

Minutes



Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
 Monday, August 19th, 2024



6955 Foothill Blvd – Ste. 300
 Oakland, CA 94605
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>		County Staff Present:
O. Farmer (Chair) = P	D. Boldt = P	Jonathan Montero-Flores
R. Forbes = P	R. Cole = P	Esparanza Contreras
S. Dolgin = P	G. Owens = P	Jennifer Stephens-Pierre
E. Gilmore = A	J. Phair = P	Rhoda Turner
M. Gilmore (Vice-Chair) = P	K. Warner = P	Marlisa Davis = O
N. Harrison = P	D. Williamson = P	Trina Jennings = O
F. Jaffin = P	J. McIlvain = P	
L. Brunner = P	S. Yohannes = P	
I. LoParo = E	A. Gordillo = P	

II. AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	Minutes for the July 15, 2024 meeting were approved after corrections were made to pages 2 and 3. Commissioner Farmer requested that Independence Day be included to the Veteran Observance Days, omit the vacant position American Veterans of War under Recruitment, correct the name of Vincent DePaul to “St. Vincent De Paul” from Outreach, and under “Special recognition” clarified that Shomari Smith only designed the art not the booklet. Motion to approve: Commissioner Owens (M) Commissioner Harrison (S) Motion Passed
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cathy Lenihan, from the American Red Cross stated that her organization will be supporting the Stand Down on the 13th & 14th of September. They will be handing out 200-300 hygiene kits as well as socks, underpants, and t-shirts.
Staff Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commissioner Farmer included the staff response to the statistics, and it will be discussed in the September/October meeting. ○ Jennifer Stephens-Pierre, Program Manager mentioned that the ACVSO staff attended a two-day training in Santa Clara County which will help staff run reports and properly log in information in VetPro. ○ A selection has been made for the Veteran Service Officer (VSO) vacancy. Waiting for HR to complete the onboarding process.

<p>Guest Speaker: Mark from Swords to Plowshares</p>	<p>Mark from Swords to Plowshares, spoke on the Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Program.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<p>A. Outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commissioners toured the Santa Rita Jail to observe and learn more about the Veterans Transition Plan and identified some needs. • Commissioner Farmer mentioned the Re-entry Conference & Resource Fair in S.F on 9/13. He explained that he would like to bring it to the East Bay. • Commissioner Farmer suggested that there be a ranking system on selecting the ACVAC Logo. He proposed that Luna send out an email to Joe, Jack, and himself whereas they will select the top three logos then it will be distributed to the rest of the Commissioners to vote. • Events happening around the Bay Area such as: Car Show 8/24 and the 26thAnnual Wheelchair Regatta on 9/28. • Veterans Day Lunch held at the Hayward Veterans Memorial on Friday, November 8th from 11 am – 1 pm. RSVP by 10/25. • 2nd Annual Veterans Day Dinner to be held at the Veterans Memorial Bldg. near Lake Merritt in Oakland also on November 8th. • Within the past month, the Commissioners has been out supporting veterans throughout the county, in every district. <p>B. Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members, Alfred Gordillo – Vietnam Veterans of America and Lisa Brunner – American Legion were introduced • 17 out of 21 spots filled. • Four vacancies – Military Officers Assoc. of America (MOA), Iraq/Afghanistan (Veterans of America), Marine Corp League, and American Legion. <p>C. Transportation Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Farmer spoke to Bart regarding discounts for veterans. • Commissioner Williamson contacted the Oakland clinic shuttle & learned that they have set times to take veterans to locations. • Commissioner Cole relayed that the Martinez VA Clinic was well organized with their shuttle program. He was instructed to contact them to find out if he can get the same set-up for the Oakland and S.F. clinics. <p>D. Executive Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee reviewed the architectural drawings of Pt. Alameda. • Ethics Code of Conduct Document, everyone must sign along with completing the required Ethics Training. • Commissioner Farmer introduced a comprehensive list “GRIID” “Group, Resources, Ideas, Initiatives, Doings” that will assist

	<p>commissioners to learn how each district can be a stronger advocate for veterans.</p> <p>E. Veteran Observance Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 4th the ACVAC is hosting the Veteran Suicide Prevention Forum from 6-7 pm at the Hayward Veteran Memorial Bldg. • September 20 – National POW Day on the USS Hornet. • Commissioner Jaffin has requested that Veterans Day planning be added to the next agenda. <p>F. Stand Down</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft of the Event Press Release was shared. • A presentation of the Stand Down was shown.
<p>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ August 22nd, the American Legion will be hosting a blood drive (2:15-6:30 pm) at the San Leandro Veteran Memorial Bldg. ○ National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony on the USS Hornet, September 21st. Free admission for all veterans that day. ○ August 25, Veterans Day Breakfast in San Leandro at the Veterans Memorial Bldg. Starts at 7 am.
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.</p>