

**OPEN M I N U T E S**  
**4th Quarter Meeting of the**  
**Missouri Veterans Commission**  
**October 27, 2025 — 10:00 AM**  
**Harry S Truman State Office Building**  
**301 W. High Street, Room 492**  
**Jefferson City, MO**

**WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

- A. Commissioners in attendance in person or via WebEx Conference Call:
  - i. Chair Kelly McClelland; Vice Chair Steve Roberts; Commissioner Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Will Jobe
  - ii. Absent: Commissioner Joe Nicola; Commissioner David Griffith; Commissioner Randy Alewel
- B. Chair Opening Comments

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Open Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2025, 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting
- B. Closed Meeting Minutes from August 11, 2025: NA
- C. Minutes approved unanimously

II. COMMISSION UPDATES

1. Guest Speaker: (Did not arrive due to family emergency)
  - Susan Roemer: Executive Director, Independent Living Resource Center
2. Executive Director
  - A. Pharmacy costs
  - B. Iraq/Afghanistan obelisk dedication – November 11, 2025 @ 11 am
  - C. Government Shutdown
  - D. Hemp shops
3. Legal
  - A. Clinics Held This Quarter
    - i. Branson - 8/14/25
    - ii. Clayton - 8/15/25
    - iii. Columbia/Kirksville - 8/25/25
    - iv. Warrensburg - 9/5/25
    - v. Kansas City - 9/15/25
    - vi. Jefferson City - 9/26/25 – in collaboration with the Lt. Governor’s Office
    - vii. Columbia - 9/29/25
  - B. Future Clinics Scheduled
    - i. St. Louis - 11/14/25
    - ii. St. Louis - 11/18/25
    - iii. Columbia - 11/24/25
    - iv. Mount Vernon - 12/5/25
    - v. Columbia - 12/29/25
  - C. Clients Served: 2,610
  - D. Documents Drafted: 9,320
  - E. Estimated Cost Savings to Veterans: \$4,660,000.00
  - F. Developing Legal Issue:
    - Guardian/Conservatorships for Residents of Veterans Homes
4. Facilities
  - A. In Progress Construction Projects

- i. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
  - A Unit construction awarded to Aspire Construction Services 9/30/25
    - Completion date 9/11/26
  - C Unit construction is pending design
  - Project remains over budget
- ii. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
- iii. Mexico flooring is in construction
  - HVAC Improvement for Isolation and Quarantine areas in Cape Girardeau and St. Louis are in construction, Mt. Vernon and Warrensburg are pending bid. St. James and Cameron are in design.
  - Wi-Fi upgrades at Cameron, Cape Girardeau, Mt. Vernon and Warrensburg are FMDC completed, pending ITSD activation. St. James and Mexico are in construction, and St. Louis is pending bid.
  - Access Control upgrades at Mt Vernon are completed. Cameron is in construction, and all other Homes will follow as construction is completed.
  - COVID19 grant projects must be completed by 9/17/26
- B. Cape Girardeau Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
  - Awarded Brockmiller Construction 8/25/25
    - Completion date 1/21/27 St. James Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
- C. St. James Facility Improvements
  - i. Renovation Project FAI 29-044, U150301 exceeded designer estimated cost, MVC rejected bid
  - ii. New projects to be completed with existing funding
    - New pavilion construction
    - Replace roofing, flooring, and painting
    - Replace fire alarm system
    - Install addition surveillance cameras to existing system
- D. Higginsville Cemetery FAI MO22-16, U240601
  - In construction phase
  - Completion date estimated 12/05/25
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 – Retention – Professional Leadership Development Award
    - i. 162 team members received \$1,500 award to be used by May 31, 2026
    - ii. Use for own professional development or reallocate for large group activities
  - C. Team Member Fill Rates
6. Veterans Suicide Prevention Program
  - A. We are currently exploring a radio outreach campaign with Missouri Public Education Partnership (MOPEP). The radio campaign will share the “Left of Boom,” message across communities in Missouri
    - Currently in the stage of developing specific content and call to action
  - B. Exploring the feasibility of integrating a Peer Network component within the program
    - i. Researching models from other states with established peer programs, including Texas, New York, South Carolina, Michigan, Washington, and Wyoming
    - ii. Identifying best practices and common trends, such as:
      - Sustainable and diversified funding structures
      - Utilization of external agencies for peer training and certification

- Dedicated program staff to ensure consistency and statewide coordination
7. Veteran Cemeteries Program
    - A. Recent Events
      - i. Bloomfield MVC Peer Review (Score 85%) Sep 10 - 11, 2025
      - ii. Higginsville Columbarium Wall Dedication Oct 16, 2025
      - iii. Springfield NCA Operational Excellence Award Presentation – TBA
    - B. Future Projects
      - i. Higginsville Concrete Road Surface Replacement Funded – Scheduling TBA
      - ii. Springfield Columbarium Wall (Up to 100% reimbursable)
    - C. Upcoming Events:
      - i. Wreaths Across America Dec 13, 2025
      - ii. Ft Wood NCA Compliance Review Mar 30 - Apr 1, 2026
      - iii. Higginsville NCA Compliance Review Apr 28 - 30, 2026
      - iv. Bloomfield NCA Compliance Review Sep 15 - 16, 2026FY
    - D. Total MVC Cemetery Interments
  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 FY25 - \$198: \$1
      - ii. Missouri Veteran Population: 392,041 (-1.6% from 2021)
      - iii. Ratio of VSOs to Veterans: 1:3,087
    - C. Veterans Service Organization Cash Match Grant
    - D. VA Monetary Benefits Received into Missouri Economy
  9. Veteran Homes Program
    - A. Satisfaction Survey Results
    - B. 2025 Annual VA Certifications (Survey)
      - i. Full Certification
        - St. James
        - Cameron
      - ii. Partial Certification
        - Mexico
        - Cape Girardeau
        - St. Louis
      - iii. Awaiting Survey Results
        - Mt. Vernon
        - Warrensburg
    - C. Program Update
      - i. Specialty/High-Cost Medications remain a challenge; contract pending with specialty pharmacy
        - Federal Legislative Bill HR 1970 for high-cost medications
        - Bill allows for VA to furnish and/or reimburse SVH for high-cost medications for 70-100% service-connected veterans within SVH's
      - ii. New electronic health record – NET SMART – Implementation will start in Spring 2026
      - iii. Starting contract reviews for new skilled therapy company
      - iv. Excellent summer events at all the Homes: golf tournaments, family and friends' picnics, car shows and ride for freedom
      - v. 25th Anniversary was a huge success for the MVH - Warrensburg
      - vi. American Legion Auxiliary president visited MVH - St. Louis
      - vii. Renovations to begin at MVH - Cape Girardeau
      - viii. High-Cost Medication Denials of Admission Tracking
      - ix. Clinical Quality Measures
      - x. 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 – Prefile 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 Requests

- i. SUPPLEMENTAL DECISION ITEM 1: Electronic Health Records increase in HB5 (5.030) by \$2,029,630

- ii. Current budget amount is \$1,427,739 in one-time funds. Total cost in FY26 will exceed \$3M.
- D. FY27 ITSD Requests (In Ranked Order) (House Bill 5)
  - i. ITSD (HB5) Electronic Medical Record –
    - Estimate \$1,427,739 increase to Homes Fund
  - ii. Time and Leave System
    - 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 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
- F. FY27 New Decision Item (House Bill 8)
  - i. Homes Fund Solvency
    - Estimate \$10,000,000 increase to General Revenue transfer
  - ii. Homes Staffing Increase
    - Homes Direct Care Team Member Increase
    - Estimate \$3,382,787 increase to Homes Fund
  - iii. Homes E&E Budget Increase
    - Estimate \$5,696,200 increase to Homes Fund
  - iv. Increase Veterans Service Officers
    - Estimate \$2,000,000 increase to VCCITF

### III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

1. Representative Will Jobe discussed:
  - A. Budget will be main push
    - Making sure that MVC gets funded
  - B. Property Tax bill got close last session
    - Pushing for it upcoming session
  - C. He will be working on a couple of bills with Rep. Griffith
2. Commissioner Steve Roberts
  - A. Session ended on an odd note
  - B. Constitutionally obligated to pass budget
    - Hoping to see how he can assist MVC
    - #1 priority for him is funding MVC

### IV. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE

1. Gary Grigsby: American Legion Department of Missouri
  - A. He is on the Governor's Challenge Team for Suicide Prevention
  - B. New Initiative: New Coin with 988 on one side and QR Code on the other
  - C. Wants to fully fund MVC

- D. Working on bill for 100% Disabled Veterans to receive Tax Exemption
- E. Claim Sharks bill is other priority
- 2. Troy Williams: MAVO
  - A. Project: A program to get legislative talking points to the public
  - B. Provide dates and times of legislative meetings
  - C. Need more Veterans to join the program
- V. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - 1. Next Commission Meeting
    - 1st Quarter Meeting: February 2, 2026: Harry S Truman State Office Building
  - 2. 2026 Commission Meeting Dates
    - A. 2nd Quarter Meeting:
      - 3. April 20, 2026: Harry S Truman State Office Building
    - B. 3rd Quarter Meeting:
      - 4. August 10, 2026: Missouri Veterans Home - Mt. Vernon
    - C. 4th Quarter Meeting:
      - 5. November 23, 2026: Harry S Truman State Office Building
- VI. ADJOURN

  
Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary