

# Minutes



Alameda County  
 Veterans Affairs Commission  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
 Monday, September 16th, 2024

Alameda County  
 Social Services  
 Agency  
 6955 Foothill Blvd - Ste. 300  
 Oakland, CA 94605  
<http://alamedasocialservices.org>

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

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

**I. AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Recommendations</b>
<b>Adopt Agenda</b>	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
<b>Approval of Meeting Minutes</b>	<p>Motion to accept meeting minutes from 08/19/2024:</p> <p><b>Motion to approve:</b> Commissioner Owens (M)          Commissioner Phair (S)</p> <p><b>Motion Passed</b></p>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None given.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff Updates:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No Official Report.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Farmer discussed some of the staff updates he was expecting answers to such as: VSO office timeline, temporary VSO office site, and the budget for the FY 24/25.</li> <li>○ Commissioner Phair spoke on AB 1566 which was added to Title 12. It requires each county to provide more detail statistics than the law previously required.</li> <li>○ Jonathan Montano-Flores, Specialist Clerk for AAA mentioned that they (CVSO's) did move back to their original space on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor at Eastmont next to the Maxwell Park conference rm.</li> <li>○ Rhoda Turner, Division Secretary informed the commission that they did have an applicant for the VSO Position and that they were just waiting for the go ahead from HR to reach out.</li> </ul>
<b>Guest Speaker: Deputies Murphy and Perez from Santa Rita Jail</b>	Sergeant Daniel Murphy, from Inmate Services gave a presentation on Reentry and Support Services.

<p><b>Guest Speaker: Evelyn Andrews, Las Positas Veterans Resource Center</b></p>	<p>Evelyn Andrews, Veteran’s Program Supervisor introduced two of her staff members Edgar Reyes, Outreach Specialist and Jovan Pierre, SVO President who gave an overview of their Veteran’s Resource Center.</p>
<p><b>Sub-Committee Reports</b></p>	<p><b>A. Outreach:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans Resource Fair, September 20<sup>th</sup> held at the Fremont Elks Lodge from 12 – 1700 hrs.</li> <li>• Las Positas College Veterans Stand Down on October 19<sup>th</sup> in Livermore.</li> <li>• POW/MIA Ceremony on the USS Hornet, September 21 at 11 am.</li> <li>• American Legion fundraiser at the Veterans Memorial Bldg. in Pleasanton on Saturday, September 21 at 11 am.</li> <li>• 26<sup>th</sup> Annual PICYA Wheelchair Regatta, September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Encinal Yacht Club 8 – 1700 hrs.</li> <li>• Alameda Veterans Memorial Bldg. Hosting a Bingo event, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1730 hrs.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Veteran Observance Days/Veteran Suicide Prevention Forum (feedback):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September is the National Suicide Prevention Month.</li> <li>• September 4<sup>th</sup>, we held in our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Suicide Prevention Forum.</li> <li>• Excellent turnout. 20 – 30 people attended the Forum.</li> <li>• Swords to Plowshares is providing Suicide Prevention Education to interested individuals.</li> <li>• Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup> @ 11 am, the VAC will host a Veterans Day event.</li> <li>• Commissioner’s Jaffin, Williamson, Farmer, Dolgin, &amp; Cole will head up the sub-committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>C. Executive Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met on September 10<sup>th</sup> and Commissioner Farmer explained that he produced a rough draft of a GRIID Presentation.</li> <li>• Discussed Alameda County’s Code of Conduct form.</li> <li>• Spoke on the upcoming Stand Down event.</li> <li>• Commissioner Owens gave feedback regarding the Alameda Veterans Memorial Park fire.</li> </ul> <p><b>D. Nomination Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outline of what the Nomination Committees is, rules, and what are the available positions were addressed.</li> <li>• Commissioner Harrison, Gilmore, and LoParo were initiated to be in the committee.</li> <li>• The goal is to have the Nomination Committee finalized by the October/November meeting.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Farmer suggested that the Commission review the by-laws again and to put it on the agenda for next month's meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Motion that will change the by-laws to four years as opposed to two.</p> <p><b>Motion to approve:</b> Commissioner Owens (M) Commissioner Warner (S)</p> <p><b>In order to change the by-laws, it would need to be brought up to the BOS.</b></p> <p><b>E. Stand Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation was a huge success.</li> <li>• 204 people were served, overall including non-veterans.</li> <li>• 131 total veterans and 28 people signed up through Eventbrite.</li> <li>• Comprehensive legal services did not attend. Still had enough service providers.</li> <li>• Tentatively agreed on December 20 &amp; 21 for another Stand Down at the same location (St. Vincent de Paul).</li> </ul>
<p><b>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Commissioner Warner provided events for Castro Valley 2024 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Patriot Day Ceremony was held September 13 at the Redwood Christian School.</li> <li>2. Gold Star Family memorial service is at Lone Tree Cemetery on September 29@13:00.</li> <li>3. Castro Valley Annual Light Parade on November 9<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>4. Veterans Day ceremony is on November 11@11:00 at Castro Valley Veterans Memorial located on Castro Valley Community Center grounds on Quail Avenue.</li> <li>5. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<p><b>ADJOURNMENT</b></p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 11:57 am.</p>