

OPEN MINUTES

**2nd Quarter Meeting of the
Missouri Veterans Commission
April 25, 2022 — 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.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance in room or via WebEx Conference Call:

Chair Kelly McClelland; Vice Chair Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Robert Sauls; Commissioner Jill Schupp; Commissioner Chuck Basye; Commissioner Randy Alewel; Commissioner Steve Maples; Commissioner Tim Smith

Absent: Commissioner Rick Brattin

Chair Opening Comments

Recognition:

- January DPS Employee of the Month; Tori Cook, Health Information Manager Missouri Veterans Home – Cameron
- April DPS Employee of the Month: Harold King, Veterans Service Officer, St. Robert Office

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. 1st Quarter Commission Meeting Open Minutes from January 24, 2022
B. Minutes were unanimously approved as written

III. STAFF UPDATES & BRIEFS

A. Executive Director Comprehensive Update Brief

1. Executive Director

- Daily MVC Email Updates: Transition to weekday updates only
- Came to consensus that July Commission Meeting will be held at FLW Veterans Cemetery
- Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant

2. COVID Update Brief

- Current status in homes and across the state were discussed

3. General Counsel

- Carol Duesing Trust donation was briefed
 - Voted unanimous to accept donation

4. Facilities Update Briefed:
 - Status of Capital Improvements and funding status of projects
5. Human Resources Briefed
 - a. Total Rewards increase from July 2021 to March 2022
 - b. Vacancies and Turnover Rate
 - c. Recruitment Efforts
 - d. Number of Applicants
6. Veteran Cemeteries Program Briefed:
 - a. NCA Site Visit Schedule
 - b. Current and Future Construction Projects
 - c. Upcoming Events
 - d. Internments and capacity of columbarium walls
 - e. Satisfaction Survey Results
7. Veteran Services Program Briefed:
 - a. Return on Investment Ratio
 - MVC Veterans Services Officers
 - Grant Partner Veterans Service Officers
 - b. Area of Missouri Covered by MVC and Grant Partner VSOs
8. Veteran Homes Program Briefed:
 - a. Satisfaction Survey Results
 - b. Annual VA Survey Certifications
 - c. COVID CDC/DHSS endemic recommendations
 - d. National Association of State Veteran Homes (NASVH)
 - e. Upcoming Events
 - f. Quality Measures
9. Fiscal Update:
 - a. Pressing Department Concerns-Long Term Funding
 - b. FY 23 Budget Status
 - c. Veterans Health and Care Fund Spending Plan
 - d. Long Term Care Facility Staffing Shortages Nationwide
 - e. Financial Impact of Pandemic
 - f. Executive Director
 - Items for 3rd Quarter Commission Meeting (Possible Vote)
 - General Veteran rate increase
 - Single v. Double occupancy rate
 - Cap on hardships within Veterans Homes

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

V. AGENCY PARTNERS UPDATE

- A. Harry S Truman Memorial VA Hospital, Director Patricia Hall briefed:
 1. Upcoming Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies:
 - a. Camdenton CBOC
 - b. Community Living Center at Truman VAMC (24 Beds)
 - c. 50th Anniversary of Truman VAMC in June ceremony
- B. Kansas City VA Medical Center, Director Jean Gurga briefed:
 1. Fisher House Open last year
 2. 14 New Examination Rooms

3. New Clinic in Nevada/Excelsior Springs next year
 4. Pharma Blood Test
 5. Veteran Justice Outreach Awards
 6. Lung Cancer Screening and Burn Pit Registry
- C. MAVO Vice-Chairman, Troy Williams briefed:
1. Biggest concern was long-term funding the Missouri Veterans Commission
 2. Filling positions
 3. Need to Fully Fund MVC

VI. CHAIR COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Quarterly Commission meeting (3rd Quarter) will be held on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM at Missouri Veterans Cemetery – Fort Leonard Wood

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Vote to adjourn to closed session to discuss matters relating to personnel matters, legal actions, causes of action or litigation pursuant to Section 610.021 (1); pursuant to Section 610.021 (3); pursuant to Section 610.021 (9); and pursuant to Section 610.021 (14) RSMo. to go to Closed Session

A. Commissioner Alewel made a motion to return to go to closed session.

Commissioner Knopp seconded.

B. By a roll call vote, the motion was passed:

Commissioner McClelland - Aye

Commissioner Knopp – Aye

Commissioner Smith – Aye

Commissioner Sauls – Aye

Commissioner Schupp – Aye

Commissioner Maples – Aye

Commissioners Sauls – Aye

Commissioner Basye – Aye

Absent: Commissioner Brattin

VIII. OPEN SESSION

Vote to return to Open Session

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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



Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary