

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
July 23, 2018 at 9:00 AM  
St. Louis Veterans Home, 10600 Lewis & Clark Boulevard  
St. Louis, Missouri**

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- A. In attendance: Chairman Tim Noonan, Vice Chairman John Buckner, Commissioner José Dominguez, Commissioner Meredith Knopp, Commissioner Tim Smith, Commissioner Jill Schupp, Commissioner Pat Conway
- B. Via telephone: Commissioner Dan Brown
- C. Absent: Commissioner Steven Lynch
- D. Staff present: Angela Baker, Charles Baxter, Daniel Bell, Jay Boresi, Kevin Colyott, Eric Endsley, Brenda Ezell, Brad Haggard, James Klahr, Grace Link, Viviane Markle, Terry McAdams, Jamie McCannon, Lisa McGhee, Theresia Metz, Julie Miller, Kevin Onstott, Roystan Pais, Mindi Pruitt, Melissa Skinner, Kristen Smith, Randy Watson, Melissa Wilding

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Commissioner Schupp made a motion to approve the Open Special Meeting minutes from April 23, 2018. Commissioner Dominguez seconded the motion.  
By a voice vote the minutes were passed unanimously.
- B. Commissioner Schupp made a motion to approve the Closed Special Meeting minutes from April 23, 2018. Commissioner Buckner seconded the motion.  
By a voice vote the minutes were passed unanimously.
- C. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the Open Quarterly Meeting minutes from April 23, 2018. Commissioner Dominguez seconded the motion.  
By a voice vote the minutes were passed unanimously.
- D. Commissioner Schupp made a motion to approve the Closed Quarterly Meeting minutes from April 23, 2018. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion.  
By a voice vote the minutes were passed unanimously.

- E. Commissioner Dominguez made a motion to approve the Closed Special Meeting minutes from April 25, 2018. Commissioner Buckner seconded the motion.  
By a voice vote the minutes were passed unanimously.

### III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Introduced: James Klahr, Deputy Director; Roystan Pais, Veteran Homes Program Director; Brad Haggard, Veteran Homes Program Assistant Director; Randy Watson, Veteran Services Program Director; Kevin Colyott, Veteran Services Program Assistant Director.
- B. The CMS Compliance Surveys of the Veteran Homes will be completed every six months at the St. Louis Veterans Home and annually at all other Veteran Homes.
- C. Proposed new waiting list management system. A recent evaluation of the waiting list for residency illustrated that the actual number of veterans awaiting admission into a veteran home is 761. 1,155 have declined a bed at least once and 651 have declined a bed three or more times. The proposed change to the waiting list management system is to create an "Active" waiting list and an "On Hold" waiting list so that these lists will accurately reflect the status of the veteran waiting to be placed in a veteran home.
- D. Commissioner Conway made a motion to approve creating an "Active" Waiting List and an "On Hold" Waiting List to reflect accurate waiting list numbers. Commissioner Buckner second the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed.
- E. Nursing Direct Care staff at the St. Louis Veterans Home will receive raises in FY19 to help with recruitment and retention. It is the goal that by FY20 there will be salary increases for all Direct Care employees at the rest of the Veterans Homes.

### IV. PROGRAM REPORTS

- A. Veteran Homes Program – Eric Endsley
1. Reported the 2018 VA Survey results thus far:
    - St. James – Full Compliance
    - Mexico – Full Compliance
    - Cameron – Full Compliance
    - Cape Girardeau – Full Compliance
    - St. Louis – will be conducted September 2018
    - Mt. Vernon – will be conducted October 2018
    - Warrensburg – will be conducted October 2018
  2. The Homes Program is raising the bar for MVC Homes Program compliance by voluntarily implementing applicable CMS guidelines and being surveyed by CMS in addition to the VA.
  3. The commission supported the Executive Director's proposed changes to admissions policy by adding criminal background checks prior to being placed on the waiting list for admission and requiring extensive medical information from physician on requirement for skilled nursing care.

- B. Veteran Cemeteries Program – Charles Baxter
1. Reported that the number of approved pre-certifications for 2018 is 1,158. Total not interred but pre-certified is 31,002.
  2. Reported total interments of all types since opening of first veteran cemetery; in-ground full casket – 11,356; cremains – 9,201; memorial markers – 105.
  3. Reported on the growth in demand for internment of cremains in a columbarium wall.
  4. Reported on notable outreach events at several cemeteries.
  5. Reported on the National Cemetery Administration Compliance results:
    - Bloomfield Veterans Cemetery – 87%
    - Higginsville Veterans Cemetery – 94%
    - Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery – 94%
    - Springfield Veterans Cemetery – 88%
    - Ft. Leonard Wood Veterans Cemetery – 97% among all state veteran cemeteries inspected by the VA.

A score of 85% or greater is considered exemplary by the national standards.
- C. Veteran Services & Grants Program – Randy Watson
1. Reported that the MVC has 44 Veteran Services Officers across the state working with 46 additional Veteran Service Organizations VSOs.
  2. Reported that the first Grants Program Quarterly meeting was held where all Grant Partners worked together to determine FY19's Grant Award amounts for each Grant Partner organization. The FY19 Grant Awards are as follows:
 

DAV	\$465,500	VFW	\$373,333
AL	\$237,500	MOPH	\$95,000
VVA	\$87,569	AmVets	\$58,100
STL	\$76,000	STL County	\$87,400
MVC	\$119,588	(for joint training & outreach)	
  3. Reported that the total compensation paid to Missouri Veterans by the VA for benefits in FY16 was \$1,773,038,000. The total number of Missouri Veterans receiving VA disability compensation in FY 16 was 90,734.
  4. Reported that the VSP Director has been traveling to many Veteran Service Officer locations to assess office locations, equipment needs, etc.

**V. STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Human Resources – Terry McAdams
1. Reported on St. Louis Veterans Home Salary Increases.
  2. Reported on Merit System Reform.
- B. Facilities Update – Kevin Onstott
1. Reported on Projected Projects and Construction Schedule for Veteran Homes Program.

2. Reported on the 2018 Federal Grants awarded to Missouri: Missouri Awards (All Renovation Work) - \$25,538,613.02 MO vs. Total Awards for all states and tribal governments 5.54% MO vs. Total Renovation Awards for all states and tribal governments 30.40%.
  3. Reported on Projected Projects and Construction Schedule for Veteran Cemeteries Program.
  4. Reported on St. Louis Renovations plans to include concept design for an estimated 175 private rooms.
- C. Financial Update – Julie Miller: Provided an MVC Operating Budget update.
- VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** – Commissioners Dan Brown, Jill Schupp & Pat Conway: Commissioner Brown provided a brief summary on state salary increases to take effect January 1, 2019.
- VII. OLD BUSINESS:** James Klahr gave a brief update on the Veterans Innovation Task Force development.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
- A. Scotty Allen from the Missouri Attorney General's Military Legal Assistance Team who provided information about the team and the types of legal assistance they provide to Missouri's Veterans and service Commissioners.
  - B. Keith Repko, St. Louis VA Medical Center Director gave a brief report on items currently pertaining to his medical center.
  - C. Veterans Integrated Services Network Director, Ron Nguyen gave brief presentation on the VA VISN 15 Network.
  - D. Betty Gonzales, Chairman of the Missouri Association of Veterans Organizations reported that MAVO will conduct a meeting on September 18, 2018 at 1:30 pm at the Disabled Veterans Commission, 5054 Monticello Road, Jefferson City, MO.
- IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next meeting of the Missouri Veterans Commission will be held Monday, October 22, 2018 at 10:00 am the Jefferson State Office Building, 205 Jefferson Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor State Board of Education Room, Jefferson City, MO.
- X. VOTE TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**
- A. Commissioner Conway made a motion to go into closed session to discuss matters relating to identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment pursuant to 610.021 (13) RSMo.
  - B. Commissioner Buckner seconded.

C. By a roll call vote, the motion passed:

Commissioner Noonan - Aye  
Commissioner Buckner - Aye  
Commissioner Dominguez - Aye  
Commissioner Knopp - Aye  
Commissioner Smith - Aye  
Commissioner Brown - Aye  
Commissioner Schupp - Aye  
Commissioner Conway - Aye  
Commissioner Lynch - Absent

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Dominguez made a motion to adjourn.  
Commissioner Buckner seconded the motion. By a voice vote the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted



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Grace Link, Secretary