

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs 2018

Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes January 5, 2018

American Legion Post #32

315 S. Bowen St., Longmont, CO 80501

Duane Dailey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0901 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed for our POW, MIA, troops in battle or harm's way and all service members.

Roll Call of Members and Introduction of Staff & Guests

Board Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack Rudder,

Vice-Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary (via phone conference) William "Robby"

Robinson, Member

Pat Hammon, Member Lacey Golonka,

Member Norm Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA, Deputy Director Reuben Mestas,

CDVA Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator Dave

Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner Claire Dean, CDVA

Interim Office Manager

Guests Present:

Alan Sonnenberg, American Legion Post 32

Daniel Savage, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment Debbie

Pierson, County Service Officer, Larimer County

Karen Townsend, County Service Officer, Boulder County Maegan Vallejo,

TCF Boulder County

Elvira Ramos, TCF Boulder County Patrick Lennon,

American Legion Post 32 Dennis Sindelir, American

Legion Post 32 Bill Bohn, American Legion Post 32

Bob Larkowski, American Legion Post 32 Tom

Paschofsky, American Legion Post 32 Cindy Clark,

Boulder County

Approval of Minutes from December

It was moved by Mr. Steen and seconded by Mr. Robinson to accept the December minutes as submitted. The motion carried.

Robby Robinson: In an effort to curb high turnover, the Community Living Centers may be able to raise salaries to compete with the private sector if the General Assembly approves the budget request.

Pat Hammon: Ms. Hammon thanked Mr. Robinson for his efforts with Community Living Centers pay increases. Grand Junction area nonprofits will need to complete applications in order to be considered for the Western Slope One-Stop. Asbestos and lead remediation is set to begin at the site, which is located down the street from the VA Hospital. The Glenwood Springs Veterans Resource Center has officially opened. Volunteers of America (VOA) have a new regional office in Eagle County. They are dedicated in finding housing for homeless veterans in Summit, Routt, Grand and Eagle Counties.

Hollie Caldwell: Ms. Caldwell had nothing to add. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Dailey wished her well.

Jack Rudder: Mr. Rudder explained to everyone present that three of the Board members are also County Service Officers.

Duane Dailey: A representative from VOA recently met with Mr. Dailey in Grand County. Sometimes veterans are assisted by more than one county. Case in point, both Mr. Dailey and Ms. Townsend worked with a veteran who recently died. 36 of his mates attended his funeral.

Lacey Golonka: Ms. Golonka thanked Ms. Hoagland for the very informative Board member retreat. She is excited to get involved with the grants process.

Norm Steen: Having served 32 years, mostly with the National Guard, Mr. Steen is retired from the service and is currently a full time Commissioner with Teller County. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Department of Defense recently partnered on a rehabilitation event called Creative Forces to take place in Colorado Springs on February 15-16. In February, Mr. Steen will be speaking at Veterans Recognition event in Florissant. He will then meet with other Commissioners in Washington D.C. in March. Mr. Dailey added that there is a Subcommittee Room for Veterans located in Washington D.C. that houses various flags. Ms.

Hammon made mention of the opioid epidemic.

Alan Sonnenberg: The grant application process has gotten easier but it's been difficult to get surveys back. Most veterans served are in immediate need, mostly with rent assistance. It has taken 30-40 days to replenish funds for cash advances. Currently, there is only one person handling grants for American Legion Post 32. Mr. Dailey explained that the grant process was revamped following the Board's audit and gave kudos to Ms. Hoagland on her extraordinary efforts.

Elvira Ramos: A daughter of a WWII veteran, Ms. Ramos works for the Boulder Community Foundation which took over for the former nonprofit Veterans Helping Veterans Now. They raise money and make grants for Boulder county veterans.

Maegan Vallejo: The Veterans Fund is an endowed, investment fund overseen by an investment committee. It currently has \$50k for local 5013(c) groups.

Daniel Savage: A veteran's resource directory will be created through the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment for the Boulder area. The Workforce Centers are really engaged in helping veterans, prioritizing their training.

Debbie Pierson: Larimer County handles the grant programs for VFW Post 41 which makes it more efficient than directing veterans to another agency. Mr. Robinson asked what the greatest need is for the area. Ms. Pierson replied there are not enough rental properties available. Mr. Robinson added that the Veterans Assistance Grant could be used to provide money for the County Service Officers, but the Veterans Trust Fund is solely for non-profit veterans service organizations. Ms. Pierson will be retiring on February 2. Mr. Robinson wondered how to address the County Service Officer turnover and how to entice younger veterans to serve those who served. Mr. Mestas added that the 30 full time County Service Officers make about \$36k a year.

Ms. Hoagland and Mr. Dailey presented Ms. Pierson with a Certificate of Appreciation for her exceptional work with veterans through the grant program.

Karen Townsend: Finding and organizing volunteers to help with grants is an issue.

Let the record show that here the Board recessed at 10:22am, and resumed to labor at 10:35am.

Mickey Hunt: The old armory remodel in Grand Junction continues. Non-profits will be allowed to rent space. Mr. Hunt visited the Volunteers of America in Denver to get ideas for the Grand Junction One Stop. The Department has met with the Joint Budget Committee.

Vietnam Veterans and the CO Air National Guard F100 Unit will be honored during Veterans Appreciation Day at the Western Stock Show on January 16. Military Appreciation Day at the Capitol will be held on Friday, January 26. Ms. Hammon encouraged everyone to attend. Two Board members will need to be confirmed by the State Senate and another's term will have expired. Mr. Hunt mentioned that several of the FEMA trailers that temporarily housed people following disasters are now for sale and that perhaps they could aid in the housing crisis here in Colorado. Mr. Steen added that it is local regulation that determines whether tiny homes, temporary trailers and multi-family homes can

exist in their cities. Construction companies shy away from building affordable housing due to countless lawsuits.

Ben Mestas: Only twelve spaces are left for this year's annual training conference. Four new County Service Officers have started. Both Gilpin and Logan County's need training. The State Service Officer advertisement will be online through January 8. The Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado had its second busiest year on record. Ms. Hammon requested the dates and times for the quarterly memorials. Mr. Robinson stated that the headstone issues continue with the VA-contracted vendor.

Gail Hoagland: Two applications have recently been received as the grant cycle begins. As of today, the Veterans Trust Fund has \$411,926.31 remaining. There is \$605,827.81 left in the Veterans Assistance Grant. The USS Colorado Commissioning Grant is not complete. Grant application hard copies are due by March 1. Mr. Dailey asked when the webinars will be held this year. Ms. Hoagland said there will be two for each grant in January and one each in February with additional webinars if needed.

Dave Callahan: Mr. Callahan went over the CBVA Strategic Planning. Mr. Robinson asked why the CBVA meetings are being held in congressional districts. Mr. Mestas explained that it is not a political decision but rather a decision based on the veteran populations.

Ms. Hammon said that section 1.3 read ...report on all state-funded programs...

Mr. Steen stated that the Board also advises and recommended that Goal 1.3 should be: Study, advocate or recommend and report status of state-funded programs...

Mr. Callahan said that another subcommittee will need to be formed to work on the brand and messaging and both a tri-fold and a booklet be created for marketing. Mr. Steen asked who the target audience is for the tri-fold. A discussion ensued on funding.

Mr. Steen asked for clarification on what is considered outreach. The committee will decide what constitutes an outreach.

Mr. Robinson said the Board should consider getting more money for grant funding. A brief discussion of the Tobacco Fund followed.

A matrix will need be provided by the Board to validate what the counties are doing with the additional money for the County Service Officers.

Ms. Hammon motioned for the Strategic Action Plan to be reviewed by every Board member and that it be discussed at next month's meeting. Mr. Robinson seconded. Mr. Steen asked whether or not the Board will accept the Strategic Plan at the next meeting. Ms. Hammon replied that they will discuss the changes brought forth at the next meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Steen volunteered to sit on the Strategic Planning Committee and Mr. Dailey appointed him.

Old Business

New Business

Mr. Dailey reminded the Board that they need to stay politically neutral, even during recess. He also stated that Board meetings are not to be conducted as Service Officer training, but that area County Service officers are highly encouraged to attend the meetings.

Future Meetings

02 Feb – CSU Pueblo -Mr. Steen will coordinate speakers for the meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Robinson. The meeting adjourned 12:05pm.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

02 February 2018

VA Regional Office, Director's Conference Room

155 Van Gordon Street

Lakewood, CO 80228

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary

Lacey Golonka, Member Pat

Hammon, Member Robby

Robinson, Member Norm Steen,

Member

DMVA Staff Present:

David Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner, Safety Director

Greg Dorman, DMVA Legislative Liaison

Ben Mestas, CDVA Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator

Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Matt Albright, Center for American values Program Director

Doug Fischel, Congressman Scott Tipton's office, Constituent Relations

Anthony Mason, CDLE Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist

Bruce Raymond, CSU Pueblo Interim Provost, VP Academic Affairs

Danny Rodriguez, Pueblo Veterans Ritual team, veterans transportation coordinator

Dana Rocha, Director of Veteran Affairs, CSO Pueblo

Theresa Rudder, President-elect, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Colorado

Rudy Sabedra, Veterans Service Officer, Pueblo County

Jay Scott, Veterans Service Office, Otero County

Roxie Smith, CDHS and Veterans Service Officer, Crowley County

Ann Stattelmann, Executive Director, Posada of Pueblo

Ben Strand, RMHS Homes for All Veterans

LaTanya Yarbrough, Case Manager, Posada of Pueblo

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0905 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Mr. Dailey then introduces Ms. Rocha, who helped to coordinate the meeting and secured the meeting space. He greeted all in attendance and the Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hammon requested that amended drafts of meeting minutes be numbered to simplify the identification of each draft. This request was so noted. Ms. Hammon then moved that the January minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steen and carried.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Golonka reported that recent statistics from the Arapahoe/Douglas County Workforce Task Force indicate that veteran unemployment in Colorado is lower than the national average. The current rate of veteran unemployment in Colorado is 1.8%-2.0%, whereas the national rate is 3.0%-4.0%.

Ms. Caldwell thanked the community for the opportunity to hold the meeting in Pueblo.

Ms. Hammon served on the Senator Michael Bennett's selection panel for nominees to service academies. A reception for the nominees is scheduled for 03 February. The advisory committee for the western slope one source has decided to officially call the new facility the Western Region One Source. Construction is scheduled to begin in early summer with a target opening date on January 2019.

Recruitment and selection of the resources to be housed there is ongoing. The location is approximately two blocks from the Grand Junction VAMC and the VAMC is considering providing shuttle service. The Glenwood Springs Veteran Resource Center is open five days a week from 08:00 a.m. -05:00 p.m., with paid staff two days a week and at other times staffed by volunteers. Coffee and doughnuts are available on Thursdays. Volunteers of America is available at the center one day a week and the veterans service officer from Garfield County is there twice a week.

Mr. Steen was the keynote speaker for the Veterans Appreciation breakfast in Florissant on 20 January. He reported that HR 4557 does not have much support, but another bill affecting veterans is S.2193, the Caring for Veterans Act. This bill would modify the health care location choices available to veterans by basing eligibility not on distance but on the services needed. Recent statistics presented to the Peak Military Care network indicate that the Colorado Springs CBOC saw an increase in patients from 25,122 in 2015, to 29,728 in 2016 and more than 30,761 in 2017. Approximately 15% of scheduled

appointments are no-shows. The VA's Suicide Data Report shows approximately 22 veteran suicides occur per day with approximately 14 of those 22 veterans were not registered with the VA in order to receive care. Additional enrollment is needed but the long waiting times have been a complication. The goal is to have new primary care appointments scheduled within 30 days.

Mr. Robinson will attend the meeting of SVCLC Commission scheduled for 09 February at Fitzsimons. He will attend the resident advisory council meeting at Fitzsimons scheduled for 07 February. He attended Military and Veterans Appreciation Day at the state capitol on 26 January. The CLC in Rifle is particularly hopeful that that new legislation will allow them to hire staff with exemption from state personnel rules regarding salary ranges.

Mr. Rudder said that a recent summit in regard to veterans suicide, it was brought to his attention that that the most at-risk age groups in Vietnam-era veterans. Colorado's suicide rate among this population is twice the national average, and in the San Luis Valley the rate is even higher. There is a nurse practitioner available at the Alamosa CBOC and that is working well, but additional access to health care is still a pressing need.

Mr. Dailey also attended the Military and Veterans Appreciation Day event on 26 January. A Veterans Town Hall is scheduled to be held in Frisco on 18 April with another on 19 April in Kremmling. VHA, home loans, and the vet center are all expected to be represented.

Public Comments

Mr. Mason informed the group that CDLE and its veteran employment specialists can help veterans with challenges to employment such as education and accessibility.

Mr. Fischel extended greeting from Congressman Tipton. His office works closely with the Pueblo County Veteran Service Office assisting with claim status inquiries, particularly regarding appeals, and discharge upgrades.

Mr. Sabedra acknowledged the partnership with congressman's office and also with Posada of Pueblo, which offers aid to veterans through the Veterans Assistance Grant. He said that the recent Stand Down underscored the increasing number of homeless veterans in the area since 2014, having grown from approximately 25 to more than 70.

Ms. Stattelman said that data from their Homeless Management Information System indicates that Medicaid expansion has been one of the reasons for in the increasing population in the Pueblo area, and that legal marijuana has contributed as it is often seen as a business opportunity. The city is experiencing records lows in vacancy rates and both rent and deposits have tripled in recent years, adding

to the causes of homelessness.

Mr. Scott said health care has been a prevailing issue on the southeastern plains. Access to care has been of concern and the perception is that the Choice program seems to have created as many problems as solutions. Nonpayment to participating facilities can end up affecting a veteran's credit. Ms. Hammon recommended that veterans in this situation contact the Choice coordinator at the Denver VAMC, and Mr. Scott said that Senator Gardner's office has also helped with these situations. The La Junta CBOC now also has a nurse practitioner after a two-year vacancy. There are few homeless resources in and surrounding Otero County but the homeless census is low. There is some subsidized housing but very limited availability.

Mr. Raymond said there is Veterans Task Force on campus that helps student veterans access available resources. The campus is trying to earn a Purple Heart designation and places a great deal of emphasis on its veteran-friendly programs. This would be the first school with this designation in Colorado.

Community Presentation

Mr. Albright introduced attendees to the Center for American Values and its Pueblo location, known as Home for Heroes. The Pueblo community is home to four Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, one of whom is the center's co-founder Drew Dix. The mission of Home for Heroes is to connect with youth and help all generations to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans. One of the focal projects of Home for Heroes has been documenting the stories of more than 140 Medal of Honor recipients.

Recess

The meeting was called to recess at 10:25 and labor resumed at 10:40.

Community Presentation

Mr. Albright here presented a video about the Home for Heroes and its project, with excerpts from interviews with several Medal of Honor recipients.

Reports

Mr. Dorman said the confirmations for the new board members are scheduled for 26 February at 01:30

p.m. at the Veterans Caucus meeting at the state capitol. In legislation he reported on SB 112, an unfunded outdoor recreation grant for veterans and SB 157, which proposes a State Women's Veterans office, funded from the Veterans Assistance Grant.

Mr. Mestas said that the division annual training conference will be held in Westminster April 10-13. The semi-annual payment list has been prepared and this is 12th consecutive year that there is no

report of veterans services from San Juan County. Veterans in San Juan are assisted by veterans service officers in neighboring counties. Other gaps in reporting were noted from Bent and Gilpin Counties. A new service officer has been hired in Jackson County and he will be trained at the state office. Larimer County plans to continue for the present with an interim veterans service officer. The state office will hold its selection board for new service officers in mid-February, and Mr. Robinson has agreed to serve on that board.

Ms. Hoagland said that the grants office has been very busy. The commissioning date of the USS Colorado has been scheduled for 17 March. Senator Gardner is to be the keynote speaker. Grant funds remaining to be spent in each grant stream is approximately \$350,179.80 for the Veterans Trust Fund and \$492,435.00 for the Veterans Assistance Grant. Both grants are on track for spending to date. Mr. Dailey asked if Ms. Hoagland could comment on delayed reimbursement. Ms. Hoagland said the typical turnaround has been 10 days from the time that a reimbursement request is made complete. EFTs are occasionally held for verification by the receiving bank.

Action Item

Mr. Dailey laid the question of phone attendance at meetings before the Board. Current bylaws require a quorum of four. Is that inclusive of phone attendance?

Ms. Hammon stated that she has not experienced any limitations or qualifications on phone attendance with other traveling boards of which she is a member. She suggested no limits on phone attendance.

Mr. Rudder and Mr. Steen concurred. Mr. Steen suggested the Board explore permanent accommodation, such as a conference phone or voiceover IP tools.

Mr. Mestas said that cost would need to be evaluated in regard to purchasing specialized accommodation, and both Mr. Steen and Ms. Hammon offered to contribute their travel reimbursement if necessary.

New Business

Mr. Callahan ensured all the Board members had a copy of the latest revision of the strategic plan. The plan has four strategic policy initiatives with 12 goals and 15 supporting objectives. Mr. Robinson suggested a wording change on SPI 4, changing Veterans Trust Fund/ Veterans Assistance Grant funding to "grant funding."

Ms. Hammon moved to assign subcommittees to create the action plans for each SPI. This was seconded by Mr. Rudder and opened for discussion. Mr. Mestas reminded the Board that the planning sessions are subject to the sunshine law and the meetings need to be scribed. Mr. Steen suggested holding

the subcommittee on the same day as the board meetings, with subcommittees meeting both before and after the meeting. The consensus was to assign two subcommittees per Board member.

Mr. Robinson moved to adopt the SPIs and goals as presented with the grant wording change. It was seconded by Mr. Rudder. The motion carried with no dissensions.

Subcommittees were assigned as follows:

Ms. Caldwell, SPI 2

Mr. Dailey Floater, SPI 3

Ms. Golonka, SPI 1, SPI 2

Ms. Hammon, SPI 1, SPI 4

Mr. Robinson, SPI 3, SPI 4

Mr. Rudder, SPI 3, SPI 4

Mr. Steen, SPI 1, SPI 2

Mr. Callahan will distribute the revised draft and the subcommittee assignments in writing.

Community Presentation

Ms. Rocha presented graduate student Ben Buckland from the school's Veterans Resource Center to discuss student veteran issues. One of the struggles is VA vocational rehabilitation. Regular appointments with vocational rehabilitation counselors are a requirement and the students have to travel from Pueblo to Colorado Springs, which creates a hardship. This also affects students at Pueblo Community College. Mr. Dailey accepted the opportunity for the Board to advocate on behalf of accessibility for student veterans.

Upcoming Meetings

The training for Veterans Trust Fund will be held at the March meeting and the vote on applications will be held in April. The site for the March meeting is TBD as the hospital is not yet ready to host.

The schedule follows:

March 02, 2018, Denver

April 06, 2018, Aurora

May 04, 2017, Jefferson County

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Hammon. The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

Board Minutes

March 2, 2018

Department of Veterans Affairs

1355 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 201, Denver, CO 80222

Duane Dailey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 0906 hours. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for our POW, MIA, troops in battle or harm's way and all service members.

Roll Call of Members and Introduction of Staff & Guests

Board Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack Rudder, Vice-Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary (via phone conference) Lacey Golonka, Member

Norm Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Greg Dorman, Legislative Liaison Reuben Mestas, CDVA Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator Dave

Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner Claire Dean, CDVA

Interim Office Manager

Guests Present:

Dick Young, UVC Leanne Wheeler, UVC

Sheila Scanlon, Women Marine Association

Stephanie Vivirski, Women Marine Association and Team Red White and Blue Theresa Rudder,

President-elect, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Colorado

Approval of Minutes from February

It was moved by Mr. Steen and seconded by Mr. Rudder to accept the February minutes with corrections. The motion carried.

Hollie Caldwell: Ms. Caldwell had nothing to add.

Jack Rudder: Mr. Rudder listened to the Veterans Caucus at the Capitol prior to his confirmation to the Board.

Lacey Golonka: Both Ms. Golonka and Mr. Steen were confirmed to the Board. Ms. Golonka welcomed today's guests.

Norm Steen: On March 12, Mr. Steen will attend a faith-based homeless veteran outreach. Bill 4457 from Congressman Lamborn did not pass. On March 13, American Legion Post 171 will be recognized for their community work rebuilding a veteran's home in Cripple Creek. Mr. Steen serves on Advisory Board for the Military Care Network. One of the goals is to find the veteran purpose in their life. The Pikes Peak National Cemetery is set to open in late spring. It will be federally run.

Duane Dailey: Mr. Dailey and Ms. Hoagland recently attended a meeting in Westcliffe requested by the grantee to resolve some grant issues. It was stressed that grant money from the Veterans Trust Fund is for veterans in need. While attending SB 157 hearing, Mr. Dailey heard the same concerns that he routinely hears in Grand County, that it's difficult to navigate the system and veterans are not sure what they are entitled to.

Dick Young: Mr. Young was surprised that the DVA was the only organization to testify against the recently defeated Women Veterans Bill. He said that there are problems, but mostly with the VA. Many female veterans will only meet with other women with regards to their issues. Mr. Dailey clarified that he testified as a County Service Officer, against the proposed money that was to be taken from the Veterans Assistance Grant, not as a Board member.

Ms. Golonka stated on the record that she had testified as a female veteran, not in the capacity as Board member. She then asked Mr. Young about staffing and why a separate office is necessary when the State office already exists and helps female veterans. Mr. Young stated that he didn't know how many staff would be needed and that he was not sure how many female veterans live in Colorado. Ms. Golonka asked if the guests would want to have an open dialog with any of the three women currently serving on the Board to address their issues.

Leanne Wheeler: The Women Veterans Bill, by Senator Williams, would have created a sponsor-funded outreach position. Ms. Wheeler wondered if the State understands what female veteran needs are, if they are addressing those needs and if the grant money goes towards those needs. Mr. Dailey asked Ms. Caldwell to speak about her background which she did. Ms. Caldwell stated that transitioning out of the military is somewhat different for women than men. Although she agrees conceptually in addressing the issues, she does not agree with taking grant money away from any veteran.

Mr. Dorman stated that he testified on the technical piece of the bill and that the Board continues to stay neutral on positions.

Mr. Steen testified as a County Commissioner, who feels that the creation of a second office to differentiate would be passing the buck. The focus should be to take care of all veterans regardless of

race, gender or religion. And the second issue Mr. Steen had was with funding.

Ms. Wheeler said the money sponsored for the bill was in an amendment. Currently, the VA is not structured to support the young female veterans. It is hoped that the Board will collaborate with those individuals who supported the bill.

Sheila Scanlon: Ms. Scanlon perceived that it was the Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs that opposed the bill and wondered how we move forward. It is not enough to have a link on the website for female veterans.

Stephanie Vivirski: The way we treat our female veterans is a problem. Ms. Vivirski would like to know that the top three priorities are and how we are going to address them. More referral services for homeless female veterans with children are needed. Female doctors and female CVSOs should be offered to veterans prior to appointments. Mr. Dorman stated that many counties are limited with only one Service Officer and some are only part-time employees.

Homeless veterans are addressed through the Department of Local Affairs, not DMVA due to departmental funding.

Ms. Caldwell mentioned that we could track how many female veterans we are serving through grant programs and possibly changing the grant application process to include more female- oriented programs. Ms. Golonka explained that part of the Strategic Plan is to provide better advocacy by identifying and finding ways to fill gaps in veteran's assistance.

Greg Dorman on behalf of Mickey Hunt: Mr. Hunt is currently attending the Women Veterans Expo in Houston, Texas. Any underspending of the Veterans Assistance Grant is a grantee's issue, not a Board or Grant Administrator issue. The \$24k of unused grant money would not cover the costs associated with Women's Veteran Bill. The website is a work in progress. Mr. Dorman briefly went over the Board's statutes and its capacity. SB18-135 Update to CO Code of Military Justice is currently in the House.

Ben Mestas: After hearing testimony and reviewing the veteran's record, it was found that the veteran's regular service officer was out the day of her appointment and so staff had her see a male service officer instead. Veterans are given every opportunity to turn down service officers for any reason. Staff has been directed to ask whether or not a client wishes to see a female service officer prior to setting appointments. Two thirds of the Division is female. The Appeals Specialist, Office Manager and Claims Assistant are all female. One of the three new hires will be a women's coordinator who is to attend this year's National Women's Conference in June.

Mr. Mestas would like input and suggestions from those individuals who supported the Women Veterans Bill.

He is researching best practices with other states on serving female veterans.

Ms. Wheeler requested a formal strategy with the help of Mr. Callahan. There will be a vacancy on the Board July 1, 2018.

Ms. Golonka met with Kathleen Wirkus to discuss job responsibilities for the women's coordinator and would like to include them in the discussion.

Let the record show that here the Board recessed at 10:45am, and resumed to labor at 10:55am.

Gail Hoagland: Of the \$25k Veterans Trust Fund money returned, Mr. Mestas motioned to reallocate \$21k for cemetery irrigation projects. Construction bids will be needed. Mr. Steen motioned for approval, Ms. Caldwell seconded and the motion carried. Only one of the 27 VTF applications was pulled out of consideration as they were not in good standing. About 2 million was requested from the 47 VAG applicants. Ms. Hoagland asked the Board to make a firm recommendation regarding consideration of incomplete Assistance Grant applications.

Ms. Caldwell motioned that the Board stay consistent with the application policy that all applications must be complete when submitted. Mr. Rudder seconded and the motion was carried.

Ms. Hoagland may ask for the Boards help in contacting VAG trustees who have been underperforming. Mr. Steen mentioned that some of the trustees have been waiting a long time for reimbursement money. Reimbursements will only be processed when all of the proper documentation is received. Grant applications will be emailed out to the Board by Friday, March 9. All scoring sheets need to be turned in electronically no later than March 28. Each application needs to be kept separate from one another and our IT Department will not allow them to be transferred on zip files. Mr. Dorman will work with IT to find a secure document sharing program. Ms. Hoagland will create notebooks with print outs for those who need them at the next Board meeting. If there is a conflict of interest, the Board member must recuse themselves. Ms. Hoagland went over the application review process in detail. Any application that scores below 60 will not be considered.

Dave Callahan: Mr. Callahan asked both Mr. Rudder and Ms. Caldwell to submit any changes they may have on the Strategic Plan section SPI4 in the next two weeks.

Old Business

Mr. Dailey would like to continue the discussion on Board conference calls.

Future Meetings

April 6, 2018 – Aurora Chamber of Commerce

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr.

Steen. The meeting adjourned 12:38pm.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
Minutes 06 April 2018
Aurora Chamber of Commerce
14305 E. Alameda Avenue, Suite 300
Aurora, CO 80012

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack
Rudder, Vice Chair
Hollie Caldwell, Secretary
Lacey Golonka, Member Pat
Hammon, Member Robby
Robinson, Member Norm
Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director
Ben Mestas, CDVA Director
Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator
Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Sheila Scanlon, UVC Legislative Committee
Dick Young, UVC Legislative Chairman

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0903 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance and the Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Steen moved that the March minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and carried.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Golonka reported that she has been working or coordinating efforts with the women veterans

coalition.

Ms. Caldwell is back in Colorado.

Ms. Hammon attended the third annual women veterans tea in Palisade. The event had more than 140 attendees, including three World War II veterans. A Vietnam veterans memorial event was held in Fruita on 29 March with approximately 75 in attendance. The Western Slope Veterans Coalition met to amplify their mission statement to include their commitment to serve as a resource for women veterans and for subjects of trauma. A list is being assembled of desired service by the Western Slope One Source, scheduled to open in 2019. A VOA office has opened in Eagle County and is providing assistance with homelessness.

Mr. Robinson said he was unable to attend the last Board meeting because he was attending the funeral of Larry Velasquez, the former resident council chair at the State Veterans Community Living Center in Rifle. A flower fund has been established in Mr. Velasquez's name to help maintain the rose garden he established in memory of his wife. The CLC in Rifle has passed two surveys and intends to start a CNA training program. The CLC at Fitzsimons has passed one of its surveys. The Department of Human Services has proposed funding in the Long Bill to enable the CLCs to pay direct service personnel under exemption from the salaries mandated by the state personnel system.

Mr. Steen said the March legislative conference of the National Association of Counties saw a meeting of the Veterans and Military Service Committee attended by James Wartski, executive director of the VA's Veterans Experience Office. VA is incorporating a commitment to veterans' engagement and experience at their facilities through utilization of Community Veterans Engagement Boards. He attended the VA Clinic Stakeholders meeting in Colorado Springs on 28 March. The wait time for an initial PCP appointment at the Colorado Springs CBOC is now 62 days. The clinic continues to struggle with its caseload as it gains approximately 500 new patients every month. VHA plans to include complementary alternative medicine to its program of care. Patients no-showing for appointments at the CBOC continues to be a problem, with approximately 30,000 no-shows in 2017. An additional \$300,000 in funding for county veterans service officers is proposed in the Long Bill. He met with Terri Clinton, the commander of the American Legion Department of Colorado, and she is interested in the role of the Board. Upcoming veterans' events include the UVC banquet scheduled for 08 April, The Vet Fest at the Sky Six Stadium on 04 August, an SBA-sponsored Veterans Small Business Conference in Colorado Springs on 05 April, and a VA Mental Health Summit and the Penrose Pavilion in Colorado Springs on 29 August. He has also drafted a letter for the Board to send the governor supporting the use of the additional \$300,000 to counties to support veterans service officers.

Mr. Rudder was out of the country in March. A large concern in the veteran coalition in Alamosa is the disproportionately high suicide rate among veterans in the San Luis Valley. There is a persistent need for the availability of more and better mental health services.

Mr. Dailey attended the VA town hall held the Denver VAMC in March. Another is scheduled to be held in Fruita on 18 April. Kremmling's annual veterans dinner and town hall is scheduled for 19 April. Jackson County has a new veterans service officer.

Public Comments

Ms. Scanlon said she is looking forward to partnering with the board regarding issues faced by women veterans.

Mr. Young said the ticket holders for Sunday's UVC banquet will be able to tour the new hospital on Saturday. UVC has an online map available that displays where veterans resources are currently available, the intent is to use this as a starting point to encourage communication between veterans' organizations. He also sought a commitment from the Board to collaborate with UVC's effort to support women veterans, which Mr. Dailey agreed to add as an agenda item.

Reports

Mr. Hunt said that he is enacting an organizational change at the Division of Veterans Affairs. The division will be split geographically along the continental divide and there will a Division of Veterans Affairs East and a Division of Veterans Affairs West, each with its own division director. Ben Mestas will continue to serve in his role as the director of the east division and Dave Callahan, the DMVA strategic planner, will service as the interim director for the west division. The current version of the Long Bill includes funding for three FTE for the Western Slope One Source, namely a VSO, a facility manager, and an ID staff person, the last of which has —already been filled. The groundbreaking for the One Source is scheduled for June 2018 with an opening date in the summer of 2019. The department has reallocated a position to include a webmaster.

New Business

The Board here entertained a motion by Ms. Hammon to sign and submit to the governor the letter written by Mr. Steen in support of funding for county veterans service officers. This was seconded by Mr. Robinson and carried.

Reports

Mr. Mestas said the division has hired three new state veterans service officers. Jaclyn Murrietta is the division POC for women veterans and has been in the contact with the coalition. The division annual training conference will be held 10 April-13 April and in addition to county veterans services officers will be attended by representatives from CLCs, VOA, the American Legion, and the VFW. Guest presenters include a law firm that

represents cases at the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals.

Ms. Hoagland invited questions on her written report. Mr. Robinson inquired whether there are any concerns about the rate of spending by current grantees. Ms. Hoagland said that there have been but contract modifications have resolved most of the issues. Mr. Robinson also asked whether it is typical for the CLC's to be slow to spend their funds. Ms. Hoagland said that it is because the CLCs are usually funding projects and will submit for reimbursement when the project is complete. Mr. Steen asked if the Board has a process for controlling risk in regard to advanced funds and Ms. Hoagland explained the internal guidelines that are part of the grant rules. Ms. Hoagland then presented a reallocation request for the Board's considerations. Ms. Caldwell to reallocate the funds as recommended and Ms. Hammon seconded. The motion carried.

Recess

The Board recessed at 10:25 a.m. and resumed labor at 10:36 a.m.

Action Item: UVC Collaboration

Mr. Robinson moved that the Board resolve to collaborate with the efforts of UVC in regard to support of women veterans. Ms. Hammon seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Action Item: Veterans Trust Fund Grant

Ms. Hoagland told the Board the written subcommittee summary should be set aside as it has arithmetic errors. She reminded the Board that as applications are considered the decisions made by Board must be consistent and with clear justification. The recommendation of the subcommittee is that the applications of current grantees that are compliant be funded. If grantees have moderate compliance issues the recommendation is that they be funded with monitoring stipulated, and that those who are out of compliance not be funded.

Ms. Hoagland said that several applications scored below the required minimum of 60. There were more of these than in previous grant cycles, located in critical geographic areas. They included:

VT 19-04, American Legion Post 108, Pagosa Springs

VT 19-13, American Legion Post 74, Meeker

VT 19-14, American Legion Post 92, Cortez

VT 19-17, American Legion Post 62, Craig

VT 19-20, American Legion Post 22, Northglenn

Ms. Hoagland said a key factor in the low application scores is probably low attendance at the grant application webinars. The applications changed this cycle and some applicants who did not attend the webinars may not have understood how to complete it. She then asked the Board if it would consider

any of the applications that scored less than 60. Scores would need to be adjusted to make any of those applications eligible for consideration.

The applications with eligible scores were first considered in numerical order, followed by discussion on the applications whose scores fell below 60. The final group of applications considered was the applications from the state veterans community living centers, which had been prioritized by CDHS. The decisions on all of the applications are listed numerically below.

VT 19-01, VFW Post 8661, Conifer

Score: 81.4

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Steen that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$8,400.00

VT 19-02, VFW Post 12063, Westcliffe

Score: 86

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Mr. Robinson mentioned the comparatively low number of veterans served, a concern shared by Ms. Caldwell. Ms. Hoagland said that while census is lower in rural areas, there are also fewer resources available to veterans. It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Steen that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$55,000.00

VT 19-03, American Legion Post 09, La Junta

Score: 81.4

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Ms. Hammon and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that the recommendation be enacted. The motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$14,275.00

VT 19-04, American Legion Post 108, Pagosa Springs

Score: 57

Noncompliant

Recommendation: Do not fund

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland asked whether any of the members of the Board wished to adjust their application scores and make this application eligible for consideration. Mr. Dailey said that the previous year's funding had a stipulation of a site visit from Ms. Hoagland due to a history of noncompliance from this grantee. Ms. Hoagland confirmed that the site visit took place but the grantee's performance did not improve. She said this has been three consecutive years of noncompliance from this grantee, at which point the Board's precedent has been not to fund the application. The grant administrator has demonstrated a persistent unwillingness to adhere to the grant rules despite coaching. It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that the Board decline to fund this application.

Decision: Do not fund

VT 19-06, VFW 7829, Colorado Springs

Score: 90.8

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Robinson that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$99,050.00

VT 19-07, American Legion Post 32, Longmont

Score: 67.9

Current compliance: Moderate

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Ms. Caldwell noted the increased amount in the application request over last year's funded amount. This grantee had compliance issues earlier in the grant cycle but is now compliant. Ms. Hoagland said that the organization will have a new grant administrator in the upcoming grant year. This grantee has received some unusual requests for emergency assistance and the current budget is constructed to allow for flexibility. It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Rudder that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$59,200.00

VT 19-08, American Legion Post 88, Hot Sulphur Springs

Mr. Dailey recused himself from review of this application. Score: 80.3

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Steen that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$30,200.00

VT 19-09, VFW of Colorado, Lakewood

Score: 77.9

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Robinson that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$40,000.00

VT 19-10, DAV Chapter 48, Durango

Score: 82.8

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Mr. Robinson inquired whether the amount requested is fully justified due to the population census and presence of other grantee organizations in the geographic area. Ms. Hoagland said the higher number and grantees and applicants in the area can be attributed to a lack of other resources in rural areas. It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Steen that the recommendation be enacted. The motion carried with six in favor and one opposed.

Decision: Fund in full at \$92,620.00

VT 19-11, American Legion Post 16, Huerfano

Score: 82.1

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Steen that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$10,000.00

VT 19-12, VFW Post 41, Loveland

Score: 68

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Mr. Steen said the amount of the request was not well justified in the application, and Ms. Hammon agreed that in particular the large increase in the amount of the request was not validated in the application. Ms. Hoagland said the grantee served a college population among others and the need

for emergency assistance can be high. Ms. Hammon also said a large increase in funding may not be justified with the organization using a new grant administrator in the upcoming cycle. Ms. Hoagland said that the incoming grant administrator has experience administering a VTF grant. Mr. Robinson called for the question to accept the subcommittee's recommendation and the motion failed. Ms. Hammon moved that application be funded in the amount of \$69,000.00, which is an increase of \$10,000.00 over last year's funded amount but is also more than \$10,000.00 less than the amount of the request. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried with four in favor and three opposed.

Decision: Fund in part at \$69,000.00

VT 19-13, VFW Post 5843, Meeker

Score: 52.6

Current compliance: Moderate

Recommendation: Do not fund

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland suggested funding this application in the amount of \$5,000.00 rather than the requested amount \$8,200.00. This grantee was new in the previous year and has been very slow to spend the current funds. Ms. Hammon noted that the application is requesting a lower amount that was funded in the current grant cycle. Each Board member increased their application score to bring the application to the required level of 60 so that it could be considered for funding. It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Ms. Hammon that this application be funded in the amount of \$3,000.00 based on the organization's current rate of spending. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$3,000.00

VT 19-14, VFW Post 5231, Mancos

Score: 54

Current compliance: Moderate

Recommendation: Do not fund

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland said this is a rural area with few resources for veterans in need. Ms. Hammon said that the application asks for an increase in the currently funded amount even though his grantee has been very slow to spend its current funds. Ms. Hoagland explained that the post has a committee that decides the amount of the grant request each year, which is often determined in spite of the advice of the grant administrator who is aware that the post is unlikely to expend large amounts. Each Board member with the exception of Mr. Rudder increased their application score to bring the application to the required level of 60 so that it could be considered for funding. It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Robinson that this application be funded in the amount of \$4,000.00 based on the organization's current rate of spending. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$4,000.00

VT 19-15, American Legion Post 1980, Woodland Park

Score: 68.4

Current compliance: Moderate

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Ms. Hammon that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$20,000.00

VT 19-16, American Legion Post 25, Florence

Score: 60.8

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$15,000.00

VT 19-17, American Legion Post 62, Craig

Score: 58.9

Current compliance: Moderate

Recommendation: Do not fund

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland said this is also an underserved rural area but the grantee has struggled with spending and with documentation requirements. Mr. Dailey and Ms. Hammon both increased their application scores to bring the application above required level of 60 so that it could be considered for funding. It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that this application be funded in the amount of \$5,000.00 based on the organization's current rate of spending.

The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$5,000.00

VT 19-18, American Legion Post 113, Alamosa

Mr. Rudder recused himself from review of this application

Score: 70.6

New applicant Recommendation:

Fund in full

Discussion: This is an established program, formerly administered through a VTF grant to the VFW post. It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that the recommendation be enacted. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$33,000.00

VT 19-19, American Legion Post 103, Littleton

Score: 72.3

Current compliance: Moderate

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland recommended funding this application in the amount of \$25,000.00. The current funded amount is \$30,000.00, and while this grantee is compliant with grant rules, they are spending very slowly and may not expend their funds this cycle. It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that this application be funded in the amount of \$25,000.00. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$25,000.00

VT 19-20, American Legion Post 22, Longmont

Score: 56.8

Current compliance: Moderate

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland said this is a returning grantee this year. The grant administrator has had difficulties with documentation due to technology challenges. Spending has been slow. Ms. Caldwell, Ms. Hammon, and Mr. Rudder increased their application scores to bring the application to the required level of 60 so that it could be considered for funding. It was moved by Ms. Hammon and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that this application be funded in the amount of \$2,000.00 based on the organization's current rate of spending. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$2,000.00

VT 19-21, DAV Chapter 44, Cortez

Score: 75.9

Current compliance: High

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland said that two-line items would have to be removed from the proposed budget. There is a line item for a van but the required bid sheet was not included with the application. Snow removal also had to be removed as it is an administrative cost. This brings the amount eligible for funding to \$60,000.00. It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that this application be funded minus the ineligible amount of \$25,000.00. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$60,000.00

VT 19-22, VFW Post 4172, Golden

Score: 62.6 New applicant

Recommendation: Fund in full

Discussion: Ms. Hammon said there is some duplication of services as the geographic area is urban.

Mr. Robinson said the need justification was vague. Ms. Hammon moved that this application be funded at

\$10,000.00 rather than the requested \$15,000.00 and Mr. Robinson seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in part at \$10,000.00

VT 19-23, American Legion Post 44, Steamboat Springs

Score: 69.3

Current compliance: Low Recommendation:

Fund with stipulations

Discussion: Ms. Hoagland said this grantee has had ongoing issues with compliance, including following the grant rules, spending rates, and being argumentative when corrected. If this application is funded it will require a stipulation that a new grant administrator be appointed. It was moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Mr. Robinson that this application be funded in full with this stipulation. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$4,500.00 with administrator replacement stipulation

VT 19-24, SVCLC Rifle

It was moved by Mr. Steen and seconded by Mr. Robinson that this application be funded in full. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$21,385.00

VT 19-25, SVCLC McCandless

It was moved by Ms. Hammon and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that this application be funded in full. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$20,000.00

VT 19-26, SVCLC Homelake

It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Hammon that this application be funded in full. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$69,029.92

VT 19-27, SVCLC Fitzsimons

It was moved by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Caldwell that this application be funded in full. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Decision: Fund in full at \$19,731.40

The total amount of VTF funds allocation was \$737,291.32 with \$37,000.00 remaining. Mr. Mestas

said he will bring a funding request to the Board to utilize the remaining funds for the division and the cemetery.

New Business

Mr. Dailey invited discussion on whether any changes to the bylaws are necessary to accommodate call-in attendance at meetings and whether or not call-in attendance affects the existence of a quorum. The consensus was that a required number present in person is not necessary at this time unless required by the bylaws. Ms. Hoagland said the bylaws state that electronic votes are valid. It was concluded that call-in attendance counts toward the quorum and no additional action is needed at this time.

Upcoming Meetings

04 May, Westminster

01 June, Walsenburg

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs Minutes

04 May 2018

**Adams County Human Services, Room Cherry A 11860 Pecos Street
Westminster, CO 80234**

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack Rudder, Vice Chair

Lacey Golonka, Member Pat Hammon, Member Robby Robinson, Member Norm Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Dave Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner, CDVA West Interim Director Ben Mestas, CDVA East Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Debra Glade, Rocky Mountain Assisted Living

Gillian Kaag, Cohen Military Family Clinic Tiffany Morgan, Cohen Military Family Clinic Steve Rylant, VFW Post 41, Fort Collins Robert Sheetz, CVSO Adams County

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0902 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance and the Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests. Mr. Dailey thanked Mr. Sheetz and Adams County for providing the meeting space. He informed the Board that he would have to leave the meeting at approximately 10:00, at which time Mr. Rudder would assume the chair.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dailey confirmed that the Board members present had received Mr. Robinson's modifications to the drafted minutes of the April meeting. Mr. Steen proffered a verbal correction of the date of the upcoming SBA-sponsored Veterans Small Business Conference in Colorado Springs on 05 August. It was moved by Mr. Steen and seconded by Mr. Rudder that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion carried.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Golonka referred the Board to her email sent on 03 May, in which she reported on her interaction with Bert Potwin, Constituent Advocate for Congressman Coffman. From the perspective of the congressman's office two of the largest areas of concern to Colorado veterans are complaints about Fitzsimons, from both residents and staff, and CONG administrative issues. Veteran unemployment rates continue to be low in Colorado. She said

her remote attendance at the meeting would likely be interrupted as she would soon have to parachute jump as part of a training exercise.

Ms. Hammon said that the design of the western slope one stop is approximately 90% complete and the application for prospective tenants is ready for use. They are currently seeking donation for furnishings and landscaping. Eagle County can now provide veterans with transportation to Glenwood Springs and Grand Junction.

Mr. Steen said the budget increase to allocate an additional \$300,000.00 to counties to support their county veterans service officers was signed by the governor on 02 April. He discussed strategies to encourage county commissioners to use the funds to benefit the CVSOs. According to the GDX, every dollar spent on the county veterans service office brings approximately \$5,000.00 of revenue into the county. Also, VA funds received by veteran will help those veterans decrease their need for county assistance. Mr. Rylant asked if the counties could be required to use the funds for CVSOs. Mr. Dailey said that home rule prevents the legislature from mandating the use of the funds. The fiscal note attached to the line item does specify that it is meant to be used for CVSOs. Ms. Hammon asked when counties will be notified and Mr. Mestas said those notification are usually mailed in July. Mr. Steen said that on the monthly conference call of NACO's Veterans and Military Services Committee held on 01 May, the committee was informed that and veterans' health care bill regarding Choice is schedule be in committee markup on 08 May. One issue of concern is that the Choice program is almost out of funding, and an additional allocation is needed to finance the program through the end of the fiscal year. On 25 April Mr. Steen met with Kim Hoge, director of the Colorado Springs CBOC. As of April 2018 wait times for primary care at the clinic had improved, with 74% of new appointments scheduled within 30 days. The percentage of new mental health care appointments scheduled within 30 days continues to be high at 94%. Specialty care appointments continue to be more difficult to schedule promptly. VHA is working to expand the telehealth network with eight locations now available in Colorado. He distributed copies of a brochure detailing the services available from the VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System. He said that Denise Rohan, the national commander for the American Legion, will be in Colorado May 11-14.

Mr. Robinson said that the Spanish Peaks CLC hais an adjoining wing with the hospital in Huerfano. There is some concern about the continuing viability of the partnership as the hospital district is in financial crisis. The legislation that attempted to exempt direct care providers from state pay rules failed. The CLCs have also experienced project complications due to contracting problems in DHS.

Ms. Golonka here exited the meeting at 10:337 a.m.

Mr. Rudder said the San Luis Valley will have a Healing Waters fly fishing event on 05 May. He attended the state VSO training held in April and it went well.

Mr. Dailey complimented Mr. Mestas on the successful training conference and said that the CDVA and VA speakers were very knowledgeable. Summit County has had two town halls within the past month. Grand County's Memorial Day event will be held in Grand Lake and Mr. Robinson will be the keynote speaker.

Community Presentations

Adams County Veterans Services

Mr. Sheetz presented a PowerPoint reading Adams County Veterans Services. Adams County has approximately 30,000 veterans and the population is increasing. The county currently sees approximately \$37,000,000 per year in VA revenue from compensation and pension, with approximately \$150,000,000 more in education benefits. The most prevalent types of compensations claims are related to PTSD and to Agent Orange. The Adams County Court for Veterans is the third largest program of its kind in Colorado. The county formed a Veterans Advisory Committee in May 2018, and the initial goals are to create a veteran's memorial and to establish a VHA CBOC.

Cohen Military Family Clinic

Ms. Morgan informed the Board that the clinic is now open at the ~~Denver Tech Center Office-University of Colorado-Anschutz campus~~ and she and Dr. Kaag showed a presentation regarding the clinic and its services. The clinic provides mental health care to post-9/11 veterans, National Guard members, reservists and their family members. Their services are available regardless of discharge status, combat experience, ability to pay, or insurance coverage, and they focus on culturally competent and easily accessible care. The Cohen network now has eight clinics nationwide and hopes to have 25 by 2020.

The clinic focuses on short to medium-term care, but does help veterans to access longer-term treatment when needed.

Recess

The Board here recessed from 10:21 a.m. to 10:35 a.m. Mr. Dailey left the meeting and Mr. Rudder assumed the chair.

Reports

Mr. Mestas said that 68 of the state's 78 county veterans services officer attended the annual training. Over the last year all 78 county service officers have completed training, with a 79th county service officer just added within the last month. San Juan County still has no service officer and provides ns county veterans services. The training conference also trained representatives from the American Legion and from Colorado nonprofits. Featured guests were VOA, Gold Star Wives, the CLCs, and a law firm that assists veterans when cases are appealed to the US Court of Veterans Appeals. State payments to some counties have been delayed due to a problem with the addresses used by the state accounting system but have been now brought up to date with the exception of Delores County. The issue the state cemetery has experienced with Sunset Mesa Funeral Directors is still under investigation by the FBI and no disinterment has been authorized by that agency. He told the

Board that the financial problems experienced by hospital in Walsenburg are of concern to the veteran community due to the relationship between the hospital and the CLC, and there may be questions about it from the community at the June Board meeting.

Mr. Callahan said the groundbreaking for the Western Slope One Source is scheduled for June 2018 and the building should be completed by January 2019. The third week of May is Armed Forces Week and that is the target for the grand opening.

Ms. Hoagland said that the contract process is underway for the Veterans Trust Fund grants and that the Veteran's Assistance Grant committee recommendations are currently under department review. Contracts may not be executed by 01 July due to the length of the process. The grant agreement must be signed by the grantee organizations, which then must return four originally signed signature pages to the department. There is then a series of department signatures that must be obtained, ~~and grants in excess of \$10,000.00 must also be signed by the state controller.~~ Not until all of the required signatures are in place ~~and in~~ the grant agreement is fully executed will ~~and~~ funds be attached. Mr. Rylant said his post is seeking guidance on how to justify a requested increase in grant funds. Ms. Hoagland said she will work with post during the next application cycle.

Action Item: Strategic Plan

Mr. Callahan referred the Board to the current draft of the plan that he emailed in advance of the meeting. He is waiting for feedback from Ms. Golonka on SPIs one and two and asked all Board members to have their final comments to him no later than 11 May. He will send out the final draft for review, but it cannot be voted on until the next meeting. Mr. Robinson said the goal associated with SPI2 has been accomplished with the Long Bill allocation of funds to the CVSOs. After discussion the consensus was to modify the goal to increasing the allocation of counties by 5% over the current base for the next three years. Mr. Callahan will incorporate the change into the new draft of the strategic plan.

New Business

Ms. Hammon said that Comeback Yoga now has two recurring classes in Eagle. Comeback Yoga is a nonprofit whose mission is to assist veterans in returning to healthy life function by them with free access to appropriately designed yoga classes. In addition to Eagle, these classes are available at the Denver VA hospital, various CBOCs, VFW Post #1, the Cohen Clinic, and at select yoga studios in Denver.

Upcoming Meetings

01 June, Walsenburg

July, No meeting in

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Steen made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Robinson. The

meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs Minutes

01 June 2018

Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center

23500 US Highway 160

Walsenburg, CO 81089

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair Pat

Hammon, Member

Robby Robinson, Member

Norm Steen, Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director

Dave Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner, CDVA West Interim Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator

Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Charlene Baldwin, American Legion Auxiliary

Gary Baldwin, American Legion

Bill Beck, American Legion

Ed Calahan, American Legion

Lynne Ciancio, veteran

Florence Cisneros, American Legion Auxiliary

Gerald Cisneros, American Legion

Mary Criel, resident

Bill Gust, Colorado Department of Human Services Paula

Hill, Spanish Peaks Quality Assurance Coordinator Sam

Holland, resident, president of resident council Carmen

Lara, volunteer

Michael Lockwood, resident Colin

Lowe, veteran

Lisa Lowe

Joe Marion, resident Mary
Martinez
Pat Messasoia
Lionel Montoya, CFO Spanish Peaks Jan
Novak, veteran
Brian Ortiz, veteran
Cheryl Rogers, American Legion Auxiliary
Dave Rogers, American Legion
Patti Rowe, community member
Theresa Rudder, President Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs
Ed Salazar
April Secor, Spanish Peaks Administrator
Jay Scott, CVSO Otero County
Bill Shephard, American Legion
Evelyn Shepard, American Legion Auxiliary
Edwin Spitzer
Nick Vigil, CVSO Huerfano County
Roger Watkins, Spanish Peaks Kay
Whitley, CEO Spanish Peaks

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0902 hours. Proceedings began with presentation of the colors by American Legion Post 16, a reading of the poem Common Solider performed by Gary Baldwin of American Legion Post 16, and a rendition of Taps. This was followed by the pledge of allegiance recited in unison and then a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey identified the Board and thanked all in attendance. The roll of Board members was called and it was noted that this would be the final roll call for longtime member Robby Robinson, attending his last meeting as a Board member.

Mr. Robinson gave an update to the Board from the SVCLC commission, saying that Mr. Gust reported on the finances of the Spanish Peaks hospital and that costs have been adjusted and operating losses reduced. Mr. Dailey asked if Mr. Robinson would continue in his role as the Board liaison the SVCLC commission and Mr. Robinson agreed. Mr. Dailey presented Mr. Robinson with a plaque honoring his years of service to the Board and commended him on his continuing contribution to and advocacy for the wellbeing of Colorado veterans.

Mr. Dailey said that Ms. Golonka was waiting to join the meeting by phone while some technical difficulties were addressed. He then invited introductions from DMVA staff and from around the room.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dailey corrected page two of the drafted minutes to clarify that the town halls held in the month of April were in Summit County and in Grand County. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Hammon said the VOA office in Eagle County is assisting with the local housing crisis. The Grand Junction hospital held its quarterly forum and reported that surveys have been positive and staffing levels at the hospital are good. Primary care is now available in Glenwood Springs and the Glenwood Springs resource center continues to do well. Eagle County now provides a daily shuttle to Grand Junction. The VFW has just awarded its annual scholarships.

Mr. Rudder said that Memorial Day events in the San Luis Valley included a ceremony at the cemetery at Homelake, a USAF flyby, and a Civil War reenactment. The veterans coalition continues to focus on suicide prevention. Veterans to Farmers and Healing Waters continue to assist veteran in the San Luis Valley.

Mr. Steen said the Veterans Commission Engagement Board held its first meeting for the Pikes Peak region on 22 May. This complements a nationwide effort by VA to actively engage with veteran communities. Current and upcoming events include the Air Force Academy hosting the DoD Warrior Games 01-09 June, a veteran job fair at Mount Carmel on 21 June, Veterans Day at the El Paso County Fair on 14 July, and Vet Fest at Sky Sox Stadium on 04 August.

Mr. Robinson said that he spoke at the Grand Lake Memorial Day celebration. The event was well attended.

Mr. Dailey said that Mr. Robinson was also the grand marshal of the Grand Lake Memorial Day parade and thanks him for his participation that day. The parade's history extends to survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He attended a panel discussion on access to VA health care in Denver in May. It was noted of the average 22 veteran suicides per day, 14 of those veteran were never in VA health care.

Community Presentations

Spanish Peaks Veteran Community Living Center

Ms. Secor briefed the Board and other attendees on the community living center at Spanish Peaks.

Recent expansion of telehealth services has improved access to care and made it faster to get referrals.

Psychiatric services are also available via telehealth. Recent activities included a Mother's Day luau

and a Memorial Day observation, as well as recurring events such as shopping trips, dining out, and art gallery visits. Upcoming events include fireworks for Independence Day and a Rolling for Freedom fundraiser in August. The CLC recently earned a five-star CMS rating and the hospital was named one of the top 20 critical access hospitals by the National Rural Health Association. They are currently working on incentives to recruit and retain CNAs with such programs as paid training and tuition reimbursement. The mill levy passed in May is anticipated to help offset some of the impact of recent cuts to state provider fees.

American Legion Post 16

Adjutant Dave Rogers welcomed the Board to Huerfano County. He said that the county population is 14.4% veterans, more than twice the national average. Post 16 currently administers a VTF grant and this has been their first year to do so. As the grant administrator he said he observed two noticeable trends among veterans who need emergency assistance: either they are waiting for social service assistance which is progressing too slowly for their needs or they are waiting until they are in crisis before seeking assistance. He shared anecdotes about veterans who have been assisted by the grant funds within the past year. The post has not encountered any homeless veterans in the area, but the county does have an older population and those individuals often need more services. Problems with the Choice program are ongoing. He thanked Ms. Hoagland for her support with the administration of this grant.

Public Comment

Mr. Scott said that the local American Legion post decorated more than 1,700 graves for Memorial Day. Veterans in La Junta have seen a decrease in the number of primary care providers available to them due to difficulties with Health Net.

Ms. Rogers spoke for Ms. Criel, who said that the American Legion and Auxiliary helped her to get her voice box. She thanked the Board for their visit.

Mr. Montoya said that having the hospital and CLC adjacent has helped to facilitate resident's access to care, including hospital visits.

Mr. Baldwin agreed with the concern regarding access to primary and specialty care. Appointments scheduled as far away as Pueblo are sometimes cancelled and veterans are left with nowhere to go. He asked Ms. Whitley if she could confirm a rumor among residents that employees were instructed not to disclose that day's Board meeting at the CLC. Ms. Secor said that the meeting was announced in the resident council meeting and published to local CVSOs. Ms. Whitley said she will check the communication boards to make sure information is communicated uniformly. Ms. Lara said that she also heard that the meeting information was not published. She would also like to see more attention

paid to residents' concerns.

Mr. Dailey asked what the process of inquiry is for resident concerns. Ms. Secor said she is the facility grievance officer and that the grievance policy and grievance forms are published and available throughout the facility. She also receives reports of concerns mentioned in resident council meetings.

Mr. Marion said that residents often do not grieve because they do not think that complaints will result in action.

Mr. Beck asked whether any percentage of the mil levy was designated for only the CLC. Mr. Montoya said the mill levy is not thus restricted and the funds are available to entire complex.

Mr. Marion and Ms. Criel expressed concerns in regard to pain management. Ms. Secor said that there are CMS regulations in place that require the CLC to reduce the utilization of psychotropic and pain medication.

Mr. Dailey thanked all of the residents for speaking and encouraged them to continue to share any concerns.

Recess

The Board here recessed from 10:33 a.m. to 10:51 a.m.

Reports

Mr. Hunt said DMVA will visit Spanish Peaks in October. He met with the UVC legislative committee on 29 May. He reminded posts and CVSOs in attendance that the fiscal year is closing and grant funds must be expended.

Mr. Callahan said with the increasing service capacity provided by the new One Source on the western slope, the Division of Veterans Affairs has been geographically divided into East and West regions.

Groundbreaking for the One Source is scheduled for 20 July and the facility will open in January.

Additional funding has been approved to support county veterans service offices.

Ms. Hoagland had no additions to her submitted report.

Discussion Item: Additional VTF Funds

Ms. Hoagland said that at the end of the legislative session the JBC issued a fiscal note increasing the available funds in the Veterans Trist Fund by approximately \$102,000.00. She asked for recommendations from the Board but did not advise reopening the application process. Mr. Robinson said that other entities than veterans organizations can utilize the funds, namely CLCs, the Grand Junction cemetery, and the Division. He moved to request proposals from those three agencies. It was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

Action Items

Executive Session

Mr. Steen moved that the Board hold an executive session. It was seconded by Mr. Rudder and carried.

The Board and Ms. Hoagland recused for the session. The executive session opened at 11:16 a.m. and closed at 11:27 a.m. Mr. Dailey advised all in attendance that no decisions were made in executive session and that it was for informational purposes only.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Callahan said he had provided all of the Board members a draft of the current plan. In discussion the time frame of the plan was decided as State Fiscal Years 2018-2020. It was moved that Mr. Robinson and seconded by Mr. Rudder that the strategic plan be adopted. The motion carried.

Upcoming Meetings

No meeting in July

03 August, Gunnison 5

07 September, TBD, possible annual training

05 October

November TBD

07 December

04 January

01 February

01 March

05 April

03 May

07 June, elections

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Robinson made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Rudder. The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

Minutes 03 August 2018

American Legion Post #55

338 N. Railroad Street

Buena Vista, CO 81211

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary Lacey

Golonka, Member Pat Hammon,

Member Sheila Scanlon,

Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director

Dave Callahan, DMVA Strategic Planner, CDVA West Interim Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator

Carissa Snyder, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Darryl Atherton, American Legion Post 55

Dave Butler, American Legion Post 5

Clarence Champion, American Legion Post 55 Jim

Dexter, American Legion Post 55

Judy Joler, American Legion Post 55

Jeremiah Pedrie, Park County Veteran Service Officer Jan

Quick, American Legion Post 55

Dave Rossborough, Quartermaster VFW Post 1166 Don

Scanlon, Sheila's spouse

Chrissy Tortorigi, guest

Arthur Volk, American Legion Post 55

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0900 hours. Proceedings began with the pledge of allegiance recited in unison, followed by a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas.

Mr. Dailey identified the Board and explained its mission to all in attendance. Roll call identified the

Board members and Mr. Dailey welcomed Ms. Scanlon to her first meeting as a member of the Board. Ms. Scanlon retired from Marine Corps after 22 years of active duty and is an active advocate for issues faced by women veterans.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Rudder moved to approved the minutes of the meeting held on 01 June 2018. Ms. Hammons seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Hammon said that the Western Slope veterans resource center is now open two days a week. They have been in communication with Cohen group about expanding the reach of that organization to other areas of Colorado and to include other than post 9/11 veterans. The Eagle County rodeo honored veterans at its Patriotic Night on 28 July. The Veterans Charity Ride was in Eagle en route to Sturgis on 02 August and a community event was held to welcome them. The coalition has been working with the Grand Junction VAMC on access to community care. A new unit has begun for Project Healing Waters.

Ms. Caldwell has been travelling and had no comments at this time.

Ms. Golonka said that veteran unemployment is at all-time low rate. She said that the National Guard has been activated for deployment and that training starts in two weeks. She expects to deploy at the end of September and return next June. Due to the extended absence she will resign her current position on the Board but looks forward to reapplying after her return. Mr. Dailey thanked her for her contributions during her tenure.

Mr. Rudder said that fires in the San Luis Valley have destroyed 140 homes in Costilla and Huerfano counties, including some belonging to veterans in Huerfano County. The American Legion post in Alamosa held Vietnam Veterans Night in July with approximately 120 in attendance. Del Norte held a pig roast in association with it Covered Wagon Days event and the proceeds were donated to the veterans' organizations.

Ms. Scanlon said that she has been working with state veteran service officer Jaclyn Murrietta on subjects of interest or concern to women veterans in Colorado. One has been the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center. Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Murrietta, and representative from UVC toured the facility and observed some flaws in the area designated for mammography, in particular some problems with privacy. There is also not a separate women's clinic at the new hospital. The hospital is considering suggestions for improvement.

Mr. Dailey said that he attended the groundbreaking for the Western Slope One Source on 20 July and the ribbon cutting for the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center on 21 July. The latter ceremony he reported as well-attended, including the VA acting secretary, two senators, and four congressmen, as well as Mickey Hunt, Ben Mestas, and many veterans from the surrounding community.

Community Presentation

American Legion Post 55

Ms. Quick said the local post is very active. Post representatives lead the 4th of July and Apple fest parades, decorate veterans' graves with flags in acknowledgement of military holidays, and provide funeral honors upon request. Memorial Day services are conducted by the post at Hoosier Pass and at Mount Olivet Cemetery. The post also pays the dues for members of Cub Scout Pack 72. They hold various fundraisers to help support the needs of local veterans including breakfasts, fall colors tours, and Friday night bingo. She introduced Dave Butler, the post's veteran service officer. The auxiliary prepares and ships care boxes for troops overseas.

Guests

Mr. Dailey identified the department and division staff in attendance. He explained the role of the grant administrator in regard to the Board's involvement with decision regarding the Veterans Trust Fund. He then asked the guests in attendance to identify themselves as well.

Reports

Mr. Hunt met recently with the director of the Denver VA Regional Office and the director of the National Cemetery Administration. He addressed the UVC legislative council at their meeting in July. He and Adjutant General Loh visited Project Sanctuary in Grand Lake. Upcoming legislative efforts will include funding for the Western Slope One Source and a women veterans license plate. In department staffing, a position description has been created for the West Division Director and the position will be announced in August.

Mr. Mestas said that the division's regional trainings will take place in September. Longtime staff member Hillary Hutson will retire on 28 September. He said that the meeting locations recommended in his submitted report are based on congressional districts. The division is considering participation in the PARIS project, which is designed to help veterans on Medicaid access federal benefits for which they qualify, and a staff member recently travelled to Washington to become acquainted with how the project works in that state.

Ms. Hoagland said that the execution rate of the Veterans Trust Fund Grant fell this past year, although the execution rate for the Veterans Assistance Grant was 98%. To date it has been required that

grantee organizations track the gender of the veterans served but many of them do so anyway, and that data shows a percentage of approximately 11-12% female veterans. Grantees will be encouraged to capture this data. The list of current grantees is available on the web site. The situation in Huerfano County is being closely monitored to ensure the needs of veterans in that area are met. A group of grantees is partnering to help create a standard of best practices.

Action Items

VTF Funding Requests

Ms. Hoagland reported that the Veterans Trust Fund has \$86,000.00 unallocated and funding requests have been received from the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction and from the Division of Veterans Affairs.

The cemetery has resubmitted its request for \$21,966.00 to perform a site assessment study to address silt and soil issues. It was moved by Ms. Hammon to grant this funding and seconded by Ms. Caldwell. The motion carried.

The Division has requested \$12,000.00 to pay for Board travel expenses. Previously these expenses have been paid from the administrative allocation of the Veterans Trust Fund, but the encumbrance on that allocation is expected to increase this year with additional travel required for the Grand Administrator. It was moved by Mr. Rudder to grant this funding and seconded by Ms. Hammon. The motion carried. Ms. Hammon requested that the Board be kept apprised of its travel expenses at Board meetings. Mr. Dailey said a structured process may be needed to authorize or approve travel and this will be discussed at the annual retreat in September.

Action Items

CDHS Staff Funding

Ms. Hammon reminded the Board that permission for CDHS to offer salaries outside of the state salary ranges for employees at the state veterans CLCs was not approved at the recent legislative session. This has left the CLCs with a continuing problem of securing and retaining staff as they are often unable to compete with market salaries. Ms. Hammon encouraged the Board to support CDHS in this continuing effort. Mr. Hunt said that the Board could send a letter of support to designated recipients CDHS executive director, the chair of Joint Budget Committee, and the governor's office. He encouraged the Board to attend the Joint Budget Committee hearings. Ms. Hammon moved that she draft the letter from the Board, which she will provide to Mr. Hunt upon completion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Scanlon and carried.

Strategic Plan

Mr. Callahan congratulated the Board on completing its strategic plan. It is available on the web site

and in hard copy, and formal copies are currently being professionally bound. He said that the next step is to decide how to track the metrics. Several subcommittees are needed to align with the published goals. Mr. Dailey said that he will add this to the agenda for the upcoming retreat.

Veterans Monument Committee

Mr. Dailey said that absent any objections, Robby Robinson has agreed to represent the Board as its designee on the Colorado Tribute to veteran Monument trust committee. There were no objections.

New Business

Mr. Mestas referred the Board to the suggested meeting and location schedule for the upcoming year that is in his submitted report and requested feedback. The Board will make a final determination at the September retreat.

Upcoming Meetings

07 September, Grand Junction

05 October, Greeley

07 November, Aurora-Wings Over the Rockies

07 December, VA Regional Office

04 January, Fitzsimons SVCLC

01 February, Denver

01 March, Golden

05 April, Aurora/Centennial

03 May, Boulder/Grand/Summit County

07 June, Westcliffe, election of officers

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms.

Hammon. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

Minutes

07 September 2018

Veterans Memorial Cemetery

2830 Riverside Pkwy Grand Junction, CO 81501

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary Sheila

Scanlon, Member Pat Hammon,

Member Norm Steen, Member

Longinos Gonzalez, Member – via phone

DMVA Staff Present:

Ben Mestas, CDVA East Director

Gail Hoagland, DMVA Grant Administrator Joanne

Iglesias, VMCWC Director

Steven Stogsdill, VMCWC Administrative Assistant

Leann Paul, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Wendy Hoffman, Operation Revamp

Guests Present:

Theresa Rudder

Mr. Jim Doody, previous Mayor of Grand Junction, Colorado

Opening

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0904 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance recited in unison, followed by a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops who are deployed and to the families who have given so much to our country. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance and the Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests.

Ms. S. Scanlon served in the United States Marine Corp for 32 years. Currently, she serves as a board member on the Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Dr. H. Caldwell served in the United States Air Force as a Nurse during the Cold War Era. Currently she serves as the Secretary on the Board of Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Mr. N. Steen served 32 years in the United States Army mostly in the National Guard. He now serves as Teller County, Colorado, Commissioner and as a board member on the Board of Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Ms. P. Hammon served six years in the United States Army as a Nurse during Vietnam. Currently, she is a County Veteran Service Officer for Eagle County, Colorado and is a board member on the Board of Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Mr. J. Rudder served in the Air Force specializing in Electronics. He is current a Veteran County Service Officer for Rio Grande County, Colorado and serves as the Vice Chair on the Board of Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Mr. D. Dailey served as an Army Medic during Vietnam. Currently, he is a Veteran County Service Officer for Grand County, Colorado and serves as the Chair on the Board of Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Mr. L. Gonzalez served 20 years in the United States Air Force as an Intelligence Officer. He completed two deployments to the Middle East. One deployment was to Saudi Arabia and the other one to Iraq. He has also completed a deployment to Latin America where he did intelligence in Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) and Counter Drug work. He taught 3 years of college Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and was a middle school teacher before becoming elected as El Paso County, Colorado County Commissioner and serves as a board member for the Board of Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. D. Dailey confirmed that the Board members present had an opportunity to review over the meeting minutes from Friday, August 3rd, 2018. He asked if there were any additions or corrections.

Mr. Dailey entertained the Motion for Approval. Ms. P. Hammon moved and Dr. H. Caldwell seconded the motion. The Board in unison agreed with "I". The minutes were approved and submitted.

Board Member Comments

Dr. H. Caldwell expressed her deepest appreciation to the board while she attended the board meetings for the past few months in distance while she was taking care of a personal situation.

Ms. S. Scanlon spoke about Ms. Jaclyn Murrietta (State Service Office from Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs in Denver, Colorado) and a group from United Veterans Community of Colorado taking a tour of the new Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Administration Medical Center (RMRVAMC). It was discovered that there was a lack of privacy for women who were in process of getting mammograms in the women's health center. Ms. J. Murrietta went back after the RMRVAMC said they had made corrections to the order of the procedure. Another concern that Ms. S. Scanlon spoke about was the lack of display of women veterans in the RMRVAMC. More focus was devoted to male Veterans. RMRVAMC has agreed that was a concern and are in the process of correcting the concern. Ms. S. Scanlon praised Ms. J. Murrietta on her work and is glad that there is an employee in this role for these concerns.

Ms. P. Hammon expressed her happiness for the increase of funds so that she is able to hire a new part-time assistant. Her new assistant was enlisted prior in the United States Navy.

Ms. P. Hammon spoke about the new OneSource it is currently under construction. The Advisor Committee for OneSource is currently working diligently with partnerships and sponsorships. The plan for OneSource is to be open in January 2019 with a soft open in April and fully be operating by May during Armed Forces week. A job announcement for a Facilities Manager has already been posted on the State of Colorado's website. So far great progress has been made. Veterans Administration (VA) has agreed to renting out an office area towards the back of the building for Social Workers to aid in the help of homeless veterans. Though that will not be the main focused of the OneSource building due to many Veterans not wanting to do anything with the VA but OneSource is happy to have the VA available should Veterans want to take apart of their services.

Ms. P. Hammon reported Project Healing Waters in Eagle County has become official. The first trip was planned three weeks ago; however, the waters were too hot and the fish were stressed out. The new plan is for the up and coming week to have two trips planned. Ms. P. Hammon was very impressed with Project Healing Waters and have them a part of Eagle County, Colorado.

Ms. P. Hammon stated that she has been a part of five World War II funeral services. She appreciates the Honor Guard who comes up from Buckley Air Force Base (Aurora, Colorado) and Ft. Carson (El Paso County, Colorado) to be a part of these services.

Ms. P. Hammon praised Grand Junction Veterans Health Care System (GJVHCS). She reported that Woman Veterans Program Manager, Ms. Pamela Schultz's, is making efforts for a better change. Woman Veterans have their own waiting room and soon to be own entrance / exit door for privacy concerns.

Ms. P. Hammon gave an invite to the 1st anniversary at Jesse Buckius / Casey Owens Veterans Resource Center on Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 1600hrs – 2000hrs. Food, speakers and entertainment will be provided as well as a guest speaker will be presenting from the Medal of Honor Museum in Pueblo, Colorado.

Mr. N. Steen thanked the committee and chair for his excused absence last month.

Mr. N. Steen attended the Veterans Rally for Prisoners of War (POW) / Missing in Action (MIA) Recognition Ride on Saturday, August 18th, 2018 in Cripple Creek, Colorado. The ride celebrated its 31st anniversary this August 2018. Over 3,000 motorcycles participated in the event.

Mr. N. Steen also attend and spoke at Lance Corporal Eric V. Dickson's memorial unveiling dedication to Vietnam Veterans on Saturday, August 25th, 2018, at Woodland Park's Memorial Park in Teller County, Colorado. Over 500 attendees attended this ceremony.

Mr. N. Steen sets time aside to learn about new resources in his county for veterans. He spoke about Senior Veterans, Inc. Senior Veterans, Inc. is a Colorado based 501c3 charity that helps senior veterans and widows during their greatest need. More services are available through Senior Veterans, Inc.

Mr. N. Steen announced that he will be traveling to Washington D. C. on September 24-27, 2018, for Veteran and tax issues for the Pikes Peak Regions.

Mr. N. Steen announced Military Retiree / Spouse Information Day on Saturday, September 15th at 0800 – 1200hrs., at The Club (Building 1013) at Peterson Air Force Base. The event will offer community / base information tables, medical wellness checks and light refreshments. Scheduled briefings include information on the Pikes Peak National Cemetery, potential budget / legislative impacts, Federal Long-Term Care Insurance and the impact of legalization of marijuana on retirees.

Mr. N. Steen is currently working with the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) to improve access to the Internet for telehealth services for Veterans.

Mr. N. Steen attended a memorial service of a World War II Veteran in Woodland Park.

Mr. J. Rudder reported that his office has been steady, up until recently. Harvest and hunting season are now active which will slow down his office. Due to the weather conditions, harvesting came early this season. Mr. J. Rudder suggest to go to the Blue Mesa Reservoir to see how the weather conditions has effect his area. Blue Mesa is the largest and deepest reservoir in the State of Colorado and it is now dry. He also stated that the Rio Grande River is nearly dry.

Mr. J. Rudder stated that when he first became a CVSO he had one woman Veteran that he help get services for and several women Veterans years later. He has now had more women Veterans stepping forward needing services. He is happy to help them and glad that they are finding his office.

Mr. D. Dailey reported multiple fires in Grand and Summit Counties, Colorado. Three Veterans were effect by these fires leaving them homeless.

Mr. D. Dailey stated that he has been to the new RMRVAMC ribbon cutting ceremony. It is a great facility but it does have some room for improvements. One area of concern is their phone system.

Letters were sent out by RMRVAMC with new phone numbers but unfortunately the phone numbers do not work and Veterans had to rely back on the old phone numbers to be able to get an operator.

Mr. D. Dailey spoke of the enjoyment of having a Woman's focused State Veteran Service Officer. He enjoys the idea that this position can bring more women Veterans to gain our services.

Mr. D. Dailey gave an invite to Grand County's 7th Annual Constitution Week 2018, September 17 – 22, 2018. Each day will be a new scholarly speaker, seven total during the week.

Mr. L. Gonzalez reported he attended El Paso County Medal of Honor ceremony on Monday, May 28th, 2018. Three names were inscribed into the memorial.

Mr. L. Gonzalez is anticipating interments to begin at Pikes Peak Veterans Cemetery by November 2018. Interments will begin this year but the official opening will not be until 2019.

Community Presentations

Veterans Memorial Cemetery of Western Colorado in Grand Junction, Colorado

Ms. J. Iglesias and her staff was first acknowledged by Mr. D. Dailey for their hospitality of the Board meeting accommodations. Ms. J. Iglesias first introduced to the Board, Mr. Jim Doody who was the former Grand Junction Mayor. Ms. J. Iglesias has worked with him on previous projects Ms. J. Iglesias read a letter she had composed of the appreciation of unspent Veterans Trust Fund monies for the various maintenance concerns of the cemetery.

Ms. J. Iglesias submitted in capital construction request for \$2.6million for eight new columbaria's (1,344 niches). The columbaria niches are filling up quickly and more is needed to continue with future demands.

Ms. J. Iglesias reported local Boy Scouts have completed their Eagle Scout project awards with preventive maintenance of the corrosion and paint peeling on the iron work around the cemetery.

Ms. J. Iglesias reported a partnership with Saluting Branches. Saluting Branches will be providing much needed services to the cemeteries trees for various reason. She is grateful for their donation of resources and services.

Ms. J. Iglesias reported concerns with the lifting and shifting of the sidewalks, potentially resulting in tripping hazards. Currently, she is in the process of gaining quotes for repairs to this concern.

Ms. J. Iglesias reported that the Regional Center to the west of the cemetery is in the process of closing its doors. It will be at least two more years before the remaining clients are moved off site; however, concerns lie with whom will be purchasing this State of Colorado owned land. She had the same concerns with the land to the east, when Colorado University wanted to build student housing, but the project did not continue.

Ms. J. Iglesias reported that National Cemetery Administration will be conducting a triennial review of the cemetery in 2019. To best prepare for this audit they are using the previous audit to make sure they are with-in full compliance to achieve Shrine Status which is the highest rating a cemetery can receive.

Ms. J. Iglesias made mention about the success of several events to include:

On Thursday, March 29th, 2018, National Vietnam War Veterans Day was celebrated at Western Slope Vietnam War Memorial Park in Fruita, Colorado. This event was well attended and will be held every year on March 29th.

*Memorial Day ceremony was well attended with over 1,700 attendees. Parking unfortunately is always an issue and our newly acquired gold cart will assist in shuttling.

*Quarterly Military Honors have been a big success. The cemetery honored 109 Veterans during eight military honors services. The next Quarterly Military Honors will take place on Monday, October 1st, 2018 at 10:00hrs.

*First annual Saluting Branches day will be on Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

*Has had success with the community with pre-planning for burial's.

Ms. J. Iglesias provided an updated on the upsetting practices of Sunset Mesa Funeral Home located in Montrose, Colorado. Sunset Mesa Funeral Home owner (Megan Hess) was conducting body broker services of the deceased. There are a few interred Veterans in the cemetery who have been received from Sunset Mesa Funeral Home; however, with the active investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), families have not made any decisions regarding their loved ones. Ms. J. Iglesias is currently working on a few options for grieving families needing answers when they are ready to know more.

As of Friday, September 7th, 2018, the cemetery has been open for sixteen years. They have interred 2,989 Veterans, 1,161 spouses and 12 dependents for a total of 4,162 interments.

Operation Revamp

Ms. Gail Hoagland introduced Wendy Hoffman with Operation Revamp. Operation Revamp is located at 307 South 12th Street, Grand Junction, Colorado 81501. Ms. W. Hoffman gave a presentation on Operation Revamp who is a Veterans Assistance Grant recipient. Their mission is to:

- *Create opportunities for a variety of healing activities for Veterans, military family members and others suffering from trauma related mental injuries.
- *Raise awareness of psychological scarring and Traumatic Brain Injuries and benefits of artistic practices in healing.
- *Provide art related opportunities to aid in healing of mental health issues through personal exploration and skill building.
- *Provide resources for those suffering from the hidden wounds of trauma and partner with other agencies and non-profits.
- *Establish functional creative art studios, galleries and museums for use of veterans, military families and other suffering from trauma related mental health issues.

Operation Revamp's Veterans Assistance Grant money received has been applied to multiple areas to include: art services, alternative heating, emergency services, food, gas, housing, transportation and Veterans Art Center. This has resulted in an increase in health and well-being for both the Veteran and their family, housing stability, mental health support, job stability, access to health care and a decrease in the need for food, gas and other various urgent needs.

Recess

The Board here recessed from 10:51hrs to 1101hrs.

Action Item: Strategic Plan

A motion was proposed for the Committee Strategic Plan to be tabled for next meeting, based upon Colorado's Sunshine Law compliance concerns. This was proposed by Mr. D. Dailey and second by Ms. P. Hammon. All were in favor.

Reports

Mr. D. Dailey read reports from Mr. M. Hunt and Mr. W. Robinson:

Mr. M. Hunt reported on the Capital Complex group to include trash receptacles will be replaced with rigid liners and match what the City of Denver has along the Colfax Regional Transportation District (RTD) stop. Funds will be added to a monthly pest control contract to address the rodents that are now

under the trees and statues. Mr. Bob Toll with City of Denver Parks / Rangers, provided some basic cost for additional enforcement that will be put into the budget. As well, areas of the grass will be sectioned off so that grass can continue to grow and survive but that will have to come with the support of enforcement.

Mr. W. Robinson reported in Lincoln Park (on the block immediately west of the State Capital) a tall obelisk Veterans Monument with a light on top that was dedicated to Colorado Veterans in 1990. The light is not functioning and with the funds appropriated to the maintenance he would like to have the light operating again by Veterans Day 2018. Another concern was reported about Fitzsimons Living Center (Community Living Center also known as CLC) has resulted in the Administrator resigning (this last Administrator marks the 7th Administrator in five years). It has been reported that frustration over a perceived lack of timely support from Colorado Department of Health Services, Human Relations Office and numerous other issues.

The Board has expressed their concerns with Fitzsimons Living Center. A motion was proposed by Ms. P. Hammon to have Mr. N. Steen, Mr. R. Mestas and Mr. W. Robinson meet to draft a letter about the concerns at Fitzsimons Living Center to include Human Resources, posting of employment positions, the employees moral, etc. The finished letter would have Mr. D. Dailey's signature representing the Colorado Board of Veteran Affairs. A copy would be sent to the The Adjutant General (TAG) office. This motion was second by Ms. S. Scanlon and the Board was all in favor with a unison "I".

Mr. R. Mestas first reported information about the upcoming Stand Downs. Though some of the upcoming Stand Downs had secured dates, times and locations the others were yet to be determined. Mr. R. Mestas will be preparing to work on the Governor's Report with in the near future. He informed the Board that the Western Director will be named before the next meeting. The State Veteran Service Officers will be going out in the month of September to the County offices to conduct training. Mr. R. Mestas stated that Ms. H. Hudson will be retiring on Friday, September 28, 2018 and all is welcome to attend her party. Due to Ms. H. Hudson's retirement, he has been in the process of hiring new employees to help in the Administrative Assistant support of the office. The Paris Project is still in the pre-planning stages. The Paris Project is a program that will remove Veterans from Medicaid services and place them on VA benefits.

Ms. G. Hoagland reported she has composed a Best Practice Team for all trust fund grantees. This was part of the Board's strategic plan. Ms. G. Hoagland explained her process of having two emails to help with the distinction of Grant Fund request reimbursements and other assignments of her job. She stated that this was very efficient for her.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, 05OCT2018, Greeley / Weld County

Wednesday, 07NOV2018, Aurora (Wings Over the Rockies event)

Friday, 07DEC2018, Veterans Administrative Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado

Friday, 04JAN2019, Fitzsimons SVCLC in Denver, Colorado

Friday, 01FEB2019, Post 1 in Denver, Colorado

Friday, 01MAR2019, Golden Veterans Administration Health Clinic in Golden, Colorado

Friday, 05APR2019, Aurora Chamber of Commerce in Aurora, Colorado

Friday, 03MAY2019, Boulder / Grand / Summit County ~ Mr. D. Dailey will provide location

Friday, 07JUN2019, Westcliffe (Election of Officers) ~ Ms. P. Hammon will provide location

July 2019, NO Meeting

Friday, 02AUG2019, Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Grand Junction, Colorado (Focus on OneSource)

A motion was proposed by Mr. D. Dailey to approve these venues for future meetings. Ms. P.

Hammon moved and Mr. J. Rudder second the motion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. D. Dailey entertained a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. N. Steen.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49hrs.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs
05 October 2018
American Legion Post 18 809 30th Avenue
Greeley, Colorado 80634

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary

Patricia Hammon, Member Norm

Steen, Member Sheila Scanlon,

Member

Longinos Gonzalez Jr., Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director

Ben Mestas, CDVA East Director

Gail Hoagland, CDVA Grants Administrator Leann

Paul, CDVA Administrative Assistant

Guests Present:

Wendy Bailey, AVSO Weld County

Amber Barthel, VSO Weld County Ralph

Ellison, American Legion Post 18 David

Fry, CVSO Larimer County

David Meek, American Legion Post 18 Don

Morrison, American Legion Post 18 Nickie

Phillips, AVSO Weld County Patricia

Reynolds, AVSO Larimer County

Maria Seacrest, Regional Director, Office of Senator Cory Gardner Toby

Taylor, CVSO Weld County

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dailey at 0903 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance. The Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Approval of Minutes

Corrections to the draft of the September 2018 minutes were provided by Ms. Hammon. Committee appointments were discussed and calendared to be finalized at the October meeting. It was moved by Mr. Rudder and seconded by Ms. Hammon to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Scanlon said that since the previous discussion of issues at the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC regarding women's care, she has been herself there for a mammogram. She was impressed with the professionalism, privacy, and equipment and has notified her network of how well the appointment went. The clinic has some remaining issues that are being addressed, and she will report ongoing progress to the Board. There is also an effort underway to include the women's clinic in display materials for the medical center. The women's summit held in Colorado Springs on 22 September was well attended.

Ms. Caldwell said the VA has been experiencing technical problems in regard to housing stipends for veterans receiving GI Bill benefits. Many payments have been delayed and provided in incorrect amounts. The VA has acknowledged the problem is working to rectify, but there is currently no timeline for when the issue will be fixed.

Mr. Rudder said that he has learned that the Fort Lyon program does not accept residents who have been court-ordered into treatment. He said that a van has been purchased for the Alamosa County transportation program with funds from the Veterans Trust Fund Grant, but the vehicle is currently in storage because the VA will not accept the title and its accompanying responsibilities if the van is used to transport veterans to appointments that are not paid for by VHA. Discussions are underway in regard to how to pay for the vehicle's registration, license plates, insurance, maintenance, and fuel.

Ms. Hammon said that the local Healing Waters program has been given permission to fish due to the waters getting cooler and the first trip is scheduled for next week. Veterans Day events scheduled to date include 20 school programs, a service at Freedom Park in Edwards, and an annual event at the Western Slope Veterans Collation in Glenwood Springs. The Glenwood Springs event will feature a speaker from the Museum of American Values for Medal of Honor recipients. A town hall planning meeting for the Grand Junction VAMC will be held in May. This two-day event includes five counties and will be hosted by Colorado Mountain College, which is willing to provide some lodging for veterans from outside the immediate area.

Mr. Steen said that veteran homelessness in the Pikes Peak area is of increasing concern. Mount Carmel is in receipt of a three-year grant to help address the problem. The Peak Military Care Network will

debut an “Honoring the Brave” fundraising breakfast on 16 November. His recent travels to Washington, D.C. provided an opportunity to discuss taxes, tariffs, the military, and other issue pertinent to Colorado veterans.

Mr. Gonzalez attended an El Paso County veterans’ summit held at Mount Carmel on 20 September. The new Pikes Peak Cemetery will begin accepting cremations in November, but the full opening of the cemetery will not be until 2019. He and Mr. Steen both attended the State of the Wing at Peterson AFB on 04 October. Retired Colonel Victor Hernandez has been named El Paso County Veteran of the Year. Mr. Hernandez was instrumental to the establishment of the Pikes Peak Cemetery.

Mr. Dailey said that there is an open invitation to the annual Veterans Day event at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby on 12 November. Recent fires in Grand County have been a concern, and several have been in areas where homeless veterans are often located.

Community Presentations

American Legion Post 18

Mr. Ellison provided information on several veteran community events. A flag retirement will be held at Post 18 on 03 November. The Veterans Clinic in Loveland will host flu shot clinics on 13 November and 27 November, and there will be one in Fort Collins on 20 November. Local veteran organization are working on arranging transportation to these clinics from the Greeley Mall. Veteran transit services will also be going from house to house to provide flu shots for veteran who are not ambulatory. A new CBOC is planned to be opened in Johnstown.

He then supplied some statistics about the local veteran population. There are approximately 5,623 veterans in Greeley and roughly 10% of them are homeless. Homelessness is one of the biggest issues confronting the veteran community in Greeley. He next invited post member Don Morrison to comment on his experience with the Veteran Trust Fund grant application process.

Mr. Morrison said that he has been frustrated by the grant application process. He invested significant time in preparing the post’s application and was disappointed when it was denied. Weld County has veteran in need who could be aided with grant funds.

Weld County Veteran Services

Mr. Taylor also provided demographic information on the service area. He said that according to his research, between 2020-2030 the population growth rate will be approximately 3.2% and in the next decade will slow to 2.6%. The veteran population in the area has grown 1% per year for the past 10 years, and this is reflected in the number of disability claims processed by his office.

Ms. Barthel stated that in VetraSpec (operating system) Weld County has in the system 3,995 Veterans that are coming into the office to gain services. The Veteran population in Colorado as a whole has decreased from 407,616 in 2015 to 403,326 in 2016. The Veteran population of Weld county increased from 16,902 to 17,174 from 2015 to 2016. Veterans in the area range from rural farmers to urban oil field workers, to homeless in the city. With the growing population in Weld County and coming up on the 20th anniversary of the start of the war, numbers will keep rising. The areas that the CVSO help the Veterans with the most is health care, education, compensation, burial / death benefits, and health care enrollment.

Public Comments

Mr. Fry said that the Larimer County Workforce Center also provides targeted service for veterans including assistance with job placement and training.

Ms. Reynolds said that the Larimer County veterans service office is extremely busy. The office sees more than 30 clients every day and receives more than 2,000 phone calls each month. The office layout needs some improvement to both accommodate this volume while affording veterans necessary privacy.

Recess

The Board recessed at 10:30 a.m. and resumed labor at 10:42 a.m.

Reports

Mr. Hunt thanked the post for hosting the meeting and particularly Mr. Morrison for his feedback regarding the post's grant application. For the benefit of the group, he clarified the difference between the Veterans Assistance Grant and the Veteran Trust Fund Grant. He announced that Joanne Iglesias has been appointed CDVA West Director and that the newly vacated position of cemetery director Grand Junction is being reviewed prior to announcement. The Western Slope One Source is on track for its opening date in 2019. The proposal for the woman veteran license plate will be considered in the upcoming legislative session.

Mr. Mestas said that Dan Warvi is assisting with the complication in regard to van for Alamosa County. He reminded the group that the VHA Choice program concluded on 30 September and that the new program is VHA Community Care. There is a possibility that in the future the new program will be run by Tricare. All other matters were address in his submitted report.

Ms. Hoagland said that the grant cycle has had a busy first quarter. Approximately 20% of the first quarter reports have been received; the deadline is 15 October. Survey results to date indicate that nearly 30% of veteran served are female, and Ms. Hoagland will update that statistic once the remaining reports have been received. She has several site visits planned to VTF grantees in October. She

reviewed the timeline for the 2019-2020 grant cycle: the scoring criteria and application will be reviewed by the Board at the November meeting and application materials will be posted by 01 December. The criteria for applications and for reimbursement documentation must be done in keeping with state and audit requirements.

Mr. Dailey read into the record a report from Robby Robinson, the Board's delegate to the SVCLC commission. Last year's failed legislation to allow the SVCLCs to pay employees at market rate rather than within the state employee legislated ranges is a continuing concern.

Discussion and Action Item

The Board discussed which members accompany [any the Adjutant General on the annual visits to the the SVCLCs. Ms. Caldwell, Ms. Scanlon, and Mr. Rudder will each attend.

The Board discussed the ongoing issue in regard to allowing SVCLCs to pay competitive wages. It was decided that the Board will brief the TAG on the topic. Ms. Hammon will draft a letter for the Board to review.

The Board considered the assignment of members to the committees established in the bylaws and by the strategic plan.

The recurrent committees:

Annual Training:, Pat Hammon

State Veterans CLCs:, Robbie Robinson

Strategic Planning:, Pat Hammon, Jack Rudder Tribute to Veterans

Monument Trust: Robbie Robinson Veterans Trust Fund Grant:

Hollie Caldwell

The strategic planning committees:

SP 1

1.1.2 Two DVA Directors

1.2.1 Two DVA Directors

1.3.1 Board Chair, and two DVA directors or delegated representatives

1.4.1 DVA appeals specialist, legislative liaison, two DVA directors

SP 2

2.1.1 Chair or designated representative, two DVA directors

2.1.2 Dave Callahan, two DVA directors

2.1.3 Pat Hammon, Greg Dorman, Leann Paul

2.2.1 Chair or designated representative, Dave Callahan, two DVA directors

SP 4

4.1.1 Norm Steen, legislative liaison, grant administrator, CDVA east director

4.2.1 Norm Steen, legislative liaison

Ms. Hammon recommended additional board members per committee as well as a designated scribe.

Mr. Steen moved that the committees be confirmed as drafted and Ms. Scanlon seconded. The motion carried with Ms. Hammon dissenting.

Upcoming Meetings:

07 November Wings Over the Rockies, Aurora

07 December VA Regional Office, Lakewood

04 January Fitzsimons SVCLC, Aurora

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Steen. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs Minutes

07 November 2018

Wings Over The Rockies

7711 E. Academy Boulevard Denver, CO 80230

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary

Patricia Hammon, Member

Norm Steen, Member Sheila

Scanlon, Member

Longinos Gonzalez Jr., Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director

David Callahan, Interim CDVA East Director Gail

Hoagland, CDVA Grants Administrator Carissa

Snyder, CDVA Program Assistant

Guests Present:

Lynne Robinson, veteran

Robby Robinson, CBVA liaison to SVCLC Commission and Veterans Monument Trust

Theresa Rudder, President, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Colorado

Opening:

Mr. Dailey called the meeting to order at 0900 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance. The Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Scanlon said she will represent CBVA at the 13 November UVC meeting. She will continue to serve on the UVC legislative committee. The legislation regarding the woman veteran license is in process. She said that she has recently had positive experiences with the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC. She will be in Arizona on 10 November for the 240th anniversary celebration of the United States Marine Corps.

Ms. Caldwell had no comments.

Ms. Hammon said that the Grand Junction Stand Down on 26 October was well attended. The Eagle County Board of Commissioners has prepared a resolution proclaiming the week of Veterans Day to Veterans Week in the county. The annual Veteran of the Year Award will be presented and this year a second award will be presented to the Veteran Volunteer of the Year. Twenty school programs are scheduled in observance of Veterans Day. A representative from the Center for American Values will present in Eagle on 09 November, in Glenwood Springs on 10 November, and in Edwards on 11 November. The Western Regional VAMC will host a town hall and outreach event in December.

Mr. Steen said that COL (ret) Van Arsdale will be a guest speaker at a private event in Woodland Park. Mr. Arsdale is a silver star and purple heart recipient who served 11 years in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta.

Mr. Gonzalez said that internments have begun at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery. He attended a recent veterans' roundtable hosted by the Mount Carmel Veterans Service Center. The El Paso County Veterans Day parade was last week and a reception honoring USS Arizona survivor Don Stratton. Fort Carson is receiving an award from the Pentagon on acknowledgement of its ongoing partnership with the surrounding community.

Mr. Rudder said that he will speak the Homelake CLC in honor of Veterans Days. Operation Healing Waters is again in operations and trips will resume next week.

Mr. Dailey said that there are several Veterans Day events scheduled in Grand County, including the annual gathering at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby on 12 November. More than 400 attendees are expected and the featured speaker will be retired Major General Doug Anson.

Public Comments

Mr. Robinson summarized his history with DMVA and CBVA for the benefit of the new board member including his tenure as deputy executive director at DMVA and his years of service on the board. He currently serves at the CBVA liaison to the SVCLC Commission and the Veterans Monument Trust.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Dailey provided a correction to the draft of the September 2018 minutes, adding details regarding board members' attendance at the Adjutant General's visits to the SVCLCS. The minutes were then approved as corrected.

Reports

Mr. Hunt said that he will attend the Denver Stand Down on 08 November. He will also attend the JBC

staff briefing scheduled for 16 November and the budget hearings scheduled for 20 November. Budget items anticipated for discussion include support for the Western Slope One Source and the funding for the director for DVA West. He will speak at the Fort Logan Veterans Day event, where General Edwards will serve as master of ceremonies and General Loh will be the keynote speaker. A SMART Act briefing is scheduled for 14 December at the capitol.

Mr. Callahan said that DVA East has a table at the day's Wings over the Rockies event and will participate in the Veteran Day parade on 09 November. He will initiate an evaluation of the division during his time as interim director and will work on developing a new strategic plan. The prospective pilot of the Paris project is still under discussion within the JBC.

Mr. Robinson said that the interest from the Veterans Monument trust is designated for monument's upkeep. Right now the fund is short of what is needed for repairs. In regard to the SVCLCs, CDHS has submitted a budget request that intends to raise salaries for direct care staff. The proposal would phase in the salary increases over the next two years. Staffing at Rifle and at Homelake is so low that the facilities cannot admit new patients. Fitzsimons experience high staff turnover and currently both director and assistant director positions are vacant. The next commission meeting on the topic is scheduled for 21 November. It was moved by Ms. Hammon and seconded by Mr. Steen that a CBVA member attend that meeting and the motion carried. Ms. Caldwell volunteered to attend. It was moved by Ms. Scanlon and seconded by Mr. Steen that the pending letter to the TAG concerning this topic be postponed pending Ms. Cadlwell's report. The motion carried.

Ms. Hoagland referred the board to her submitted report. The monitoring visits performed thus far have gone well. Several more are on the calendar. Mr. Steen said that the recent visit to Woodland Park was both productive and positive. Ms. Scanlon said there have been complaints to the UVC legislative committee that the grant process is too complicated. Mr. Dailey said that the current rules comply with the requirements of the state auditors. Ms. Scanlon invited Ms. Hoagland to return to a UVC general meeting to address the concerns.

Discussion and Action Items

Transportation Vehicles and VA

Ms. Hoagland said that agencies using grant-purchased vehicles have encountered a complication. Historically the practice has been for these organizations to turn the vehicle title over to VA, as VA would then assume the costs of license plates, insurance, and maintenance. However, current VA policy does not allow VA vehicles to be used to transport veterans to non-VA medical appointments.

She requested that the board consider approving the above-mentioned expenses as program costs that

can be included in a grant budget. It was so moved by Ms. Caldwell and seconded by Ms. Hammon. The motion carried.

VTF Application Changes

Ms. Hoagland has not received any suggestions. She will adjust the application instructions in regard to the new rules concerning vehicle expenses. Mr. Rudder moved that the application be accepted with this change and Mr. Gonzalez seconded. The motion carried.

New Business

None

Upcoming Meetings:

07 December City and County of Denver 04

January Fitzsimons SVCLC, Aurora

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Steen moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Rudder. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs

Minutes

07 December 2018

City and County Denver Department of Human

Services 1200 Federal Boulevard

Denver, CO 80204

Members and Guests

Members Present:

Duane Dailey, Chair Jack

Rudder, Vice Chair

Hollie Caldwell, Secretary

Patricia Hammon, Member Norm

Steen, Member Sheila Scanlon,

Member

Longinos Gonzalez Jr., Member

DMVA Staff Present:

Mickey Hunt, DMVA Deputy Executive Director

David Callahan, Interim CDVA East Director Gail

Hoagland, CDVA Grant Administrator Carissa

Snyder, CDVA Program Assistant

Guests Present:

George Cassidy, Denver County CVSO

Natasha Elliott, Denver DHS MSW Intern

Fonterra Groves, Denver DHS Veteran Services Outreach Case

Patrice Hawkins, Denver County Deputy Director of Customer Experience for CORE

Greg Loebel, Denver DHS Veteran Services Senior Social Caseworker

Stacey Moslet, Denver DHS Veteran Services Supervisor

Daniel Neelands, Denver DHS Veterans Services

Dana Niemela, Denver DHS Community Outreach and Resource Engagement Director

Christian Nowicki, Denver DHS Peer Navigator/CVSO

Mary Poffmerger, clinic representative

Theresa Rudder, President, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Colorado

Constance Tatro, Denver DHS Veterans Services Intensive Caseworker/Outreach Case Coordinator

Opening:

Mr. Dailey called the meeting to order at 0900 hours. Proceedings began with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for POWs, MIAs, and troops overseas. Mr. Dailey greeted all in attendance and thanked Ms. Niemela for providing the meeting accommodations. The Board members identified themselves for the record and for the benefit of the guests. Mr. Dailey then invited introductions from around the room.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Scanlon said that Ms. Hoagland is scheduled to speak at the UVC general meeting on 11 December to address questions about the grant program. The legislative committee will meet the following Thursday. She is working with the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC on including women veterans in their exhibits and signage. Mr. Dailey said he has given some photos to Dan Warvi for this purpose.

Mr. Steen said he met with the director of the Colorado Springs CBOC and the veterans experience officer for the ECHCS. He distributed copies of an ECHCS workload profile provided at the meeting. The Colorado Springs CBOC has reduce the wait time for new appointments to 31 days. The no-show rate is currently 13% and demographics continue to indicate that is it younger veterans who miss appointments. Mr. Dailey said the lack of working phone numbers at the Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC might contribute to that facility's no-show rate, as it is difficult for veterans to reschedule appointments. Ms. Scanlon said she would mention this to VAMC representatives at the UVC meeting.

Ms. Caldwell said she has attended two meeting of the SVCLC commission, chaired by Karren Kowalski, president of the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence. CDHS director Reggie Bichca also attended. Ms. Caldwell conveyed the Board's support of salary increases for direct care staff and its encouragement of a more aggressive approach. CDHS will present a one-year salary increase plan to the JBC on 21 December. It is recommended that Board members and supporters contact the JBC members individually and that contact by text will be available during the hearing. Ms. Hammon said that the staffing crisis for the SVCLCs was illustrated in a recent incident in which the Rifle facility had to deny two hospice patients due to lack of staff. The Grand River Hospital Authority facility is across the street and offers higher wages. She asked if CDHA was considering any hiring incentives and Ms. Caldwell said not at this time.

Mr. Gonzalez said that he attended the 07 December teleconference introducing the TriWest expansion that now includes Colorado. El Paso County passed a resolutions honoring Pearl Harbor Day. USS Arizona survivor Donald Stratton is being honored at a commemorative ceremony today. A portion of the USS Arizona is being

unveiled at the Colorado Springs airport. He was in attendance to see Fort Carson received the Pentagon's Department of the Army Community Partnership Award.

Ms. Hammon said that Eagle County just increased hours for the assistant VSO. The Grand Junction VAMC outreach event is scheduled for 08 December in Edwards. A mobile medical unit will be present for flu shots. Neuroplasticity expert Dr. Patricia Alexander will speak regarding trauma and stress.

Equine therapy is available in Eagle. Up to six veteran can be accommodated twice a month at no charge. The Western Slope Veterans Coalition celebrated the first anniversary for the Veterans Resource Center in November. VFW has donated funds for the flags for the Western Slope One Source, which anticipates receiving its certificate of occupancy in January.

Mr. Rudder said that difficulties accessing health care and medical appointments are a continuing problem for veterans in rural or isolated areas. VA Community Care has been difficult to use.

Mr. Dailey said that VA contractors who perform compensation and pension exams also report no-shows, although many are the result of very short notice provided on appointments. The new name of the Grand Junction hospital is the Western Colorado VA Health care System. The Veterans Day event in Snow Mountain Ranch had about 400 in attendance despite the cold weather.

Community Presentation

Ms. Niemela provided a history and overview of the Denver County DHS Veteran Services program. The program has evolved from a federally funded homeless reintegration program to a county funded holistic approach that assists veteran with acquiring and maintaining sustainable employment in order to help them preserve stable housing. They employ intensive case management and one-to-one peer navigation in addition to helping veteran access state, county, and VA benefits.

The Board here recessed at 10:45 and resumed labor at 11:00.

Public Comments

Mary Poffmerger, community member and surgical nurse, informed the board that her husband and his business partner, both former army technicians, are hoping to establish a clinic that will address the diagnosis and symptomology to TBI and PTSD. They intend to offer a variety of treatments to include hyperbaric treatment and hormone replacement.

Reports

Mr. Hunt said that Ben Mestas has been otherwise detailed and in his absence David Callahan is serving as acting director of DVA East. VSO Carolyn Frengel is no longer with the department and former appeals specialist Diane Ricci is now employed by Jefferson County Veterans Services. There are

multiple staff vacancies with the DVA east and Mr. Callahan will address those under his remarks. He recorded a radio interview with KNUS that is schedule to air on 17 December at 12:00 p.m. The SMART Act briefing is scheduled for 14 December at 1:30 p.m. The JBC staff briefing on 29 November resulted in positive feedback regarding funding for the DVA West director and for funding for the Western Slope One Source. Veterans Appreciation Day will be held at the Capitol on 01 February. Ms. Scanlon asked about staff support for the women veterans program. Mr. Hunt said the project had been put on hold due to short staffing. Ms. Scanlon said that the department should prioritize according to promises made to the Board and UVC. Further discussion will be held on this topic.

Mr. Callahan said that the design for women veterans license plate should be sent to Greg Dorman by the following week. Four positions have been announced for DVA East: administrative assistant, appeals VSO, office manager, and outreach/training VSO. There is an additional VSO position to be announced and the division is still seeking a temporary employee to service as the administrative assistant for the women veterans program. Mr. Dailey asked if the Board would be copied on forthcoming job announcements and Mr. Callahan said they would. Mr. Callahan is also working on strategic planning for DVA East.

Ms. Hoagland referred the Board to her submitted report. She is increasing the number of site visits to grantees to monitor and coach. Webinar trainings for the current application cycle have been scheduled. Ms. Hammon asked why the Board does not receive a detailed report about the VAG such as they receive for the VTF. Ms. Hoagland said that the detailed reports require a considerable amount of time to compile and that the VTF is the program that is within the direct purview of the Board. Ms. Caldwell suggested that the VAG reports could be compiled quarterly rather than monthly.

New Business

Funding for CVSOs

The Board has received complaints via UVC that the funds provided by the state for CVSOs are being used for other purposes by counties. Mr. Dailey said that this is an issue of local control and the Board has little influence. Mr. Steen agreed that county commissioners have full fiscal responsibility within their jurisdictions and that CCI is the appropriate agency to lobby for this issue. He volunteered to attend a UVC meeting to explain.

Veterans Appreciation Day

Mr. Steen moved that the Board move its meeting schedule for 01 February to 10:00 a.m. so that Board member can attend the Veteran Appreciation Day at the Capitol. It was seconded by Ms. Hammon and carried.

Discussion

Mr. Dailey said that he recently experience difficulty at the Denver VARO when he was unable to obtain a preference letter from public contact and the DVA East satellite was unexpectedly closed. He said that CVSOs are not informed of schedule and staffing changes. Mr. Callahan explained that while DVA East is short staffed the priorities are hearings and appointments, thus the temporary closure of the satellite office. It will be open again once staffing levels allow. He agreed to prioritize communication in the future. Mr. Hunt added that while it is not typical to notify CVSOs of every staff change, schedule changes and office closure should be disseminated.

Upcoming Meetings

04 January Fitzsimons SVCLC: please note that you must check in, show ID, and be escorted to the meeting room

01 February VFW Post 1, Denver: meeting time adjusted to 10:00

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Rudder moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Steen. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.