

OPEN MINUTES

1st Quarter Meeting of the Missouri Veterans Commission February 3, 2025 — 10:00 AM

Harry S Truman State Office Building
301 W. High Street, Room 492 - 4th Floor Auditorium
Jefferson City, MO 65101

WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Roll Call
 - A. Commissioners in attendance in person or via WebEx Conference Call:
 - i. Chair Kelly McClelland; Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Steve Roberts; Commissioner David Griffith; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner Randy Alewel
 - ii. Absent: Commissioner Rick Brattin
 - B. Chair Opening Comments
 - Commission elections in CY 2025
 - C. Recognition:
 - i. DPS Team Member of the Month: Angela Engle-Walton, Missouri Veterans Home – St. James
 - ii. Commissioner Representative Robert Sauls
 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. 4th Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from October 28, 2024
 - B. 4th Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes: October 28, 2024
 - C. Minutes approved unanimously by those in attendance as written
- II. COMMISSION UPDATES
 1. Shaun Broeker – Welcome Home, Missouri
 - Mission: Welcome Home Missouri is an organization aiming to build a public-private partnership with the State to serve as an engine of economic growth, attracting and relocating veterans from around the Nation to strengthen Missouri's workforce and communities.
 2. Executive Director – Budget Brief
 - A. Funding Requests
 - B. Funding Recommendations from Governor
 3. Facilities
 - A. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
 - i. C Unit construction on hold - litigation
 - ii. A Unit construction on hold
 - iii. Project over budget
 - B. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
 - i. Flooring projects at Cameron, Mexico, Warrensburg are in construction phase, Mt. Vernon construction is completed
 - ii. HVAC improvement for Isolation and Quarantine areas at Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mt. Vernon, St. James, St. Louis and Warrensburg are in FMDC design phase, Mexico is in construction phase
 - iii. Wi-Fi upgrades at Cameron, Mt. Vernon and Warrensburg are in FMDC design phase, Mexico, St. Louis, St. James, and Cape Girardeau are pending FMDC design

- iv. Access Control upgrades at Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mexico, St. James and Warrensburg are in FMDC design phase, Mt. Vernon is in construction phase
 - v. COVID19 grant projects must be completed by 9/17/26
- C. St James Water & Sewer FAI 29-053, U230901
 - In construction phase, new service lines are in use and project is near completion
- D. Cape Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
 - Design complete, FMDC will bid once final documents are completed
- E. St James Facility Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
 - Design complete, FMDC will bid once final documents are completed
- F. Higginsville Cemetery
 - i. In construction phase
 - ii. Completion date 8/15/25
- 4. Human Resources
 - A. Recruitment Campaign Ended
 - i. Investment: \$400,000
 - ii. Timeframe: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024
 - iii. Outcome: Increased applications, attracted qualified candidates, and highlighted culture Staffing Rates for Direct Care Staff
 - B. New Recruitment Campaign
 - i. Investment: \$100,000
 - ii. Timeframe: January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
 - iii. Focus: Cameron, Mt. Vernon, St. James, and Warrensburg CNA, LPN, RN, and Trainees
 - iv. Desired Outcome: Fill vacancies with qualified candidates, build on culture momentum
- 5. Veterans Suicide Prevention Program
 - A. Assumed duties: November 16, 2024
 - B. Collaboration of assessment and development
 - C. Initial draft of Veterans Suicide Prevention Report to be complete by April 25, 2025, for presentation to Missouri Veterans Commission Commissioners on April 28, 2025
 - D. Environmental Assessment has been requested by DMH
- 6. Veteran Cemeteries Program
 - A. Recent Events
 - B. Wreaths Across America: December 14, 2024
 - C. Current Projects
 - Higginsville – Columbarium Wall (Est. completion August 2025)
 - D. Future Projects
 - Springfield - Columbarium Wall (Up to 100% Reimbursable)
 - E. Upcoming Events:
 - VA/NCA Compliance Review
 - MVC - Springfield - April 8-10, 2025
 - MVC - Jacksonville - May 13-14, 2025
 - F. Interments
- 7. 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
 - C. Return on Investment Ratio FY24 - \$129: \$1
 - D. Who is assisting Missouri Veterans with their claims
 - E. Missouri Veteran Population: 392,041 (-1.6% from 2021)
 - F. Ratio of VSOs to Veterans: 1:3,213

8. Veteran Homes Program
 - A. Satisfaction Survey Results
 - B. 2024 Annual VA Certifications (Survey)
 - C. Full Certification
 - St. James
 - Mexico
 - Cameron
 - Cape Girardeau
 - Warrensburg
 - D. Survey Complete – awaiting Statement of Deficiencies
 - i. St. Louis
 - ii. Mt. Vernon
 - E. Upcoming 2025 Surveys
 - i. St. James: January
 - ii. Mexico: March
 - iii. Cameron: April
 - iv. Cape Girardeau: June
 - v. St. Louis: September
 - vi. Mt. Vernon/Warrensburg: October
 - F. Program Update
 - i. Census Rise Continues
 - 5% for the calendar year
 - Increased FCOC Veterans
 - ii. Current Waiting List Total (as of 1/15): 223
 - iii. 2024 resulted in decreased staff vacancies
 - iv. New VA Secretary, Doug Collins
 - v. Upcoming Homes Program Leadership Conference
 - February 18th – 20th Increase Monthly Room and Board - \$2, 697
 - vi. Effective January 1, 2025
 - vii. COLA 2.5%
 - G. CMS Final Staffing Rule – May 10, 2024
 - H. MVH vs. CMS Final Rule:
 - i. As of September 30, 2024, MVH average staffing
 - ii. 3.66 HPRD (3.48 required)
 - iii. 0.33 RN HPRD (0.55 required)
 - iv. 2.7 HPRD C.N.A (2.45 required)
 - I. Clinical Quality Measures
 - J. Staffing Measures
- III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
 1. Representative Robert Sauls
 - A. Expressed hope of getting Veterans Personal Property Tax Exempt bill passed
 - B. Introduced this replacement: Representative Will Jobe
 2. Senator Steve Roberts briefed on:
 - A. Pleased with the budget
 - B. Need to continue to work with budget team
- IV. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE
 - MAVO; Troy Williams provided an update on the following:
 - A. Thank you to staff and Homes Program
 - B. MAVO Priorities during this session
 - i. Wants 100% MVC funding
 - ii. Property Tax bill
 - iii. Claim Sharks bill
 - C. Staying engaged with legislators

- V. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. Commission Meetings for 2025
 - A. August 11, 2025: Missouri Veterans Cemetery-Jacksonville
 - B. October 27, 2025: Harry S Truman State Office Building
 2. Executive Director – Decision Brief:
 - A. To obtain a decision from the MVC Commissioners on fiscal conservation measures required in the event the commission does not receive adequate funding to sustain current and future operations.
 - i. Owe the Commission a more detailed plan
 - ii. There were multiple questions reference how would affect budget requests
 - iii. Need to see a detailed plan prior to implementation
 - iv. Bring more detailed plan to Commission for vote
- VI. VOTE TO GO TO CLOSED SESSION
1. Motion made by Commissioner Sauls
 2. Seconded by Commissioner Roberts
 3. By a roll call vote, the motion was passed:
 - A. Chair Kelly McClelland – Aye
 - B. Vice Chair Meredith Knopp – Aye
 - C. Commissioner Steve Maples – Aye
 - D. Commissioner Steve Roberts – Aye
 - E. Commissioner David Griffith – Absent: Had to depart meeting
 - F. Commissioner Alewel – Aye
 - G. Commissioner Robert Sauls – Aye
 - H. Commissioner Brattin – Absent
- VII. RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION
- With no further business, motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT


Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary