



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) August 25th, 2022, Thursday, at 2:30 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: Dan Presser • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Dan Presser 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>City of Seaside – Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby MVAAC – Vice Chair, Dan Presser UVC – Mary Estrada UVC – John Gay MVAAC – Sid Williams City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson City of Marina – Wesley Hays City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira Veterans Families – Walan Chang</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Chair, Ian Oglesby</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (From July 28th)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Rick Johnson • Second: Vice Chair, Dan Presser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Roll Call: Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes – Unanimous • Motion Carried

5. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION

a. AB 361

<p>i. Consider the resolution presented on AB 361</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Mary Estrada • Second: John Gay <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call Vote: Unanimous – Ayes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motion Carries
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b. Affordable Housing

<p>i. VTC – General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake Reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTC currently has 99 Veterans living in our housing. Over the past six months VTC has averaged 2200 bed days per month. 92% occupancy rate with no wait list for most programs now. • Lightfighter Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break ground date: November 1st, 2022. Waiting for California Housing and Community Development to authorize an accelerator grant. • Enhance Use Lease: Old VA Clinic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopefully will have the property by the end of the year which will provide two sites: Veteran housing and the Center for Excellence.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PACT ACT did alter the Enhance Use Lease for VTC's benefit.
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c. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

<p>i. CCCVC Status Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erica Chaney reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since opening in 2016, the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery has 2022 Veterans with 580 Dependents for a total of 2602 interred. Fiscal Year 2021: 349 Internments. Fiscal Year 2022 (with in-ground): 533 Internments. AGPA Elaine Tang was promoted to procurement. Open positions: Staff Services Analyst, (2) Part-time Custodian and (2) Part-time Custodial. Looking to automate security gate for ease of access. Supervising Groundskeeper Al currently in National Cemetery Administration Foreman. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice Chair, Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the latest update on the kiosk? Erica Chaney: no update at this time. The Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is not exclusively for California Veterans. It is for any Veteran that meets the entry criteria. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Estrada question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did the Cemetery Financing Bill pass? (Which makes CCCVC financing like other cemeteries in the State). Erica Chaney: I am not aware of the Bill. Jack Murphy: That Bill did not pass. But Senator Laird's office did amend language which requiring the match from the Cemetery Foundation. Mary Estrada: How is the Cemetery Funded if we do not have to put money in locally? Erica Chaney: That was for phase 1 and phase 2. The Cemetery operates through Veteran reimbursement and spousal fees.
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d. Cemetery Foundation

<p>i. General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rich Garza reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved for 60% drawings for donor structure. 60% drawings allow the State to make corrections without setting the project back.• Letters will be going out from the foundation for the donor wall to maintain accountability.• Next priority for the Foundation is a structure to have services out of the elements.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair Oglesby comment:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The City of Seaside just hired a new City Manager Jaime Fonte. It would be important for the Cemetery Foundation to meet with him for this project.• Rich Garza: I will talk with the Foundation and plan for that meeting.
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e. Ord Military Community

<p>i. Active-Duty General Update:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None received
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f. VA-DoD Clinic

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kintina Edouard reported	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The VA is starting a new patient check-in process. Check-in by phone. There will be assistance available for those that need it. Veterans will receive a notification two days prior to their appointment.• The flu shot will be given again this year. We are still trying to figure out if there will be a drive-up option. More to follow on that topic.• The VA is still providing the COVID Vaccine as well.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vice Chair, Dan Presser question:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do we know if it is the double flu shot and what brand it is?• Kintina Edouard: I do not know but I will find out and send the information to update the Committee out of cycle.• Adam Errahebi: I will reach out to you for the update and send it out to all members.• Rich Garza comment:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The VA Clinic X-Ray department has been shut
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	<p>down for the past two weeks. Every time I have tried to call, I was met with a busy signal. We might want to get that message out to the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kintina Edouard: You can call your PACT Team and Doctor’s Neighborhood phone number.
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g. Municipalities

<p>i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Johnson reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt is running for City Council.
<p>ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat Rojasathira 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing period closed for City Council elections. We have two Councilmembers running for the Mayoral seat. Councilmember Dan Albert and Councilmember Tyler Williamson. Ed Smith along with Kim Harper are running unopposed in Districts 1 and 2 respectively. • We have met with Colonel Sam Klein and are excited with our continued partnership between Monterey and DLI.
<p>iii. City of Marina, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wesley Hays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked the Committee for the Art for Veterans support. No City of Marina update at this time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is currently two low and extremely low-income housing developments approved for late next year.
<p>iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a meeting set up with Colonel Klein. We also want to gauge his support for Veterans. • We will set up a meeting between the Cemetery Foundation and our new City Manager Jaime Fonte.

h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military and Veterans Affairs Office received a grant from CALVET through the Mental Health Services Act for \$135,000 over two years. This was a renewal and expansion of the grant. • We established a Vet Court in San Benito County through partial funding of this grant. There are currently four Veterans in the program.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jason (Veteran Service Officer) and I attended the Retiree Appreciation Day event. We had great interactions with the Garrison Command. The Garrison Commander's spouse is interested in being more involved with the Veteran community.• We conducted an in-person meeting with Chair of the California Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Senator Archuleta in reference to the Veterans Home Project. He understands the need and presented some possible challenges to address moving forward. He invited us to his District in September for a follow-up.• We also had a meeting with a Staff Member from Asm. Robert Rivas' Office to discuss the Veterans Home Project.• We met with Congressman Panetta and his Military and Veterans Affairs Liaison in Washington, D.C. to discuss various topics to include: the status of the pharmacy, why the Veteran Health Administration won't provide nexus letters for Veterans, The Veterans Home.• Jason will be attending the California Chapter of Defense Communities Summit and the CALVET Leadership Summit.• Salinas Office will Move to 730 La Guardia on September 13th. The office will be closing during move.• Coastal Office improvement project is underway with a hopeful opening date of November 10th.• Veteran of the Year tickets are for sale. The Military and Veterans Affairs Office and Sid (UVC) has them. You can also purchase them online at UVC-MC.com.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest speaker will be Acting Adjutant General of the California National Guard, Major General Matthew Beavers.• He gave MVAO's monthly report, see attached.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• He explained that the College Fee Waiver dollar amount is not included in the Disability Compensation Awards.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair, Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since College is starting, will the Fee Waiver category disappear from the monthly report? ▪ Jack Murphy explained it will taper down until January where school registration starts up again. He mentioned within a year the office will waive around \$1.6Million in College Tuition. • He further explained that the Military and Veterans Affairs Office can retroactively grant a Tuition Fee Waiver if the Veteran has a pending claim that adjudicates later in the academic year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Ian Oglesby question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do Veterans have to come to your office to complete a Tuition Fee Waiver? ▪ Jack Murphy explained that a Veteran can go to any CALVET accredited Veteran Service Office to complete one. ▪ Chair, Ian Oglesby explained that we all need to spread the word about this benefit to as many Veterans as possible. • Jack Explained that Monterey County Military and Veterans Affairs Office is top 6 in the state in respect to utilization rate (rate at which total county Veteran population are receiving benefits).
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6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Receive Communication from Committee members as it pertains to future agenda items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sid Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned that Veteran of the Year tickets are on sale for \$50. If you purchase them online from UVC-MC.com they are \$52 for a processing fee. • There are two people in the Committee who are recipients of the Award this year. Chair, Ian Oglesby and MVAO's Jack Murphy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned that there is a new World War II display at the VTC from a Veteran who fought on Iwo Jima. • He also stated that if any Veteran has memorabilia from their time in service that the VTC is interested in putting it on display. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military and Veterans Affairs Office and Central Coast Veteran Cemetery are also interested in memorabilia for display. • He presented Vice Chair Dan Presser with a Certificate of Appreciation for his help with the Stand Down.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair, Dan Presser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned that the Monterey County Fair is starting September 1st. Thursday is free for Veterans and their families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Ian Oglesby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned how the Committee can spread the word to gather Military memorabilia from families so they are not thrown away. He suggested a flyer to be posted at VTC and MVAO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy explained that the timing is good and MVAO's move to the Coastal Office will provide a space for a museum like display area.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Chair, Ian Oglesby