (tied to facility renovation), Mt Vernon and Warrensburg are pending bid. Cameron is in design
 - iii. Wi-Fi upgrades at Cameron, Mt. Vernon and Warrensburg are FMDC completed, pending ITSD activation. Cape Girardeau is in construction, Mexico is pending construction, and St Louis, St James, are in design
 - iv. Access Control upgrades at Mt Vernon is completed. All other Homes are on FMDC hold, pending contract evaluation with Contractor
 - v. COVID19 grant projects must be completed by 9/17/26
 - C. St. James Water & Sewer FAI 29-053, U230901
 - Is complete
 - D. Cape Girardeau Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
 - Pending bid award
 - E. St. James Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
 - Bids due 8/12/2025
 - F. Higginsville Cemetery FAI MO22-16, U240601
 - In construction phase
 - Completion date extended due to granite shipping delay
- 4. OA FMDC – Kevin Onstott
 - Provided an update on current projects
 - i. Possible timelines
 - ii. Contract bids
 - iii. Designs
 - iv. Hold-ups
 - Negotiation of costs
 - v. Thanked Tim Hoyer and his team for the much-improved communications
- 5. Human Resources
 - RECRUITMENT & RETENTION INITIATIVES
 - A. Recruitment Campaign
 - i. Investment: \$100,000
 - ii. Timeframe: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
 - iii. Focus: Cameron, St. James, and Warrensburg CNA, LPN, RN, and Trainees
 - iv. Desired Outcome: Fill vacancies with qualified candidates, build on culture momentum
 - B. Retention Pay Plans
 - i. Governor Kehoe's Years-of-Service Retention Plan
 - ii. Congregate Care Retention Pay Plan effective July 1, 2024

- C. Team Member Fill Rates
- 6. Veterans Suicide Prevention Program
 - A. "Left of Boom," published earlier this month
 - B. Missouri Governor's Challenge Team – VA/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Analysis of Veterans Suicide Prevention of Service Members and Families (SMVF) in Missouri
 - i. SWOT Analysis conducted 7/29-7/30/2025
 - ii. Provided insights of "what's working," for Suicide Prevention Efforts in Missouri
 - iii. The outcome of the analysis can assist MVC in future reporting and program efforts
 - C. Next steps in the implementation involve
 - i. Sustained collaboration with partners at the local, state, and national levels to identify existing community strengths
 - ii. Gather targeted insights on areas of concern, and continuously leverage data to guide outreach and advise future reporting
 - D. Barriers to continued efforts to improve mental health and reduce suicide in the Veteran population
 - i. Disruptions and changes in healthcare access
 - ii. Reduced funding for existing programs and research
 - iii. Growing financial instability affecting already at-risk veterans and their families
 - iv. Data reporting delays creating blind spots to areas of increased concern
 - v. Access to services, especially in rural areas or areas with provider shortages
- 7. Veteran Cemeteries Program
 - A. Recent Events
 - i. Jacksonville NCA Compliance Review May 13-14, 2025
 - ii. Ft Wood Peer Review Jul 24, 2025
 - iii. Higginsville Peer Review Aug 7, 2025
 - B. Current Projects
 - Higginsville – Columbarium Wall (Est. completion August 2025)
 - C. Future Projects
 - Springfield - Columbarium Wall (Up to 100% Reimbursable)
 - D. Upcoming Events:
 - i. Bloomfield MVC Peer Review Sep 10-11, 2025
 - ii. Higginsville Columbarium Wall Dedication Sep 18, 2025 (11:00am)
 - iii. Wreaths Across America Dec 13, 2025
 - iv. Ft Wood NCA Compliance Review Mar 30-Apr 1, 2026
 - v. Higginsville NCA Compliance Review Apr 28-30, 2026
 - vi. Bloomfield NCA Compliance Review Sep 15-16, 2026
 - vii. Interments
 - E. FY 2026 OPPORTUNITIES
 - i. Continue to improve leadership and development opportunities for all team members
 - ii. Continue focus on team and facility safety
 - iii. Continue building team operational skills through Peer Review interaction
 - iv. Continue to identify facility improvement needs to aging facilities
 - v. Surplus all aged equipment replaced in FY 2025
- 8. Veteran Services Program
 - A. Direct Cost for MVC VSO Program
 - B. Benefits Awarded to Missouri Veterans by MVC Service Officers in Current and all Previous Fiscal Years Combined
 - i. Return on Investment Ratio FY24 - \$129: \$1
 - ii. Missouri Veteran Population: 392,041 (-1.6% from 2021)
 - iii. Ratio of VSOs to Veterans: 1:3,087
 - C. Satisfaction Survey Results

9. Veteran Homes Program
 - A. Satisfaction Survey Results
 - B. 2025 Annual VA Certifications (Survey)
 - C. Full Certification
 - St. James
 - D. Partial Certification
 - Cameron
 - Mexico
 - E. Awaiting Survey Results
 - Cape Girardeau
 - F. Awaiting Survey
 - St. Louis
 - Mt. Vernon
 - Warrensburg
 - G. Program Update
 - i. 2 Winners for the MHCA Nursing Home Pageant
 - Queen, District 2 – Iris “Kathie” Moore, Cameron
 - Queen, District 4 – Winifred “Winnie” Fisher, Mt. Vernon
 - ii. MHCA District Staff Award Winners
 - Melissa Terry, Employee of the Year – District 1, Warrensburg
 - Tonya Miller, C.N.A of the Year – District 5, Cape Girardeau
 - Amanda Smith, Nurse of the Year – District 7, St. James
 - iii. Homes Leadership Conference was a success in early May
 - iv. Specialty/High-Cost Medications remain a challenge
 - v. NASVH Nomination
 - Kristen Smith, NASVH Pod 3 Regional Director
 - vi. Challenge – Medication costs/specialty medications
 - Executive Director, Kirchhoff recommended an offsite day to develop contingencies for pharmacy costs
 - vii. Clinical Quality Measures
 - viii. Staffing Measures
10. Budget and Finance
 - A. MVC FUNDS REVIEW
 - i. Veterans Homes
 - Veterans Homes operational needs (Payroll, Fringe, ITSD, Supplies, Utilities, Operational Costs, Maintenance, and Services)
 - ii. General Revenue
 - Solvency of the Homes Fund, Special Projects, Capital Improvement and Maintenance Projects
 - iii. Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF)
 - Headquarters, Cemeteries, Veterans Service Officers, Utilities for Cemeteries, State Veterans Grant Partners, Veterans Recognition, Maintenance and Repair, Capital Improvement Needs of Homes and Cemeteries, Homes Fund Solvency – (Removed \$30M Transfer for FY26)
 - iv. Facilities Maintenance Reserve Fund
 - COVID-19 Construction Project (All Homes)
 - v. Veterans, Health, and Community Reinvestment Fund (Veterans Reinvestment Fund – Adult Use Marijuana)
 - 100% Homes Fund Solvency
 - vi. Veterans Health and Care Fund (Veterans Assistance Fund - Medical Marijuana)
 - Homes Funds Solvency – Actual cash transfer will reduce by next fiscal year
 - Homes Special Projects (WiFi, Data Science, Homes Emergency Needs)
 - vii. DPS Federal Fund

- ARPA direct distributions to the Veterans Homes
- viii. Budget Stabilization Fund
 - Veterans Homelessness
- ix. World War I Memorial
 - Restoration and renovation of the WWI Memorial in Kansas City
- x. Veterans Trust Fund
 - Veterans Service Officers located in the Veterans Homes operational needs
- B. BUDGET TIMELINE
 - i. January – July 2025 – Begin preparing the budgetary needs for FY27
 - ii. July 2025 – Present FY26 Supplemental and FY27 requests to DPS Director’s Office
 - iii. July – October 2025 – Gather details and fine tune budgetary requests
 - iv. October 1, 2025 – All department requests submitted into the budget systems
 - v. Early October 2025 – Present FY26 Supplemental and FY27 requests to OA Budget and Planning
 - vi. October – December 2025 – Gather details and respond to queries for OA Budget and Planning and DPS
 - vii. December 2025 – Profile of legislation begins
 - viii. January 2026 – Governor’s Recommendations released (typically released immediately following the State of the State)
 - ix. January 2026 – May 2026 – Regular Session of the General Assembly
 - x. February (estimate) – Budget presentations to the House Budget Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee
 - xi. March 2026 (week TBD) – Legislative Spring Break – ideally House markups of budget are complete, and Senate is ready to begin
 - xii. May 2026 – Appropriations bills must be Truly Agreed and Finally Passed
 - xiii. June 30, 2026 – Appropriations bills must be signed/line item vetoed by Governor
 - xiv. September 2026 – Veto Session
- C. FY26 Supplemental New Decision Item
 - ITSD (HB5) Electronic Health Record system replacement
 - \$2,671,336 increase to existing budget line in Homes Fund
- D. FY27 ITSD New Decision Item (House Bill 5)
 - i. ITSD (HB5) Electronic Health Record system replacement
 - Maintain \$2,671,336 increase to Homes Fund
 - ii. Time and Leave System Replacement
 - Estimate \$776,962 increase to Homes Fund and VCCITF
 - iii. Revver/Efile System Rebid
 - Estimate \$45,000 one-time increase to Homes Fund and VCCITF
 - iv. Enterprise Resource Partners/Evet Assist
 - Estimate \$20,000 one-time increase to VCCITF
 - v. MS 365 and Adobe Contracts increase
 - Estimate \$500,000 ongoing increase to Homes Fund and VCCITF
- E. FY27 New Decision Item (House Bill 8)
 - i. Homes Fund Solvency
 - Estimate \$30,000,000 increase to General Revenue transfer
 - ii. Alternate solution of initiating a fund switch for payroll
 - Homes Direct Care Team Member Increase
 - iii. Estimate \$3,382,787 increase to Homes Fund
 - 80 FTE Increase
 - iv. Homes E&E Budget Increase
 - Estimate \$5,696,200 increase to Homes Fund
 - v. Increase Veterans Service Officers
 - Estimate \$322,622 increase to VCCITF

- 6 FTE Increase
- vi. Veterans Homes Overtime
 - \$1,600,000 increase to Homes Fund
- F. FY27 New Decision Item (House Bill 18)
 - i. Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mexico, and St. James Fire Alarm, Cameras, and Fire Sprinkler improvements
 - Estimate \$13,239,000 from General Revenue
 - ii. Replace Chiller units in Cape Girardeau, Mexico, St. James, and St. Louis
 - Estimate \$4,037,480 from General Revenue
 - iii. Replace domestic hot water boilers at Warrensburg, Cape, and Mexico HVAC Hot Water System Replacement
 - Estimate \$1,368,750 from General Revenue
 - iv. St. Louis A and C Roof Replacement
 - Estimate \$2,000,000 from General Revenue
 - v. Mexico Flat Roof Replacement
 - Estimate \$1,000,000 from General Revenue
- III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
 - Representative Will Jobe discussed:
 - A. Need for more stable funding source for MVC
 - B. Need to have funding from General Revenue
 - C. Hopes to get Veteran centric bills moving early next session
- IV. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE
 - Stephanie Tuley-Fuson: Kansas City VA Hospital and Gold Star Spouse
 - A. Expressed her desire for KC VA to support MVC
 - B. Intends to investigate possibility of sharing agreement with MVC
- V. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - 1. Next Commission Meeting
 - October 27, 2025: Harry S Truman State Office Building
 - 2. 2026 Commission Meeting Dates
 - A. 1st Quarter Meeting:
 - February 2, 2026: Harry S Truman State Office Building
 - B. 2nd Quarter Meeting:
 - April 20, 2026: Harry S Truman State Office Building
 - C. 3rd Quarter Meeting:
 - August 10, 2026: Missouri Veterans Home - Mt. Vernon
 - D. 4th Quarter Meeting:
 - November 23, 2026: Harry S Truman State Office Building
- VI. ADJOURN


 Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary