

## Colorado Board of Veterans Affairs (CBVA) Meeting

Date: 14 November 2025

Location: Spanish Peaks VCLC

Time: 9:02 AM

Break: 10:52-11:02

### Members Present

Shelia Scanlon, Chair

Sheldon Smith, Member

Raymond Taylor, Vice Chair

Jasmine Motupalli, Member

Lacey Golonka, Secretary

Longinos Gonzalez, Member

### Members Absent

Howard Richards, Member - Excused

### Staff Present

Bruce Cowan - Director

Eric Winterrowd, CDVA Veteran  
Services Supervisor

Angela Ingalls, Veterans Memorial  
Cemetery of Western Colorado  
Administrator

James Poteet, Appeals Specialist

Darin Collazo, Western Region One  
Source Administrator

Glen Marciniak, Region 2 Veteran  
Service Officer

Lisa Stamm, CDVA Grants Administrator

Carissa Snyder - CDVA Operations  
Coordinator

Beth Maxwell, CDVA Operations

Katie Reynolds - CDVA Operations

## **Guest**

Jack, UVC Representative

Janet Hutchinson, Spanish Peaks  
Administrator

Ryan Burmood, Director of the Veteran  
Community Living Centers

David Lavoy, Veteran

Bob Davit, Veteran

Josh Medina, Arapahoe County Veterans  
Service Officer (CVSO), President of the  
Colorado County Veterans Service  
Officer Association (CCVSOA)

Angela Dougherty, Team River Run

Celiann Gonzalez, Team River Run,  
Veteran

Ken Waterman, Veteran

Pat Hammon - VCLC Board of  
Commissioners, UVC Representative  
Alternate

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the October meeting were approved by all with the changes previously emailed. Ms. Motupalli made the motion. Ms. Golonka seconded. Motion carried.

## **Public Comments**

Ms. Gonzalez from Team River Runner shared the nonprofit's mission to support veterans, service members, and their families through adaptive paddle sports and water-based adventures. The program promotes healing, health, and community through inclusive, therapeutic outdoor experiences.

## **Spanish Peaks - Janet Hutchinson**

Ms. Hutchinson presented VCLC census data and VTF grant details for Spanish Peaks, noting 100% utilization of grant funds. Residents in attendance praised her communication and dedication, highlighting her positive impact on the veteran community.

## **Standing Reports**

### **Legislative Report - Bruce Cowan**

The top three legislative items from the Division appear to be progressing, and the Department is actively working with Legislative Liaison Antonio Huerta on a proposed change to reallocate excess Veteran Trust Fund (VTF) funds to the Veterans Assistance Grant (VAG). This change is intended to expand access and allow more veterans to

benefit from the allocated resources, with the goal of implementing the change within the current fiscal year.

#### **United Veteran Coalition (UVC) Updates - Pat Hammon:**

The United Veterans Coalition (UVC) is advocating for increase of Veteran Service officers through the Veteran Service Organizations, for example American Legion (AL), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), expanded mental health services, improved retirement pay, and a higher property tax exemption for Colorado veterans, while acknowledging these are long-term goals requiring fiscal notes. UVC also supports greater use of VA service-connected small businesses through state pricing agreements.

#### **VCLC Board of Commissioners Minutes - Pat Hammon:**

The next VCLC Board of Commissioners meeting is set for December to review and possibly amend the by-laws. Governor Polis and Director Cowan attended the Marine Corps' 250th birthday at Fitzsimons, where Rose Campbell and Fox 31's Jeremy Hubbard helped boost VCLC visibility. This, along with the upcoming Wreaths Across America, supports broader community engagement efforts.

Recent surveys flagged potential audit issues which staff are addressing proactively. VCLCs report a stable census with no COVID concerns, though fluctuations persist: Fitzsimons (-10%), Rifle (+3%), Bruce McCandless (+3%), and Homelake (-6%).

## **Director Report - Bruce Cowan**

The Civic Roundtable platform is now live, providing staff with a user-friendly space for materials review, self-paced learning, and feedback to support the Veterans Services team. To ensure consistent service delivery statewide, the 30-60-90 day training model has been replaced with a requirement for CVSOs to complete five supervised claims. Counties that previously used the old model are assisting with the transition. Director Cowan will present the updated training approach to Colorado Counties, Inc. (CCI) in December.

Additionally, Proposition KK has resulted in a 6% tax rate, generating less than the projected \$5 million. The Department is seeking additional funding to address the shortfall.

## **Veteran Services - Eric Winterrowd:**

Training reported that survey results indicate that CVSOs value both seasonal conferences. Mr. Winterrowd attended American Legion training with Bergman & Moore to explore a potential state partnership.

Look Listen and Learn (LLL) tours continue, with three more counties scheduled. More counties are adopting Intergovernmental agreements (IGA)s to support veterans' services. The prison program is active, Regional Work Leads began Nov. 3, and two Region 1 VSO roles remain vacant due to the hiring freeze. The clearinghouse sees brief user sessions, averaging 17 seconds.

### **Western Region One Source - Darrin Collazo:**

Western Region One Source (WROS) reported strong attendance at recent events, including the Rifle Stand Down and Veterans Parade with Brig. Gen. Michael Bruno. The mindfulness group serves 25% of invited veterans, and 460 attended Coffee for Vets over the month of October. Donations from the Elks Club and Bass Pro Shops are supporting unhoused veterans. The facility is at full capacity with a waitlist, and coordination is ongoing with its federal employee returning to in-office work. Grand Junction VHA has appointed a new director.

### **Veterans Memorial Cemetery (VMC) of Western Colorado - Angela Ingalls**

Ms. Ingalls reported the NCA award presentation was delayed due to the federal shutdown. The cemetery has gained access to VBMS. It has recently commissioned a bronze Navy saluting soldier statue. Preparations for Wreaths Across America include sourcing reusable wreaths next fiscal year. October rains revealed hail damage, prompting roof replacements. One Military Honors ceremony was held, and the "Friend of the Cemetery" software is nearing completion.

### **Grants - Lisa Stamm:**

The Veteran Trust Fund (VTF) is at 20% execution, slightly below the 25% target, but is expected to catch up in coming weeks. The Veteran Assistance Grant (VAG) is at 42%, exceeding projections. Ms. Renee Robinson, Grants Administrative Assistant, provided an update on the Military Honors Stipend Program during October 21 Office Hours, focusing on the Adobe application form.

The Grants Program is exploring the Highly Rural Transportation (HRT) Grant, which may require one full-time employee due to its complexity. To prepare, the team is improving efficiency, creating a team lead role, and reallocating duties. A VCLC training on October 22 introduced updated data tracking tools, including a shift from “incarcerated” to “justice involved” in VAG reporting.

Phase one of the Neighborly software rollout for FY 2027 is complete. Applications can be submitted through the new portal beginning in January. Guidelines and required documents will be posted online to help applicants prepare.

The board discussed allowing multiple users per application to support collaborative review by applicants. The Application Review Committee will meet in April, with approvals in May.

Mr. Taylor moved to approve the VTF application, seconded by Ms. Motupalli; the motion passed. Ms. Stamm recommended that only complete applications that include all the required attachments be considered. The board will consider this at a future meeting.

Neighborly will provide virtual training to the board before the April grant training session.

**Colorado County Veteran Service Officer Association (CCVSOA)/ National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NASCVSO) - Josh Medina**

The Colorado County Veterans Service Officer Association (CCVSOA) is focused on improving relationships with DVA to build stakeholder trust and address CVSO-related

issues. National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) members are working with legislators to reduce claim sharks, reform the fiduciary process, and are engaging the VA regarding increased rejection of Nexus letters due to perceived conflicts of interest. They are also pursuing the Highly Rural Transportation (Elizabeth Dole) Grant to release funds prior to grant expiration.

## **Old Business**

### **Women Veterans Subcommittee - Sheila Scanlon, Lacey Golonka, Jasmine Motupalli**

No update was provided.

### **Branding - Sheila Scanlon**

A request was made to discuss the website with the new webmaster at the December meeting.

### **Prescription Letter - Sheila Scanlon**

No update was provided due to the federal shutdown.

### **Transportation Grant - Director Bruce Cowan**

The Division is seeking to allocate 0.5 FTE and collaborate with an external organization to support county grant efforts through the state office.



### **Southwest Region One Source - Director Bruce Cowan**

The previous post office building presented challenges in refurbishing, and the La Plata County building was also viewed but provide challenges with accessibility requirements. Another building in the area has been identified and may offer a more suitable option but required more information to determine if it is feasible.

### **Albuquerque VHA collaboration with Colorado Division of Veteran Affairs - Raymond Taylor**

Mr. Taylor reported that the VA Director will require a 30-day notice for the upcoming meeting. Scheduling has also been impacted by delays related to the recent government shutdown. The current recommendation is for board members to travel to Albuquerque on Monday and return on Tuesday. The board also expressed interest in including the Regional Veteran Service Officers (RVSOs) from Regions 2 and 3 in both the meeting and the hospital tour.

### **New Business:**

#### **VTF Grant Request Update**

Ms. Scanlon submitted a letter to The Adjutant General (TAG) requesting that Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) grants be allowed to include comfort items. The response to this request was positive.

## **Strategic Plan**

The board has asked members to submit their biographies to the Division of Veterans Affairs (DVA) office in preparation for the strategic plan, which is scheduled for release in January.

## **Board Remarks**

The Board remarked on events they attended in October.

## **Statewide Veterans Issues:**

Access to VA prescriptions to include providing pharmacies in rural areas.

Veterans on the Fringes

Homelessness

Mental Health Service

Transportation

Food Security

## **Upcoming Meetings**

12 December 2025

Longmont, Colorado

09 January 2026

Virtual

12 February 2026

VCLC Florence, Colorado

06 March 2026

VCLC Denver, Colorado

10 April 2026

Buena Vista, Colorado

08 May 2026

Centennial, Colorado

05 June 2026

VCLC Rifle, Colorado

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Taylor made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Motupalli seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.