



**Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
Executive Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 15^h, 2024



Department of Adult & Aging Services
6955 Foothill Boulevard, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94605
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:01 am by Commissioner O. Farmer.
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: (P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| O. Farmer (Chair) = P | D. Williamson (Vice Chair) = P |
| R. Forbes = P | N. Harrison = P |
| F. Jaffin = P | J. LoParo = P |
| J. McIlvain = P | J. LoParo = P |
| K. Warner = P | S. Yohannes = P |
| J. Phair = P | G. Owens = P |
| M. Gilmore = P | |

County Staff Present:

- Jennifer Stephens Pierre = P
Esperanza Contreras = P

AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>Minutes for February’s 2024 meeting were approved. Commissioner Gilmore had a correction to the March minutes which were: He was present at the March meeting and was on-line at February’s meeting.</p> <p>Motion to approve: Owens (M) Phair (S)</p> <p>Motion Passed:</p>
Public Comment	None.
Baqar’s Proclamation Status	Baqar’s Proclamation was submitted and routed to the Board of Supervisors.
Letter to Staff	<p>JSP confirm receipt of the VAC request for data reports and advised the Commission the request was not received in time to prepare a comprehensive report.</p> <p>Action: <i>Jennifer Stephens-Pierre team will prepare a comprehensive quarterly data report to give to the Commission for the last quarter then moving forward it will be an on-going report</i></p>
ALCO VSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Resource Department will hold a special recruitment for the VSO position. • The VSO position was shared on the Commission’s distribution list and with the California Association of Veterans Office. <p>Action: <i>Jennifer Stephens-Pierre, Program Manager will manage the office until a VSO is hired.</i></p>



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<p>II. Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<p>1. Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Baqar’s Proclamation Status:</u> Baqar’s Proclamation was submitted and routed to the Board of Supervisors. • <u>Letter to Staff:</u> The VAC has not received reports on statistics from the Alameda County VSO since 2023. Going forward would like to have it once a month. <p><i>Action: Jennifer Stephens-Pierre team will prepare a comprehensive quarterly data report to give to the Commission for the last quarter then moving forward it will be an on-going report that will be given during the Staff Updates.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ALCO VSO Status:</u> JSP advised the VAC of the status of the CVSO temporary set-up on the second floor and agreed to address concerns expressed about confidentiality. Further advised that partitions were being ordered to provide more privacy during interviews. JSP agreed to provide routine updates on the progress of reopening the lobby. <p>2. Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Supervisors has approved Jack McIlvain who will represent District 3 and Shewett Johnson who will represent the Women Veterans. • Lisa Brunner and Gloria Wilson need a letter of recommendation. • Dylan Bolt, Steve Dolgin, and Bob Cole’s applications are complete. • <i>We have a vacant spot at the Military Officers Association of America.</i> <p>3. Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussed VAC’s budget and the process to expend allocated funds and the requirement to submit an annual budget once prompted for the new fiscal year.</i> • <i>Discussed the procedure for expending/requesting payment for the requested Memorial Dayr wreath, other Memorial Day events, and the street renaming plaque.</i> <p><i>Action: CVSO needs feedback from the commission on how they would like the wreath and street plaque to look.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jennifer Stephens’s-Pierre agreed to confirm how funds not spent this FY can be carried over to the next FY, i.e.. Veterans Day. The Commission expressed their wish to include unused funds from fiscal year ’23-’24 into their next FY budget.</i> <p>4. PAL Legislation Recommendations: The following proposals are being considered for legislation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 1882: special license plates. This bill would instead define a disabled veteran as a veteran who cannot walk without the use of an assistant device. The bill would expand the definition of “disabled veteran” to include a veteran who cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest, a veteran who is
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	<p>severely limited in the ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or orthopedic condition, or a veteran who has visual acuity of 20/200 or less, among other conditions, as specified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 1854: An act to amend Section 800 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to the military. The bill would require a request for deferral to be submitted no later than 180 days following the period of active duty on which the deferral is based. SB1124. This bill seeks to safeguard veterans from deceptive practices and ensure fair treatment in matters related to their benefits and services. <p>5. Outreach & Veteran Observance Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These meetings are a form of outreach. The next meeting is scheduled at the Veterans Memorial Building in Alameda on May 20th. <p>6. VSO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Human Resource Dept. will hold a special recruitment for the VSO position. • Jennifer Stephens-Pierre will be responsible for making whoever fills the position successful as possible during the Onboarding process. JSP requested ongoing support from the VAC with making the newly appointed VSO onboarding, once selected, as successful as possible. <p>Action</p> <p><i>Action: The Commission agreed to share the job posting with their networks and the CVSO agreed to share the posting with the California Association for County Veteran Service Offices.</i></p> <p>7. Steet Plaques: The Budget Request Form for the street plaque has been submitted, and JSP agreed to provide an update on payment.</p> <p>8. Stand UP/Down Event: The Stand Up/Down event will be held on Saturday, May 4th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Laney College.</p>
STAFF UPDATES	<i>As the CVSO Program Manager, Jennifer Stephens-Pierre will manage and support CVSO staff until the VSO position is filled.</i>
ADJOURNMENT	Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.