

OPEN MINUTES

**4th Quarter Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
October 23, 2023 — 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
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call
 - 1. Commissioners in attendance in room or via WebEx Conference Call:
 - 2. Chair Kelly McClelland Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner Randy Alewel; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner David Griffith
 - 3. Absent: Commissioner Steve Roberts; Commissioner Rick Brattin
 - C. Chair Opening Comments
 - D. Recognition:
 - 1. Stacy Wilson: Department of Public Safety Non-sworn Team Member of the Month
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. Third Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from October 23, 2023
 - B. Third Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes: NA
 - C. Minutes were unanimously voted to approve by those in attendance as written
- III. FUNDING UPDATES
 - A. Department of Health and Senior Services
 - B. Gaming Commission
- IV. COMMISSION UPDATES
 - A. 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
 - B. Deputy Director
 - a. COVID Update
 - C. 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
 - 3. Higginsville & Springfield Cemeteries
 - a. Awaiting VA grant approval
 - b. Received FY24 legislative appropriation
 - c. Includes new Columbarium Walls and facility improvements

4. St James Water & Sewer FAI 29-053, U230901
 - a. Replace water and sewer lines
 - b. Received ARPA Funding FY24
 - c. VA Grant submission 10/17
5. Cape Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
 - a. Received GR appropriation for \$12M
 - b. Includes an addition to the building, HVAC, laundry, dietary, and Veteran room upgrades. Remodel kitchen, dining room, and hallways. Window, door, and flooring replacement.
 - c. Potential project will exceed \$12M, estimated cost escalation over \$3M, exceeded cost not eligible for VA reimbursement-would default to VCCITF
 - d. Requested FMDC to proceed with project design
6. St James Facility Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
 - a. Received FY24 GR appropriation for \$8M
 - b. Solarium addition, replace nurse call and fire alarm systems, HVAC, dietary, veterans room/area upgrades, door and flooring replacement, Potential project will exceed \$8M, estimated over \$2M for cost escalation, exceeded cost not eligible for VA reimbursement– would default to VCCITF
 - c. Requested FMDC to proceed with project design
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 – Summer/Fall 2023
 - Vacancies have decreased
 - Application rates have increased
 - b. Staffing Rates for Direct Care Staff
9. Veteran Cemeteries Program
 - a. Upcoming Events:
 - Peer Review Visit – Jacksonville Nov 29, 2023
 - Wreaths Across America Dec 16, 2023
 - b. Recent Events:
 - Peer Review Visit – Ft Leonard Wood 100%
 - Peer Review Visit – Higginsville 92%
 - c. Future Projects (Appropriation granted FY24):
 - Springfield - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvements
100% Reimbursable
 - Higginsville - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvements
100% Reimbursable
 - d. Interments

- e. FY24 Opportunities
 - Continue aged equipment replacement
 - Continue to identify facility improvement needs and plan updates to aging buildings
 - Focus on safety training
 - Establish Quarterly Cemetery Representative Counterpart Meetings to improve efficiencies
 - Continue utilizing NCA for major training subjects
 - Improve leadership and development opportunities for front line team members
- 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. Support to Veterans Service Programs
 - d. 2024 VSP Training Conference
- 11. Veteran Homes Program
 - a. Satisfaction Survey Results
 - b. Annual VA Survey Certifications
 - c. Increasing Census
 - d. Reasons to Celebrate
 - 6 MHCA District Level Award Winners
 - St. James:
Rosary Zalazinski, C.N.A
 - Cameron:
Maria Tracy, Restorative Director
David Hibler, Administrator
 - St. Louis:
Smiley Redden, Custodial Manager
Leonard Rhine, Administrator
 - Mt. Vernon:
Jaylon Taylor, Food Service
 - 1 MHCA State Employee of the Year
Jaylon Taylor, Food Service – Mt. Vernon
 - Fall Picnics (Family/Staff)
 - e. Clinical Quality Measures
 - f. Staffing Measures
- V. 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
- VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:
 - 1. Representative Dave Griffith

- a. Introducing a bill to help divorced family members
 - b. Veterans Suicide Prevention Bill again this session
 - c. Afghanistan Medal bill
 - d. Veteran Property Tax Bill again this session
 - e. 50/50 Lottery Bill this session
 - f. Medal of Honor Recipients Bill for cities with Medal of Honor Recipients
 - g. Gaming Charge increase bill
 - h. Make MVC a line item in the State Budget
- VII. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE
- A. Kansas City VA Medical Center represented by Stephanie Tuley-Fuson: NAVY GOLD STAR WIFE/VETERAN and MILITARY SPOUSE ADVOCATE/MOM :
 - a. Comprehensive Community Care Act to allow Veterans 90 days care in the community in order to help prevent Veteran suicide
 - b. CBOCs – Nevada ground breaking – Will open in May 2024
 - c. Property Tax Exemption for surviving spouses.
 - Can MVC determine that impact
- VIII. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
- A. January 22, 2024 at Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City
 - B. April 22, 2024 at Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City
 - C. July 22, 2024: Place TBD
 - D. October 28, 2024 at Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City
- IX. ADJOURNMENT
- A. With no Closed Session and no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.



Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary