

OPEN MINUTES

**3rd Quarter Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
July 17, 2023 — 10:00 AM
Missouri Veterans Home – St. Louis
10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd
St Louis, MO 63136**

WebEx Conference Call was established for public to join.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 1. Pledge of Allegiance
 2. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in room or via WebEx Conference Call:
Chair Kelly McClelland Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Tim Smith;
Commissioner Steve Roberts; Commissioner Randy Alewel; Commissioner Steve
Maples; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner David Griffith
Absent:; Commissioner Rick Brattin
 3. Chair Opening Comments
 4. Recognition:
 - Cape Girardeau Veterans Service Officer Team
 - Jessica Wilson: Department of Public Safety Non-sworn Team Member of the Month
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Second Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from April 24 2023
 2. Second Quarter Commission Meeting Closed Minutes: NA
 3. Minutes were unanimously voted to approve by those in attendance as written
- III. COMMISSION UPDATES
 1. Executive Director
 - a. MVC Updates
 - Currently sending daily updates
 - Less issues with COVID
 - Time consuming for Homes Administrators
 - Propose weekly (Thursday) update – continued situational reports along with COVID information
 - b. Budget Approval
 - MVC received everything we requested
 - Thanks to MVC Commissioners for additional support
 - All Veterans Homes are admitting
 2. Deputy Director briefed on the External Review
 3. General Counsel provided an update on Will Clinics Program
 4. Facilities
 - a. St. Louis Veterans Home Renovation
 - C Unit construction estimated completion date end of August
 - Office of Administration – Facilities Management, Design, Construction (FMDC) working with Architect Engineer on remaining project scope for bid
 - Project remains over budget
 - b. COVID19 – VA Construction Grant
 - Mt. Vernon visitor room completion date set for 07/19/2023

- Flooring projects at Mt. Vernon, Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mexico are in design phase with FMDC
 - HVAC improvement for Isolation and Quarantine areas are in design phase with FMDC
 - Wi-Fi upgrades for Warrensburg, Cameron, and Mt. Vernon are in design phase with FMDC
- c. Higginsville & Springfield Cemeteries
- Awaiting VA grant approval
 - Includes new Columbarium Walls and facility improvements
- d. Bloomfield Cemetery
- HVAC project has been awarded to Vazques Construction
 - Contract is for \$232,000.00
 - Construction completion date set for June 1, 2023
- e. Cape Facility Renovation FAI 29-043, U180501
- Received GR appropriation for \$12M
 - Replace nurse call, fire alarm, HVAC upgrades, laundry upgrades, dietary upgrades, remodel kitchen, dining and hallways, veterans room upgrades, door and window replacement, storage building, facility addition, and flooring replacement.
 - Estimate over \$3M for cost escalation, exceeded cost not eligible for VA reimbursement
 - Requested FMDC to continue project
 - Potential project will exceed \$12M – would default to VCCITF
- f. St James Facility Renovation FAI 29-044, U150301
- Received GR appropriation for \$8M
 - Replace nurse call, fire alarm, HVAC upgrades, dietary upgrades, veterans room/area upgrades, door replacement, solarium addition and flooring replacement.
 - Estimated over \$2M for cost escalation, exceeded cost not eligible for VA reimbursement
 - Requested FMDC to continue project
 - Potential project will exceed \$8M – would default to VCCITF
- g. No change from previous meeting:
- VA Grant Submitted – No Appropriation , Pending Funding Source
 - 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
- h. 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
5. Human Resources
- a. Retention Rates for Direct Care Staff
- b. Staffing Rates for Direct Care Staff

- c. Recruitment Campaign – Summer/Fall 2023
- 6. Veteran Cemeteries Program
 - a. Upcoming Events:
 - Peer Review Visit – Ft Wood July 20, 2023
 - Peer Review Visit – Higginsville Sept 28, 2023
 - Peer Review Visit – Jacksonville Nov 29, 2023
 - b. Memorial Day Events
 - c. Estimated total attendance:1,500
 - d. Total flags set: 27,350
 - e. Future Projects (expected allocation FY 24):
 - Springfield - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvements (100% Reimbursable)
 - Higginsville - Columbarium Wall/Site Improvements (100% Reimbursable)
 - f. Interments and capacity of columbarium walls
 - g. Satisfaction Survey Results
- 7. 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
 - d. Veterans Service Officer Activity and Productivity Graphic
 - e. Preventing Suicide Links
- 8. Veteran Homes Program
 - a. Satisfaction Survey Results
 - b. Annual VA Survey Certifications
 - c. Increasing Census
 - d. End of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) May 11th
 - e. Reasons to Celebrate
 - Professional Development Learning Retreat held in May
 - 4th of July Events & Summer Family Picnics
 - Cape met all VA Standards during their 2023 Annual Survey in JuneQuality Measures
 - b. Clinical Quality Measures
 - c. Staffing Measures
- 6. Fiscal Update
 - a. FY23 Financial Accomplishments
 - \$3.6M cash transfer to support 8.7% salary increase for all team members
 - \$39.6M Homes Fund cash flow support for operations from Budget Stabilization Funds
 - \$13M Homes Fund Revenue Replacement from Medical Marijuana Funds
 - \$4.3M CARES One-time funding from the VA fully expended
 - \$18.9M Facilities Maintenance and Reserve Funding for COVID Construction Grant project ongoing
 - \$2.2M ARPA funding for the St. James water and sanitation line replacement project ongoing
 - \$1.5M Budget Stabilization funding to address Veterans Homelessness in Missouri project ongoing
 - Professional Leadership Development Awards distributed for top performing staff
 - Veterans Homes Recruitment and Retention Differential for direct care staff
 - b. FY24 Governor Signed Appropriations

- \$19.9M Homes Fund cash flow support for operations from General Revenue funds
 - \$20M Homes Fund cash flow support for operations from Budget Stabilization funds
 - \$13M Homes Fund cash flow support from Medical Marijuana Funds
 - \$1.3M Homes Fund cash flow support for operations from Adult Use Marijuana Funds
 - \$7M General Revenue to support the restoration, maintenance, and improvements to the National WWI Museum in Kansas City Missouri
 - \$8M General Revenue to support redesign and construction of deferred St. James Home project
 - \$12M General Revenue to support redesign and construction of deferred Cape Girardeau project
 - \$10.8M ARPA One-time funding from the VA extended from FY23
 - \$18.9M Facilities Maintenance and Reserve Funding for COVID Construction Grant extended from FY23
 - \$2.2M ARPA funding for the St. James water and sanitation line replacement extended from FY23
 - \$1.5M Budget Stabilization funding to address Veterans Homelessness in Missouri extended from FY23
- c. FY25 Goal: Financial Stabilization
- Veterans Homes Fund
 - Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund
 - Veterans Assistance Fund
- d. Veterans Home Fund Major Revenues
- 87% of projected average census achieved
- e. Veterans Homes Fund - Gaming Revenue Transferred into Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF)
- f. Veterans Commission Capital Improvement Trust Fund (VCCITF): Historical and Forecast Revenues (stacked) vs. Expenditures (line)
- g. Med MJ Transfers into Veterans Assistance Fund
- h. Med MJ Transfers into Veterans Homes Fund
- i. FY24 Veterans Assistance Spending Plan
- Operating Appropriation
 - Project Cost Estimate
 - WiFi and Phone System Upgrades in Veterans Homes
 - Communicaiton and Infection Control
 - Advanced Data Analysis

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

1. Representative Dave Griffith
2. Senator Stephen Roberts
 - a. Importance of the passing of Sports Betting bill
 - b. Introduction of bill to double fee to enter gambling boats
 - c. Introduction of bill for Online betting

V. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE

1. Kansas City VA Medical Center reoesentative briefed:
 - a. Have screened over 26,000 Veterans for PACT ACT
 - b. Wait times are less than 30 days, which is the best in the country
 - c. PACT Act funding: Providing funding to lease >100,000 sq. ft. building for new health care initiatives

2. Poplar Bluff VA Medical Center representative briefed:
 - Due to technical issues, it was difficult to hear this brief
3. MMPEC representative briefed importance of website overhaul and will work with MVC Communications Director

VI. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 4th Quarter Commission Meeting will be held on October 23, 2023
10:00 AM in the Harry S Truman State Office Building, 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102

VII. ADJOURNMENT

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



Paul Kirchoff, Secretary