

# MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the  
Missouri Veterans Commission  
Held, pursuant to notice  
February 1, 2021 — 10:00 AM  
Jefferson State Office Building, 205 Jefferson Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board of Education Room  
Jefferson City, MO**

*Portions of this meeting may be closed pursuant to Sections 610.021 (1), (3), (9) & (14)  
RSMo.*

**LIVE AUDIO STREAM LINK**  
<https://livestream.com/MoDESE/MVC>

## WebEx Conference Call

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation: Executive Assistant Shawn Holzhauser
- Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance via in room or via WebEx Conference Call:

Interim-Chair John Buckner; Interim-Vice Chair Jose Dominguez;  
Commissioner Meredith Knopp; Commissioner Tim Smith; Commissioner  
Robert Sauls; Commissioner Jill Schupp

Absent: Commissioner Chuck Basye

Commissioner Brattin was represented by his COS, Tucker Jobes

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Open Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2020
- Closed Session Quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes from October 26, 2020:  
NA
- Special Session Closed Minutes from December 1, 2020
- Special Session Closed Meeting, December 11, 2020: Not conducted – Did not  
have a Quorum
- Special Session Open Minutes from January 8, 2021
- All minutes were unanimously approved as written

### III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The following topics were briefed:

- Executive Director's Update:
  - Provided walkthrough of MVC COVID dashboard on Tableau
  - External Review Status Update
  - MAVO provided an update
  - New Staff Introductions
    - Joshua Maxwell – Data Analyst
    - Kristen Smith – Assistant Director of Homes
    - Aimee Packard – Public Relations Director

- COVID Update
  - COVID Stipend Pay
  - Monoclonal Antibody Treatments
- Deputy Director briefed MVC COVID Vaccination Plan

#### **IV. STAFF UPDATES**

- HR Director, Kristen Smith, briefed:
  - Pandemic Pay Incentive status
  - Staff Vaccine Incentives
  - Market Salary Research
  - Partnership with DMH on nursing vacancy rates
- Finance and Accounting Manager, Terressa Sherlock, briefed:
  - Current Fiscal Status
  - COVID Impacts on Budget
  - Financial Outlook and Recommendations
- Facilities Director, Kevin Onstott, briefed:
  - Upcoming Capital Improvements Projects and possible effects that COVID-19 environment will have on them

#### **V. PROGRAM UPDATES**

- Cemetery Program, Jim Nugent, Director, briefed:
  - Ground and Wall Interments
  - Customer Satisfaction remains at nearly 100%
  - Columbarium Wall remaining spaces
- Veteran Services Program, David Lee, Director, briefed:
  - Compensation generated by Veterans Service Officers compared to cost for each Veterans Service Officer: Return on Investment Ratio.
  - New office spaces
  - VSOs working in office and working remotely percentages
- Veterans Homes Program: Joan Elwing, Director, briefed:
  - Clinical Quality Measures
  - Satisfaction Survey September – December 2020
  - Infection Control and COVID Precautions
  - Virtual VA Surveys
  - Ombudsman Program

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- Nominations and Vote for new Commission Officers:
  - Commissioner John Buckner was nominated and seconded as Commission Chair
    - Voted in unanimously
  - Commissioner Jose Dominguez was nominated and seconded as Commission Vice Chair
    - Voted in unanimously
- Discussion and Vote on Missouri Veterans Health and Care Fund distribution and management
  - Establishment of Subcommittees
    - Legislative (budget)
      - Committee Members: Commissioners Knopp, Sauls, Schupp
    - Clinical
      - Commissioners Buckner, Dominguez
    - Administrative
      - Commissioners Smith, Basye, Brattin

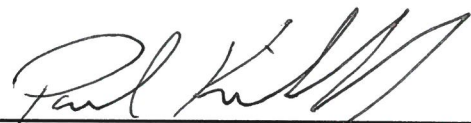
- Distribution of funds
  - The Commission voted unanimously to distribute:
    - \$2.2 Million to Veterans Community Project
    - \$1 Million to Jacksonville Columbarium Wall

## VII. AGENCY PARTNER UPDATES

- Dr. Keith Repko, Director St. Louis VA Hospital briefed biggest current initiatives:
  - COVID Vaccination efforts – 6,312 Veterans Vaccinated so far
  - Sites for Veterans to be vaccinated
  - They are ready to go when more vaccination is available
    - 1949 Employees vaccinated at this time: 2/3 of staff
- Dr. Patricia Hall, Director Columbia VA Hospital briefed current mission:
  - Provided over 10,000 Vaccinations to date for Veterans
  - Lowest COVID rate since September 2020
  - They are having lots of construction and Harry S Truman VAMC
- Ed Woody, Assistant Director, Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks briefed current vaccination numbers:
  - Provided over 3,700 Vaccinations to date for Veterans
  - Provided over 1,100 Vaccinations to date for staff
- Mitzi Marsh, VA St. Louis Director briefed current Phase status:
  - Phase 1 began on 1 June 2020
    - Opened doors to visit Veterans in person
    - VSOs were back in the office at 25% staffing
    - VA is holding Appellate Hearings
  - Phase 2: Submitted on Friday, 29 January 2021, to begin Phase 2
  - Updated VA website with a link to assist in scheduling appointments

## VIII. NEXT MEETING

- Chairman Buckner announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- No Closed Session was conducted on February 1, 2020
- With no further business before the Commission, meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.



Paul Kirchhoff, Secretary