



## MEETING MINUTES / 17 August 2021 @ 1000

**\*\*MEETING WAS CONDUCTED HYBRID VIA ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS\*\***

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Present: Lopez, McMullen, Sarg, Schroeder, Miller, Bradley, Farley, Magner, Phillips, Lewis

Excused: Baldwin, Lardizzone, Harwood, Sutton

Guests: Vince Kane (Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center), Carol Erhart (DVH), Michael Heneghan (DVH), Pat Cerchio (First State Military Women), Dave Skocik (Friends of Delaware Veterans),

### **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:**

(Lopez) I will be acting Chair in Commissioner Baldwin's absence today.

### **MEETING MINUTES:**

Prior minutes motioned to approve by Sarg seconded by McMullen.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:**

Nothing to report

### **Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Carole Erhart, Director/Michael Heneghan, Chief Financial Officer**

(Erhart) We have been Covid-19 free and are doing well at DVH. Our current challenge is the hiring of CNA's. I am working with the State on a recruitment and retention program and have a meeting tomorrow to see about using funds for retainment of current staff. I had to resubmit the plans for the dental suite. We expect a 60% meeting in the next 2 weeks.

(Sarg) Were there revisions to the dental suite designs?

(Erhart) Yes, the design took away from staff locker rooms. We gave up space in the administrative suite to keep the staff locker rooms as is. Groundbreaking is not expected to be until December at the earliest.

(Sarg) What equipment manufacturers are in the plans?

(Erhart) That has not been decided yet.

(Sarg) Do you know when the next meeting is?

(Erhart) The goal is to have the meeting before the end of August.

(Sarg) Have you hired any personnel for the dental suite?

(Erhart) The dentist is on the payroll, but the residents are still working with Dr. Bunting.

(Sarg) Do you have a date for the next Admissions meeting?

(Erhart) I do not. I will send invitations within the next day or 2.

(Sarg) Thank you.

(Erhart) Were there any responses on the rate increase?

(Lopez) Other than the response you were included in, no. Have you had any responses regarding the rate increase?

(Erhart) There was only 1 other family with concerns and Mr. Heneghan has been speaking with them directly. The rate increase will go into effect October 1.

(Lopez) You're currently testing on vaccinated how often?

(Erhart) Weekly.  
(Lopez) Thank you.

**Wilmington VAMC – Vince Kane, Director**

(Kane) Our energies are focused on preparing for the imminent COVID boosters and getting the high-risk individuals taken care of as soon as possible. We are also preparing to roll out flu vaccines by the end of the month and the campaign should begin after Labor Day. The Dover radiology suite has been approved and we are waiting for the equipment to be purchased and construction to begin. Our invitation to the Governors challenge has been delayed, until fall. We are moving forward with the 9/11 remembrance but will look differently due to recent events and COVID.

(Sarg) Thank you for getting radiology into Dover.

(Lopez) The estimated date for flu shots is end of September beginning of October?

(Kane) Yes.

(Sarg) Is there any adverse reactions between the COVID vaccines and the flu?

(Kane) Not that we know of.

(Lewis) What is the update on the regional building (VVA)?

(Kane) We are looking to complete that by the end of the year.

**Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:**

Nothing to report

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

(Skocik) Friends increased funds to \$166k and Rusty Eagle Event at the MCC, September 9<sup>th</sup> a meeting about incarcerated veterans' program will take place.

(Wiley) New Secretary of the Army

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:**

Interments – 88 (-13)

**Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:**

Interments – 37 (-4)

**Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:**

HB 214 can be moved to legislative affairs

**Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:**

Plans of creating a comparative package (to other states) for veterans' program

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:**

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 8; Granted 6 (75%); Awarded \$12,005.63; Balance - \$119,386.85  
State mask mandate updates

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:**

**Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)**

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> new officers inducted

**Commissioner Miller (American Legion - AL)**

AL VSO is longer at the VA site, Joe Houghton, schedule is posted

**Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AMVETS)**

Donations \$109,007 from lottery machines; Post 2 Golf Tournament Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> @ Mulligans Point

**Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)**

Not Present

**Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)**

Nothing to report

**Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)**

Nothing to report

**Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)**

Convention occurred, and to maintain service officers must prove funding capabilities for 10 years

**Commissioner Phillips (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)**

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Eastern Conference in Ocean City, MD

**Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America - VVA)**

Not Present

**Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)**

Food Bank Event, Aug, 20<sup>th</sup>. Stand Down. Vet Fest.

**Commissioner Sutton (At Large)**

Not Present

**Commissioner Lewis (At Large, affiliated with NABVETS)**

Back to School events Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. Meeting with Congresswoman.

**Commissioner Harwood (At Large, affiliated with National Guard)**

Not Present

**Commissioner Schroeder (Korean War Veterans Association - KWVA)**

KWVA groups are diminishing. Currently has 35 members

**TERM COMPLETION:**

All letters appear to be approved and are pending receipt.

**EVENTS:**

Listed Above.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nothing to report.

**ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:**

Healthcare Blitz -keep on radar for next year.

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE MEETING:**

**Thursday, 16 September 2021 at 1000  
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**LOCATION:**

**Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 1000  
Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs**