

Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday March 13, 2023

Present: Donna Villiancourt; Hank Scherf; Caroline Schockler; Fred Baer; Cody Stephenson; Mary Carvalho; Brandon Jones.

Staff: Ed Kircyzun, Selina Toy Lee; Samay Chhun; Alex Ayag

Public Comments By: None

Topic	Discussion	Actions/Next Steps
Meeting called to order & Pledge of Allegiance Recited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm- Pledge of allegiance- Roll call taken – 7 present/ 4 absent	No Additional actions or steps
Approval of minutes & adoption of agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minutes from January 30, 2023, Commission meeting were adopted- Minutes Approved 7 Y/0 N- Agenda Approved 7 Y/0 N	No Additional actions or steps
Public Comments	None	No Additional actions or steps

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Veterans Commission Business

Ed Kiryczun, VSO Operation Update

2022 TO 2023 COMPARISON

Measure	2022 Jan to Mar	2023 Jan to Mar	Difference
Veteran Interactions *	524	508	-16
Total Retroactive received	\$284,462.03	\$508,233.71	\$223,771.68
Total Monthly Assistance	\$37,640.81	\$72,420.05	\$34,779.24
Claims Submitted	112	155	43
College Fee Waivers Granted	7	2	-5
College Fee's Waived	\$54,705.00	\$15,630.00	\$-39,075.00

* Unique Interactions

- Commission Meetings are now in person
- Virtual option for Presenters
- Proposed Meeting for July change to the 17th
- Millbrae Gateway- will present to commission at May meeting

Email was sent out to get head count for those who is able to attend July commission meeting on July 17 instead of July 10

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<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Speakers organized by Brandon and Mary</p> <p>Ryan Founder of Veteran Rites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Located in Washington State. Focus on healing the person (Veteran) as a whole - Nonclinical setting. 12 days in the wilderness with 4 fasting days - Tradition from Native American on how to approach and deal with mental health - Treating the whole person while focusing on 3 main questions: What is the purpose? Where do I belong? And Who can I trust? - Program also focus on how to bring people home from war and find self-worth before seeking help from other resources. - Structure for Vets to keep the purpose alive as well as having other Vets participate <p>Dr. Robert Spencer and Dr. Darvy Patel San Mateo Health Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transforming lives of people who is coming back from conflict 	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>
<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mani focus is on mental health, domestic violence, and gun violence - Need community resources help to help gap by making mental health a primary intervention and not secondary - Could use other offices such as the Veteran Commission to help with gun violence initiatives - Seek help with surgeon general to talk or write report on gun violence - Nexus between suicide, mass shootings and gun violence <p>LaShielle Burch VA Palo Alto Health Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suicide Prevention: Part of governors' challenge with emphasis on Veterans community - With high rates of suicide, what should community do to learn what is going on and how to prevent it from happening - 100% in the communities learning, listening, and attending different programs - Want to support any offices or organization who wants to be a part of Mental Health awareness - Currently building a community in different counties and targeting colleges coalition focusing on college students who are Veterans 	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>

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<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Kathleen Mink (LCSW) and Dr. Margaret May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help students and or Vets enroll in healthcare and how to navigate the system - There is a 24/7 crisis line; Northern California Region has 3 major health systems - Kathleen works with college students at Skyline college. There are mental health workers planted in Skyline, Eureka, and SF City Colleges - Goal is to be where Veterans are with high rate of Veterans using GI bill in Bay Area -Considerations for Veterans Commissions to assess: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Difficulty accessing SMART TEAM in San Mateo County 2) Continue education for law enforcement for both Mental Health and Medical 3) Build community collaboration and continue to partner with one another to develop relationships <p>Dr. Margaret May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying Veterans who needs acute care - Biggest problem is transporting Vets with Mental Health to a VA facility - Currently has 2-unit placement each can accommodate up to 20 beds available. - Issues with Vet is the 51/50 Mental Health Law where they are hold for 72 hours for psychiatric/mental health problems - Transportation shouldn't be a barrier with proper education for both law enforcement and ambulance -Consider having county guidance to educate about Veterans mental health and how to navigate transporting Vets with Mental Health to VA Health Systems 	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>
<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Donna Viliancourt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veterans Committee Recruitment - Upcoming committee meeting to move 2 alternate commission Mary and Caroline to permanent position - Legislative update: San Francisco Veterans Affairs is asking for support for bill AB46 and AB726 -Bill AB46- California only state to tax retired veterans' benefits. Bill is to exclude military retirement benefit payment -Bill AB726- Exempt property tax for Veterans with 100% service connection up to first \$120,000 exempt 	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>

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Adjournment	Meeting adjourns at 8:04 pm	
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