

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs Minutes
Friday, 06 September 2019
Boulder Public Library
1001 Arapahoe Avenue
Boulder, CO 80302

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Jack Rudder, Chair
Pat Hammon, Vice Chair
Sheila Scanlon, Secretary
Hollie Caldwell, Member
Duane Dailey, Member
Longinos Gonzalez Jr., Member
Norm Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Greg Dorman, DMVA Interim Deputy Director
Rich Tremaine, CDVA East Director
Myra Dollar, CDVA East Office Manager
Gail Hoagland, CDVA Grant Administrator
Carissa Snyder, CDVA East Program Assistant

1

Guests Present:

Nicole DeNari, veteran spouse and advocate
Lana Frankenfield, VHA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation Training Specialist
Ana Yelen, Healing Warriors Executive Director

Opening

Mr. Rudder called the meeting to order at 1017 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Rudder explained the role of the Board to the attendees and invited introductions from Board members, staff, and guests.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Mr. Dailey and seconded by Mr. Gonzalez that the August 2019 minutes be approved as presented. The motion carried.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Dailey said that he attended the CDVA annual training conference held the week August 26 in Westminster. Attended The Vail Veterans Program held at the Diamond Star Ranch in mid-August for approximately 50 veterans and families, mostly from Brooke Army Medical Center in attendance.

Dr. Caldwell said that she appreciated the tour of the Western Colorado VAMC in Grand Junction, noting that it was particularly interesting to see the physical therapy and prosthetics units. Centura Health is finalizing the technological implementation for identifying veterans upon admission.

Ms. Hammon said that the Western Colorado VAMC is recruiting a new director with a temporary director in place for the interim. Renovations are underway at the medical center, with patient care moving now moving to the fifth floor. The third floor will be dedicated to an inpatient substance abuse unit. A congressional forum was held on 05 September in Grand Junction to discuss a program wherein new physicians serve their residencies at VA medical centers in exchange for assistance with education costs. The Western Slope Veterans Coalition will continue its Veteran Day outreach events, with visits planned to 17 schools to date. Mental health and access to treatment continue to be a difficult issue for veteran in Eagle County and the surrounding area.

Ms. Scanlon donated several items of memorabilia to the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC their display featuring women veterans items from American Legion Post 206 and the Women Marine Association CO-1. She offered to facilitate future donations if anyone has additional item to contribute. She addressed the statewide CDVA training concerning woman veterans. The Women Marine Association now taking female navy vets w/ fleet marine force badge.

Mr. Gonzalez participated in the Korean Independence Day celebration held in Colorado Springs on 10 August 10. The event commemorates the end of World War II in the Pacific theater. On Monday 09 September, he will attend the Stand Up of U.S. Space Command at Peterson AFB. He will attend the 9/11 memorial at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs and the 21st Space Wing State of the Wing on 25 September. He reported that William Shuttleworth successfully completed his 3,000-mile walk.

2

Mr. Steen attended a July meeting also attended by Governor Polis, General Loh, and executive director of CDOT to determine ways to identify and address the medical transportation of Colorado veterans. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 September and will be a work session. Other issues of interest are the prospective SVCLC in the Pikes Peak region and how CBVA can better connect with county governments and their boards of commissioners. CBVA and DMVA may have an hour at the podium at the CCI statewide convention in December. Mr. Steen suggested a panel about veterans' issues.

Mr. Rudder said that he also attended the CDVA statewide training and appreciated the opportunity to connect with other county veterans service officers. Access to health care is a continuing problem for veterans in the San Luis Valley, with a nine-month waiting list at the clinic in Alamosa. He is encouraging veterans to utilize community care and the Mission Act.

Community Presentations

Nicole Denari

Ms. Denari thanked the Board for allowing her to address the room on behalf of the proposed SVCLC in the Pikes Peak region. Ms. Denari's spouse has service-connected disabilities that have progressed beyond his ability to live at home, and while VHA has been able to pay for LTC care through PACE, that contract is ending and Ms. Denari said that many veterans like her husband would not be able to find inpatient nursing care in their community. The veteran community has identified a need for a facility with roughly the same capacity as Fitzsimons, perhaps as a public-private partnership similar to the model used at Spanish Peaks.

Lana Frankenfield

Ms. Frankenfield introduced the Board and other attendees to the VHA concept of Whole Health. This approach to health care is designed to empower patients to take charge of their health and well-being. Instead of using a disease and problem based methodology, Whole Health is person-based. She referred the Board to Whole Health information available on You Tube and provided explanations of the model's key components. Whole Health integrates community care and support, personal health plans, and health well-being coaching. VHA Colorado does not feature any of the flagship sites for Whole Health, but some facilities are incorporating aspect of the program.

The Board here recessed at 11:29 a.m. and resumed at 11:43 a.m.

Reports

Mr. Tremaine reported for DMVA and CDVA East. The annual training saw 22 new VSOs trained. Longtime state veterans service officer Renee Pace is retiring at the end of November and her role in planning the annual training will be reassigned. The current training curriculum is certified through NAVSCO and in the future CDA hope to accredit directly through VBA. CDVA East is working with the Eastern Colorado VHA on an MOU to allow a state VSO to provide working outreach in the VAMC PTSD unit. CDVA is researching and gathering bids of veterans' benefits CRM systems to see how other systems compare to VetraSpec, the system currently used by the state. Webcams were provided to county veteran service officer to help facilitate access to training, and CDVA East will create a webinar training library for easy access. Ms. Scanlon asked if a notification would be distributed concerning woman veteran license plate. Mr. Tremaine said that the final proof of the plate should be available any day, and once it has been approved notification can commence. Ms. Scanlon agreed to help draft the notification.

3

Mr. Rudder asked if the Board would like Robby Robinson to continue as the Board's representative the CLC commission. The consensus as unanimous and Amr. Rudder will confirm the appointment with Mr. Robinson.

Ms. Hoagland thank Ms. Yelen for attending. She praised both the work and the grant performance of Healing Warriors. The search is still underway for a storage container for Providers' Resource Clearinghouse.

Discussion/Action

Strategic Plan - This item was postponed in favor of waiting for Mr. Callahan.

Bylaw Review – The committee will meet adjacent to the stated meeting in October.

Veterans Assistance Grant Cash Fund Recommendation – Ms. Hoagland distributed the identified opportunities for use of the additional cash fund and asked the Board members to email her directly with their recommendations. She will also compile a Q&A to distribute to the Board containing responses to questions received from Board members.

Unfinished Business

Widow's Tax Letter – Ms. Scanlon will distribute the current draft to the Board via the CBVA email address and Board members were asked to respond using that address.

New Business

Ms. Hammon offered to invite a representative for the staff of the Board of Public Health to address the Board about working within the parameters of the open meetings law.

Mr. Steen proposed a discussion at the next meeting in regard to scripting questions for the CCI panel and deciding who will sit on the panel.

Upcoming meetings

04 October – Florence SVCLC

06 November – Wings Over the Rockies, Aurora

06 December 2019 - Littleton

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Dailey moved to adjourn, Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.