

**Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs**  
**07 June 2024**  
**Homelake Veterans Community Living Center**  
**3749 Sherman Ave**  
**Monte Vista, CO 81144**

**Opening**

Ms. Scanlon called the meeting to order at 0902. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was held for POWs, MIAs, those deployed, their families, and those killed in the line of duty.

**Members Present**

Sheila Scanlon, Chair  
Sean Maday, Vice Chair  
Lacey Golonka, Secretary  
Longinos Gonzalez, Member  
Jasmine Motupalli, Member  
Raymond Taylor, Member

**Members Absent**

Howard Richards - Excused

**Staff Present**

Parker White, DMVA Legislative Liaison  
Darin Collazo, WROS Property Administrator  
Lisa Stamm, CDVA Grants Administrator  
Eric Winterrowd, CDVA Veteran Services Supervisor  
James Poteet, CDVA Appeals Specialist  
Carissa Snyder, CDVA Operations Coordinator  
Beth Maxwell, CDVA Operations Program Assistant

## **Guests Present**

Marshall Bosworth, County Veteran Service Officer Association President,  
El Paso County Veteran Service officer

Mary Cornum, Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley

Trisha Coberly, Cob-Web Creations, Owner

Tina Garcia, DAV Legislative Chair

Pat Hammon, Eagle County Veterans Service Officer, VCLC Board of  
Commissioners, UVC Representative

Sarah Kelly, Cob-Web Creations, Software Engineer

Richard Nagley, Veterans Coalition of the San Luis Valley, American Legion Dept  
VSO

Jack Rudder, Rio Grande Veteran Service officer

Scott Deacon, Rio Grande County Commissioner – District 1

Pamela Self, Homelake Admissions and Marketing Director

Paul Subquit, Veteran

Marsha Unruh, Home Front Military Network

## **Approval of Minutes**

Corrections to the draft of the May 2024 minutes were provided.

Ms. Motupalli moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Ms. Golonka seconded. The motion carried.

## **Public Comments**

None.

## **Legislation**

Mr. White discussed what passed this legislative cycle three major veteran issues, two fiscal items and one decision item. The largest bill that was ran was Senate Bill 24-004, The County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) bill. This bill was in response to the audit which requires counties to employ accredited VSOs. This Bill also changed some of the structures of what counties are allowed to have, the appointed or lead VSO must be a veteran, however the

other VSOs in the county are not required to be a veteran. This was as strategic change as it broadens the position to include all social workers in a county for possible employment with veteran services. The bill requires the veteran service officers to be accredited and meeting the required standards to be eligibility for stipend funds. This bill also requires prompt and efficient service which will be defined as a rule in two weeks. In addition to other minor and technical changes.

Moving forward with the bill the largest piece is determining the payment mechanism, the Division of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will be meeting with County Commissioners Inc (CCI) to identify who will be taking part in the discussions to determine the payment metrics, as the legislation has required a working group for the county and state to work together to determine what can work best with the counties budgets, CCI is gathering letters of interest from county commissioners who would like to participate in this working group. The goal is to form a working group which is representative of Colorado as there are small, medium, and large counties in both the rural and urban counties in Colorado as well as the diversity of thought. These conversations will be budgetary focused to ensure the system we set up will be good for all counties and allow the counties to predict future budgets with how much will be coming in at each point in the year.

Womens Veterans Day Bill to join 21 other states marking 12 June as Women Veteran Day appreciation. This bill passed after difficulties with a sponsor and was signed on Wednesday 5 June 2024. The bill will take effect before the celebration on 12 June 2025. For 2024 the Governor is working on a proclamation and is hopeful this will be the last proclamation for Colorado Women's Veterans Day, as this date will be recognized in Colorado State law.

Veterans Assistance Grant, this was not an item from the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (DMVA) but rather from the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).

## **Transition Assistance Program (TAP)**

### **VCLC Board of Commissioners**

#### **Standing Reports**

*The Board recessed from 1045 to 1100*

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

#### **Clearinghouse**

Ms. Coberly and Ms. Kelly have been contracted to work on the veterans clearinghouse since the beginning of 2024, this presentation is a preview of the soon to be live website with a launch date in the middle of June 2024.

The clearinghouse website begins with an introduction of what users can expect from using the webpage. Ms. Coberly also shared the English and Spanish maps for the website as well as the non-Colorado base resources.

When the user clicks on the English map, a new webpage will open with a map of Colorado. There are just under 1500 resources in Colorado, 1150 resources throughout Colorado, will be shown as dots with various colors to designate the type of resource being offered. Black dots indicate more than one service is offered at that location. The remaining resources are without a physical Colorado address and can be found by the user clicking on the link for the pdf labeled "View the Online and Out-of-State Resources – English". The resources are listed alphabetically by category, if the resource is web-based only it will be notated in the PDF and on the webpage with the map.

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The resources on the map can be viewed through the zoom function or through geofencing on mobile devices or entering an address on any device. The user would set up a range in which they would like to search for resources. When searching the desired area, the details of the available resources will be on the left. Ms. Motupalli asked if there is a way to filter resources by category. Ms. Coberly replied by using the filter near the search bar, the user is able to select the categories of services within the area marked. Ms. Motupalli recommended using a faceted search would work better for this. A search reduces the information the users view when searching multiple categories, commonly seen while using shopping websites. In regard to the clearing house, it would be used to view the mile radius and category without using the yes/no radio options. Ms. Kelly is planning to make the website more user friendly, however it will take some time. Mr. Winterrowd stated there will be quarterly check-ins per the contract. Per state law the division needs to have a clearinghouse by the end of FY 2024. The requested updates could be a part of the 2.0 version of the website. The check ins will also assist with ensuring the site is showing current resources.

Ms. Scanlon suggested using veteran feedback as well to determine the best options moving forward. Mr. Winterrowd agreed that would be useful as well as a "click counter" to determine the amount of use and which categories are most frequented resources. With having a breakdown of what resources veterans are frequenting, the division will have an understanding of current veteran needs in Colorado. Ms. Motupalli wondered how the feedback was going to be stored as well as how it would look since it can be anything from a phone call to other nonveteran friendly encounters. Mr. Winterrowd is planning to work with Ms. Coberly to determine how best to obtain the feedback.

Ms. Hammon asked how new resources would be updated. Mr. Winterrowd said he would be the point of contact for the new resources, and they would

be shared with Cob-Web at the quarterly updates. Until there is a process for updating new resources, please contact Mr. Winterrowd through email at eric.winterrowd@dmva.state.co.us. Ms. Scanlon requested an update at the next board meeting.

## **Board Member Remarks**

### **Veterans Issues**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The July meeting will be held on 12 July in Trinidad.

Currently scheduled:

02 August – Logan County (Logan County Courthouse, Sterling)

13 September – Weld County (Windsor Readiness Center)

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Motupalli moved to adjourn. Mr. Taylor seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.