

## OPEN M I N U T E S

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Monday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024 at 10:00 AM at  
Missouri Veterans Home – Mexico  
#1 Veterans' Drive  
Mexico, MO 65265

Mexico, MO 65265 WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.

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- 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 Randy Alewel
      - ii. Absent: Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner Rick Brattin
    - B. Chair Opening Comments
    - C. Recognition: Veterans Service Program
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  1. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from April 22, 2024
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes from April 22, 2024
  3. Minutes were unanimously voted to approve by those in attendance as written
- III. COMMISSION UPDATES
  1. Facilities
    - A. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
      - iii. C Unit construction on hold
      - iv. A Unit is in design phase, anticipate bid 10/24
      - v. Project remains over budget
    - B. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
      - vi. Flooring projects at Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mexico are in FMDC bid phase
      - vii. Flooring project at Mt Vernon, bid has been awarded- Mechanical Services Inc. Springfield, MO
      - viii. HVAC improvement for Isolation and Quarantine areas in Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mt. Vernon, St. James, St. Louis and Warrensburg are in FMDC design phase
      - ix. HVAC improvement for Isolation and Quarantine areas in Mexico are in FMDC bid phase
      - x. Wi-Fi upgrades for Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mt Vernon are in FMDC design phase
      - xi. Wi-Fi upgrades for Mexico, St Louis, St James, and Cape Girardeau pending design
      - xii. COVID19 grant projects must be completed by 9/17/26
    - C. St James Water & Sewer FAI 29-053, U230901
      - Bid has been awarded – Donald Maggi Inc. Rolla, MO
    - D. Cape Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
      - In FMDC design phase
    - E. St James Facility Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
      - In FMDC design phase

- F. Higginsville Cemetery
  - Columbarium wall addition FMDC pre-bid completed 7/9/24 with FMDC
- 2. Human Resources
  - A. Recruitment Campaign
    - i. Investment: \$400,000
    - ii. Timeframe: December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024
  - B. State COLA 3.2%
    - All MVC team members - July 1, 2024 VA Recruitment and Retention Grant
  - C. Office of Administration Retention Pay Differential
    - i. 1% increase for every 2 years of continuous service at MVC in an eligible position up to 10% and 20 years of continuous service
    - ii. Must be in a 24/7 congregate care facility, eligible for shift work, and provide direct care
    - iii. Eligible positions selected by OA Personnel
  - D. MVC Longevity Salary Adjustment
    - One-time, within-grade, 1.8% increase for Homes, VSP, and Cemetery team members not in an OA Retention Pay Differential classification and have at least 2 years of continuous MVC service. Excludes HQ team members.
  - E. Reallocation of vacant FTE
    - Positions previously on budget hold to meet census goals Show Me's Got Talent – Employee Referral Program
  - F. Staffing Rates for Direct Care Staff
- 3. Veteran Cemeteries Program
  - A. Recent Events
 

Memorial Day Ceremonies	May 27, 2024	1200 Attendees
Jacksonville Peer Review	June 27, 2024	Score 96%
  - B. Current Projects
    - Higginsville – Columbarium Wall (Est. completion 2025)
  - C. Future Projects
    - Springfield - Columbarium Wall (Up to 100% Reimbursable) (Grant Submitted)
  - D. Upcoming Events:
 

i. Springfield Cemetery Peer Review	September 18-19, 2024
ii. Wreaths Across America	December 14, 2024
iii. VA/NCA Compliance Review	
a. Springfield Cemetery	April 8-10, 2025
b. Jacksonville Cemetery	May 13-14, 2025 Springfield 1 pm
  - E. Interments
  - F. FY 2025 Opportunities
    - i. Continue to improve leadership and development opportunities for all team members
    - ii. Improve communication through Counter Part Group interaction.
    - iii. Focus on team and facility safety
    - iv. Continue replace aged equipment
    - v. Identify facility improvement needs and plan updates and renovations to aging facilities.
- 4. 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. Missouri Veteran Population: 406,753 (2021)
  - E. Ratio of VSOs to Veterans: 1:3,035

- F. Satisfaction Survey Results
- 5. Veteran Homes Program
  - A. Satisfaction Survey Results
  - B. 2024 Annual VA Certifications (Survey)
- 6. Full Certification
  - St. James
- 7. Survey Complete – awaiting Statement of Deficiencies
  - A. Mexico
  - B. Cameron
- 8. Awaiting Survey
  - A. Cape
  - B. Warrensburg
  - C. St. Louis
  - D. Mt. Vernon
- 9. Program Update
  - A. Current Census Total – 802 (65%): Increase of 3% this quarter (as of 6/28/24)
  - B. Reallocation of vacant FTE’s to increase census goals in 4 homes.
    - i. Meets VA 90% Occupancy for bed hold
    - ii. Takes census ability to 984 of 1,238 (80%)
  - C. Heightened costs for goods/services –increasing daily cost of care
    - i. Veteran Average Cost of Care/Day 2018 - \$265.24
    - ii. Veteran Average Cost of Care/Day 2024 - \$468.79
    - iii. Increase of 77% in Average Cost of Care/Day
  - D. Reasons to Celebrate
    - i. DPS June Team Member of the Month
      - Shannon Dunworth, LPN, Warrensburg
    - ii. MHCA Annual District Award Winners
      - a. District 1
        - Ben Archambault, Employee of the Year, Warrensburg
      - b. District 5
        - Kayla Trankle, Employee of the Year, Cape
        - Ryan Hepler, C.N.A of the Year, Cape
  - E. Clinical Quality Measures
  - F. Staffing Measures
- 10. Fiscal Update
  - A. FY24 FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
    - i. \$19.9M Homes Fund financial support for operations from General Revenue funds
    - ii. \$20M Homes Fund cash flow support for operations from Budget Stabilization funds
    - iii. \$13M Homes Fund cash flow support from Medical Marijuana Funds
    - iv. \$6.3M Homes Fund cash flow support for operations from Adult Use Marijuana Funds
    - v. \$7M General Revenue to support the restoration, maintenance, and improvements to the National WWI Museum in Kansas City Missouri
    - vi. \$8M General Revenue to support redesign and construction of deferred St. James Home project
    - vii. \$12M General Revenue to support redesign and construction of deferred Cape Girardeau project
    - viii. \$10.8M ARPA One-time funding from the VA extended from FY23
    - ix. \$18.9M Facilities Maintenance and Reserve Funding for COVID Construction Grant extended from FY23
    - x. \$2.2M ARPA funding for the St. James water and sanitation line replacement extended from FY23

- xi. \$1.5M Budget Stabilization funding to address Veterans Homelessness in Missouri extended from FY23
- B. FY25 BUDGET ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- i. 3.2% COLA salary adjustment for all state team members
  - ii. 1%-10% additional longevity differential for eligible congregate care team members
  - iii. \$8.8M in Homes' payroll authority to support filling budget held positions
  - iv. \$1.5M General Revenue funding to increase Missouri's response to Veterans' Homelessness
  - v. \$300,000 appropriation authority to contract for additional maintenance/grounds personnel support in the cemeteries of most need
  - vi. \$2.1M ARPA and MVC Federal Fund one-time funding to replace heavy equipment for the cemeteries program
  - vii. \$360,000 Homes one-time funding in the ITSD appropriation to replace the antiquated anti-wander system at six of the seven homes
  - viii. \$118,841 Homes one-time funding in the ITSD appropriation for Health Information Exchange
  - ix. \$41M solvency cash transfers into the Homes Fund for continuity in operations
  - x. General Revenue           \$18,975,434
  - xi. Adult Use Marijuana   \$ 9,098,619
  - xii. Medical Marijuana     \$13,000,000
  - xiii. \$8M in matching funds to aid in the maintenance and renovation needs of Missouri's WWI Memorial
  - xiv. \$180,000 to procure a new bus for Veteran transport for the St. Louis Veteran's Home
- C. FY26 BUDGET PRIORITIES
- i. Homes Fund Solvency Transfer (amount unknown at this time; figures are dependent on whether existing appropriations are one-times or ongoing)
  - ii. VCCITF Fund Solvency
  - iii. Longevity differential to support ineligible congregate care team members
  - iv. (11 classifications were not eligible to receive longevity differential)
  - v. Homes FTE and corresponding salary to accommodate the CMS mandate of 3.4 PPD
  - vi. Cemeteries FTE and corresponding salary
  - vii. VSP FTE and corresponding salary
  - viii. Nurse Call System Replacement (FY25 Supplemental and FY26 NDI)
  - ix. EMR Replacement (FY25 Supplemental and FY26 NDI)
  - x. Higginsville concrete replacement
  - xi. Capital Improvement needs forthcoming
- D. MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES – HOMES FUND
- E. MAJOR FUNDING SOURCES – VCCITF
- F. CASH FLOW – VCCITF
- G. VETERANS HEALTH AND CARE FUND
- H. VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND
- I. VETERANS REINVESTMENT FUND

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

- 1. Representative David Griffith
  - A. Briefed on the status of multiple bills
    - HB 1495; HB 1496; HB 1494; HB 2100; HJR 74; SB 912
  - B. Continuing to work on MVC funding
  - C. There were more bills this year than the past 3 years combine
- 2. Senator Steve Roberts briefed on focus on MVC budget and requested to be kept in the loop on any needs

- V. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE
- No update this quarter
- VI. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- October 28, 2024 at Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City
- VII. VOTE TO GO TO CLOSED SESSION
1. Motion made by Commissioner Alewel
  2. Seconded by Commissioner Knopp
  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 David Griffith – Aye
    - E. Commissioner Tim Smith – Aye
    - F. Commissioner Alewel – Aye
    - G. Commissioner Steve Roberts – Absent – Left meeting prior to Closed Session
    - H. Commissioner Brattin – Absent
    - I. Commissioner Robert Sauls– Absent
- VIII. RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION
- With no further business, motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- IX. ADJOURNMENT



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Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary