



VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

222 W. Hospitality Ln., 3rd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

Minutes of the Meeting September 25, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE –Members: Victor Tordesillas (Board Liaison), Jeff Allen, Jim Frost, Paul Marsh, Terry Porter, Michael Rector, James Willingham, and recording Secretary Johnna Yuhas were present. Kelly Maxwell, Octavio Sanchez, and George Valenzuela were absent. Guest(s): Rachel Hay

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Minutes from the meetings held on March 27, 2023, May 22, 2023, and July 24, 2023, were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Victor Tordesillas provided an update.

- Every four years the Clerk of the Board requests sanctioned committees complete and submit a Sunset Review form. It is recommended that the Veterans Advisory Committee continue as is.
- The PACT Act deadline was in August. The department completed over 1,000 PACT Act claims, questions, and activities. Due to the large influx of veterans requesting service, the department began filing “Intent to File” with a process in place to follow up with those veterans. During that time there were still many veterans requiring services that were unrelated to the PACT Act. VSO availability is now 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. to allow time to follow up and complete diaries. Even with the shorter hours, the department continues to see more customers per day than the previous year.
- Jeff Allen asks if the department assists veterans with ID me. Rachel Hay states that the department provides as much assistance as possible, however, it is ultimately up to the customer’s needs/wants and comfort level.
- The department is looking at how to expand services and partner with various departments within the county, such as the Sheriff’s department and Behavioral Health. A clinical therapist position will be added as a mid-year budget item in approximately January. That position would not provide direct therapy but would act as a veteran navigator through the Veteran Treatment Court. Riverside County has a Veterans Treatment Court program that also partners with their behavioral health department. The plan is to work in partnership with the courts and behavioral health to look at the programs available and help develop the position and the duties of the position. Michael Rector volunteers to help provide resources for different mental health programs that are contracted with behavioral health.

FROM THE MEMBERS

Terry Porter - There is a veteran group in Big Bear that meets every Tuesday at Calvary Chapel. They help to ensure that all veterans who need transportation down the mountain are able to get it.

Michael Rector - No updates

James Willingham – The veteran’s program he works with is transporting supplies to move to a new facility. They will be bringing bus passes to March Air Force Base on September 30. They will also be providing Thanksgiving meals to barrack residents.

Jim Frost – No updates

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2023

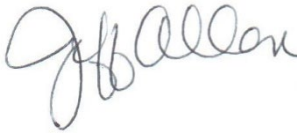
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DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next VAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 22, at 3:00 p.m. in the SB County VA conference room and via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT - Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Allen
Chair