



Alameda County
Veterans Affairs Commission
General Meeting Minutes
 Monday, December 16, 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 10:01 am
- Roll Call, Quorum Achieved.

In Attendance: <i>(P=Present, E=Excused, A=Absent, O=Online Attendance)</i>	County Staff Present:																		
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>O. Farmer (Chair) = P</td> <td>D. Boldt = P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Forbes = P</td> <td>R. Cole = P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S. Dolgin = P</td> <td>G. Owens = P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M. Gilmore (Vice-Chair) = P</td> <td>J. Phair = P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N. Harrison = P</td> <td>K. Warner = A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F. Jaffin = P</td> <td>D. Williamson = A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L. Brunner = P</td> <td>J. McIlvain = P</td> </tr> <tr> <td>I. LoParo = E</td> <td>S. Yohannes = P</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>A. Gordillo = P</td> </tr> </table>	O. Farmer (Chair) = P	D. Boldt = P	R. Forbes = P	R. Cole = P	S. Dolgin = P	G. Owens = P	M. Gilmore (Vice-Chair) = P	J. Phair = P	N. Harrison = P	K. Warner = A	F. Jaffin = P	D. Williamson = A	L. Brunner = P	J. McIlvain = P	I. LoParo = E	S. Yohannes = P		A. Gordillo = P	<p>Anthony Simpson Jonathan Montero-Flores Jennifer Stephens-Pierre Rhoda Turner Sonya Frost</p>
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AGENDA/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item	Discussion/Recommendations
Adopt Agenda	Meeting agenda adopted by Commission as read.
Approval of Meeting Minutes	<p>Motion to accept meeting minutes from 11/18/2024:</p> <p>Motion to approve: Commissioner Owens (M) Commissioner Jaffin (S)</p> <p>Motion Passed after amended on D. Williamson’s attendance from present to absent.</p>
Public Comment	➤ None
Staff Updates:	<p>➤ Jennifer Stephens-Pierre stated the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews for the Admin. Specialist II will be held on Wednesday, December 18th. • There is a new VSR, and his name is Mario (Carlos) Castillo. • There is no update on the budget. Jennifer encouraged the commission to reach out to their appointing entity and Andrea Ford. • Stand Alone CVSO is still under renovation, with no additional updates. So, Anthony Simpson & VSR Mario Castillo will be attending the Cal Vet quarterly conference in February. • There will be a quarterly data report given in January. • Working on goals for the CVSO for next year.

<p>Guest Speaker: Daniel J. Libby, Director of the Oakland Veteran’s Center</p>	<p>Daniel J. Libby, from the Oakland Veterans Center gave an overview of the services they provide.</p> <p>Mr. Libby explained that the Veterans Center has now moved to the Eastmont Bldg. on the 2nd floor.</p>
<p>Sub-Committee Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach was done every month this year in multiple districts in the county. ➤ Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commission has doubled in size by the addition of eight new commissioners with a total of 17. • One potentially interested applicant will probably put in an application next month. ➤ Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commission was still able to do events without the budget. • Budget issues are still being worked on. <p><i>Comment: Commissioner Greg Owens mentioned during the executive meeting – It would be helpful to have someone to come out to the January meeting and explain the budget process.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Sonya Frost will extend an invitation for someone to come out and discuss the budget.</i></p> ➤ Veteran Observance Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The commission participated in a lot of the Veteran Observance day’s events as well as created events. • Creative ideas for future Veteran Observance Day events were Pearl Harbor and PTSD. <p><i>Comment: Jennifer Stephens-Pierre suggested that a PSA could be done for PTSD Awareness when the time comes.</i></p> ➤ Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget was discussed • Planning for next year. ➤ Stand Down: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan out next year Stand Downs were discussed. • St. Vincent de Paul committed to all three Stand Downs next year. • December Stand Down was cancelled. • End of March/Early April was suggested for the 1st Stand Down. ➤ Nomination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Greg Owens is taking over in January and Commissioner Omar Farmer will be Vice Chair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Women’s Veterans Day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed having the people who were honored be put in the Women Veterans Museum section in the Naval Air Museum. ➤ PAL Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BOS hasn’t sponsored any of the legislation that the commission has recommended. • Legislation bills that the commission should support in January were AB53 – Exemption for uniform services, retirement, and surviving spouses and SB1- same thing; introduced by republicans which has different effective date. • More potential legislation in January. ➤ VSO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometime in 2025 the commission should be in their new Stand-Alone space. • Veteran Service Officer Anthony Simpson explained the process of how the veterans are screened/seen.
<p>ORAL COMMUNICATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eleni Spiru commented on-line that Swords to Plowshares offers free employment and training assistance. • Commissioner Owens recognized Commissioner Farmer for everything he’s done for the commission.
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.</p>