

## OPEN MINUTES

**1st Quarter Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
January 22, 2024 — 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.**

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Due to a forecasted, and subsequent, severe ice storm across much of the state of Missouri, and out of a concern for the safety of anyone who would attempt to attend in person, this meeting was changed to a WebEx meeting only. This decision was made on the morning of January 21, 2024. Updated calendar invitations and emails were sent immediately following this decision and open meeting notification changes were made as quickly as possible.

The initial open meeting notice was posted on November 30, 2023, and read as follows:

Section 610.020 Revised Statutes of Missouri

Notice is hereby given that the Missouri Veterans Commission will conduct a meeting on Monday, the 22nd of January 2024 at 10:00 AM at: Harry S Truman State Office Building 301 W. High Street, Room 492 - 4th Floor Auditorium, Jefferson City, MO 65101

To join the meeting remotely via phone, please dial: 650-479-3207

Once connected, please enter access code: 2631 612 7839.

To join by computer from the meeting link:

<https://stateofmo.webex.com/stateofmo/j.php?MTID=m25486b4078679599913d4bd4af18bd87>

Please return to: <https://mvc.dps.mo.gov/about/> during the week prior to January 22, 2024, to view the agenda and presentation for the meeting.

The open meeting notice posted on the morning of January 21, 2024, read as follows:

On behalf of Missouri Veterans Commission Executive Director and our Missouri Veterans Commission Commissioners: The 1st Quarter Missouri Veterans Commission Meeting will only be conducted via WebEx... The onsite portion will not take place. The weather is calling for freezing rain and icy roads throughout approximately 75% of the state of Missouri. To not put individuals at risk of traveling on icy roads to attend the meeting in person, MVC leadership has chosen to cancel the "On Location" portion of this meeting. Please join us on our WebEx link below either via phone or computer. See link and instructions below to join.

Thank you...

Join from the meeting link

<https://stateofmo.webex.com/stateofmo/j.php?MTID=m25486b4078679599913d4bd4af18bd87>

Join by phone

1-650-479-3207 Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

Join by meeting number

Once you have dialed in, please enter the access code below.

Meeting number (access code): 2631 612 7839

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-650-479-3207,,26316127839## Call-in toll number (US/Canada)

+1-312-535-8110,,26316127839## United States Toll (Chicago)

MVC Executive Director, Paul Kirchhoff, also addressed the reason for the change prior to the official beginning of the Quartey Commission Meeting.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
  - Pledge of Allegiance
  - Roll Call
    1. Commissioners in attendance via WebEx Conference Call:
    2. Chair Kelly McClelland Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Randy Alewel; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Robert Sauls;
    3. Absent: Commissioner Steve Roberts; Commissioner David Griffith; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Rick Brattin
      - Chair Opening Comments
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - Fourth Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from October 23, 2023
  - Fourth Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes: NA
  - Minutes were unanimously voted to approve by those in attendance as written
- III. COMMISSION UPDATES
  - Executive Director
    1. Jefferson Barracks Cemetery Expansion
    2. Show Me Challenge 2023 Winner: Shawn Holzhauser on the team
    3. State of Missouri Leadership Academy Graduate: Terressa Sherlock
      - Facilities
    1. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
      - a. C Unit construction, pending substantial completion
      - b. A Unit is in design phase, anticipate bid 3/24
      - c. Project remains over budget
    2. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
      - a. Flooring projects at Mt Vernon, Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mexico are in design phase with FMDC
      - b. HVAC improvement for isolation and quarantine areas are in design phase with FMDC
      - c. Wi-Fi upgrades for Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mt Vernon are in design phase with FMDC
      - d. COVID19 grant projects must be completed by 9/17/26
    3. Higginsville Cemetery
      - Columbarium wall addition in design phase with FMDC
    4. St James Water & Sewer FAI 29-053, U230901
      - In design phase with FMDC
    5. Cape Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
      - In design phase with FMDC
    6. St James Facility Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
      - In design phase with FMDC
    7. No change from previous meeting:
      - a. VA Grant Submitted – No Appropriation , Pending Funding Source
      - b. St James Facility FAI 29-041
        - Demo external Chapel, replace with Pavilion, and construct new chapel at existing facility
        - No appropriation obtained
        - Budget estimate \$1M 2014
        - VA Grant submitted 4/14
      - c. Cameron Facility FAI 29-045
        - Renovate Veterans rooms, common areas, admin and support, nurse stations, nutrition rooms, recreation, therapy, add storage areas, replace fire/smoke doors, upgrade dietary serving line
        - Bond expired, no appropriation obtained
        - Budget estimate \$13.9M 2016

- VA Grant submitted 12/15
8. Human Resources
    - a. Recruitment Campaign
      - Investment: \$200,000
      - Timeframe: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024
      - Audience: Prospective Homes Team Members
    - b. VA Recruitment and Retention Grant
      - Timeframe: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024
      - Audience: Prospective Homes Team Members
    - c. Show Me's Got Talent – Employee Referral Program
      - Start: January 1, 2024
      - Audience: All Non-HR Staff and Hiring Managers
    - d. Staffing Rates for Direct Care Staff
  9. Veteran Cemeteries Program
    - a. Recent Events
      - Wreaths Across America December 16, 2023
      - Estimated Attendance 2,400
      - Number of Wreaths Placed 20,000
    - b. Current Projects
      - Higginsville – MO-22-16 Columbarium Wall
      - Up to 100% Reimbursable
      - Est. completion 2025
    - c. Future Projects (Appropriation granted FY24):
      - Springfield - Columbarium Wall
      - Up to 100% Reimbursable
      - Higginsville - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvement
        - 100% Reimbursable
    - d. Upcoming Events:
      - Bloomfield – Peer Review April 11, 2024
      - Memorial Day Ceremonies May 27, 2024
    - e. Interments
    - f. 2023 Overall Satisfaction Survey Results
  10. 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
    - d. Missouri Veteran Population: 406,753 (2021)
    - e. Ratio of VSOs to Veterans: 1:3,035
    - f. Relocated Osage Beach VSO office to Camdenton
    - g. Contact Tracking
    - h. New Springfield VSO office  
1515 East Pythian St.  
Springfield, MO 65801
      - Department of Mental Health Regional Office
      - Consolidates all Service Officers and support staff into one workspace
      - Move in date is 26 January 2024
  11. Veteran Homes Program
    - a. Satisfaction Survey Results
    - b. Annual VA Survey Certifications
      - Full Certification
        - St. James
        - Mexico

- Cape
      - Cameron
    - Partial Certification
      - Warrensburg
      - St. Louis
      - Mt. Vernon
  - c. 2024 Upcoming Surveys
    - St. James – January
    - Mexico – March
    - Cameron – April
    - Cape Girardeau – June
    - St. Louis – September
    - Mt. Vernon / Warrensburg – October
  - d. Program Update
    - Winter National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) in DC
      - State Veterans Homes (SVH) Networking
      - New VA Regulations
    - Increase in Respiratory Viruses
    - Encouraging Vaccinations (RSV, Flu, & COVID)
    - Jn.1 COVID Variant
    - Next Steps Census Goals
      - Increased census = increased staffing (FTE) need
  - e. Reasons to Celebrate
    - Lowest Vacancies since May of 2021
    - Cape & St. James Renovation Projects
    - Congratulations to Brittney Owens on promotion to MVH-Warrensburg Assistant Administrator
  - f. Clinical Quality Measures
  - g. Staffing Measures
12. Fiscal Update
- a. FY25 Budget Requests
  - b. Homes Fund Review
    - Average Daily Census
    - Federal VA and Veterans Room and Care Revenue
  - c. Medical Marijuana
    - Expenditures and Balances
    - Transfers into Veterans Assistance Fund
    - Transfers into Veterans Homes Fund
  - d. Adult Use Marijuana
    - Expenditures and Balances
    - Transfers into Veterans Assistance Fund
    - Transfers into Veterans Homes Fund
  - e. Cashflow Concerns
- IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:  
Representative Robert Sauls
- a. Provided an update on current legislation he had introduced to help Veterans
  - b. Provided an update on other legislation submitted by others which could also have a positive impact on Veterans
- V. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE
- MAVO provided an update on legislation they are tracking with possible impacts on Missouri Veterans
- VI. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 22, 2024 at Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City
- July 22, 2024 at Missouri Veterans Home – Mexico: Mexico Missouri
- October 28, 2024 at Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- With no Closed Session and no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.



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Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary