



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) September 22nd, 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: Chair Oglesby • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Chair Oglesby 	<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 Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira Veterans Families – Walan Chang Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Louise Goetzelt</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candice King Stated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See document attached <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Oglesby thanked Ms. King and asked a question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the main target of your advocacy? • Candice King replied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To advocate for Veteran housing and care facility like Yountville (Cal Vet Home). • Chair, Oglesby thanked her again for the public comment. • Vice Chair, Dan Presser also thanked her for the public comment. • Jack Murphy Comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have forwarded your public comment to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Luis Alejo and John Phillips as the Veterans Home is a key topic for them.
<p>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (From August 25th)</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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: Louise Goetzelt • 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"> • Larry Atkins Reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTC currently has 99 Veterans living in our housing. • He also explained the housing map attached: • Emergency housing gets veterans off the streets and keeps them for up to 60 days. One duplex, with 10 beds funded through the VA. Healthcare for homeless Vets, which is HCHV. As you see, there should be a yellow. The average bed days over the past year is 249. Transitional housing allows veterans to stay up to 2 years. This VA Grant Per Diem contract in 2003 was expanded in 2007 now totally in 58 beds which is indicated in blue. There are 3 VA specific programs as part of the housing program. There's a bridge, the clinical and service intensive. The average number of bits for the past year is 2,000 or 274,384 and 966 per month. VTC has held an occupancy rate of 89 to 97% at any time in the past year permanent support housing. There is no end date to the lease currently there are 12 single room occupancy beds in this program residents pay through Department of Housing and Urban Development. Veterans' assistance for supportive has housing which is HUDVASH. They have a voucher program, or if over income, with a very low percentage of income, has required the local housing for authority. If you need assistance, you can call VTC at (831) 883-8387. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue: Grant Per Diem Housing • Yellow: Healthcare for Homeless Veterans • Green: Permanent Support Housing • Red: Long Term Offender Reentry Recovery Program • Star: Family Housing • Louise Goetzelt question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many beds are there for LTORRP? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Larry responded: 42 beds. • Vice Chair, Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are child molesters housed there? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Larry responded: No • The lower left-hand quarter of the map has four vacant units which will be repurposed to Lightfighter Village adding 60 units. • We are also obtained the EUL site which is the old VA Clinic to expand services.
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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"> • The gravesite located parts have been received. We are waiting for the manufacturer for installation.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Magee is retiring at the end of the month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice Chair, Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who is going to replace him? ▪ Erica responded: We do not know yet.
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d. Cemetery Foundation

<p>i. General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy Ingram reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy clarified if Mike Magee was retiring at the end of this month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erica Chaney responded: yes, and reassured Candy that the Cal Vet staff will make the transition as seamless as possible. • We are still on track for the appreciation wall. • There is a Cemetery Foundation Board workshop on October 5th at 11:00am. This is a planning session to try and engage younger Veterans for the purpose of longevity. • There is also a board meeting on Friday October 7th. • We have planned a meeting with the Seaside City Manager for the use of property for an enclosed location for services. • WiFi and cellphone service out at the Cemetery is non-existent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Chaney responded: That is true depending on the carrier. • Chair Oglesby made a comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should try and set up a meeting with Mike Magee before he leaves to see who we can follow up with regarding ongoing projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Erica Chaney responded: Keith Boylan is his immediate supervisor and will be handling the transition. Also, Christine Odsen will be assisting. • Vice Chair, Dan Presser praised Mike Magee.
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e. Ord Military Community

i. Active-Duty General Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>ii. Ft. Ord Retiree Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey was sent out to the Retiree Council to gauge members and attendees.

	<p>Membership was very active when we were pushing for the Veterans Cemetery and clinic. Once those were achieved, interest went away. We are looking to increase interest by spreading information about the Veterans Home Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tentative Retirement Appreciation Day is July 15th. • Chair Oglesby made a comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should look to put the Veterans Home Initiative on the radar of the Retiree Council. It is likely that most of them do not know the prospect of having a Veterans Home here in Monterey County.
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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"> • VA is currently giving a single dose flu shot. Anyone can get the flu shot at this time. • VA is also offering the new COVID vaccine booster. • The VA is beginning to demobilize from pandemic procedures. Which will scale back screening and pandemic procedures. The process is not finalized yet. • We will still be testing for COVID. • Louise Goetzelt question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the new booster Pfizer or Moderna? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kintina replied: Monterey has Moderna and Palo Alto has Pfizer available. • Jack Murphy question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you explain the difference between the single or double dose of flu shot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kintina replied that she will follow up with the clinical side and provide an update. She also stated there is flu clinics on Saturday 10/22/2022 and 11/19/2022 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. • Walan Chang question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are appointments needs for flu or COVID vaccines?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kintina replied no appointment needed for the flu shot and walk-ins for the COVID vaccine. • Chair Oglesby question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you anticipate any changes in the next 30 days? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No. The flu clinic runs until January and the COVID vaccines will continue to be offered.
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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. The City of Del Rey Oaks has multiple Veterans running for different positions in office.
<p>ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat Rojanasathira 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a Council meeting just two nights ago and focused on an update on the Budget. • Council also adopted principles we call Mutually Monterey, which is that all Council members, even though we're moving to district-based elections are here to represent all members of our community residents and others not our military partners as well. • We're gearing up for the election. • We are looking to have a future discussion on outdoor dining, unfunded liability to which we have \$170 million. • The City of Monterey is looking to partner with the California Department of Public Health for three large-scale vaccine clinics targeting La Mesa Village which the least reported vaccinated neighborhood in Monterey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the beginning of the pandemic a lot of Veterans and military members were vaccinated through the DoD and VA. The information was not being reported to the State at that time, this could be the same situation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nat replied: we will compare the data with the Presidio for accuracy.
iii. City of Marina, General Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wesley Haye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received.
iv. City of Seaside, General Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Mayor Ian Oglesby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update at this time.

h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

i. General Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy and Adam Errahebi reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran of the Year tickets are for sale. The event is on Friday, 10/28/2022. You can purchase tickets through the Monterey Office or UVC-MC.com. • The Heroes Open is scheduled for the day after the VOY Dinner 10/29/2022. • PACT ACT changes are live, and we are encouraging all Veterans to apply if they fall into the Gulf War, Post 9/11, or Vietnam categories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens new presumptive conditions up for Gulf War, Post 9/11, and Vietnam Vets. • If you know any surviving spouses this relates to, please have them call us • Expanded healthcare and registry. • New Agent Orange Exposure Locations (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Guam, American Samoa). • Adam gave MVAO's monthly report, see attached. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He explained that the College Fee Waiver dollar amount. • Vice Chair, Dan Presser question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is that figure cumulative? ▪ Adam explained it is just for the month of August. • Adam thanked the Committee for continuously praising the Military and Veterans Affairs Office. • Press Conference was called by Supervisor Luis Alejo on Wednesday 11/09/2022 at 2:00pm in reference to the Veterans Home Initiative in Monterey County.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office moves to 730 La Guardia is complete, and the Coastal Office move is on schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please help spread the word of our 730 La Guardia Office move in Salinas. Our Salinas office is no longer located at 1000 S. Main St. (Quadrangle/Life Foundation Building) • Jack explained that the Military and Veterans Affairs Office is currently short-staffed but still performing at a high level. • Jack reiterated that Veterans should come in as soon as possible to seek benefits if they were exposed to burn pits, radiation, or agent orange. He further explained that elderly Veterans should especially seek benefits as the VA is expecting a higher volume of claims. • The average time to process a disability claim with the VA is 111 days. • The Military and Veterans Affairs Office is looking for items of historical significance to display in the Coastal Office. • The National Health Emergency (COVID) is set to end on 12/31/2022. Many benefits such as food stamps, cash benefits, and VA procedures will change/end as a result. • VA Disability cost of living is projected to increase by 11% (number subject to change) in January.
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6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

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

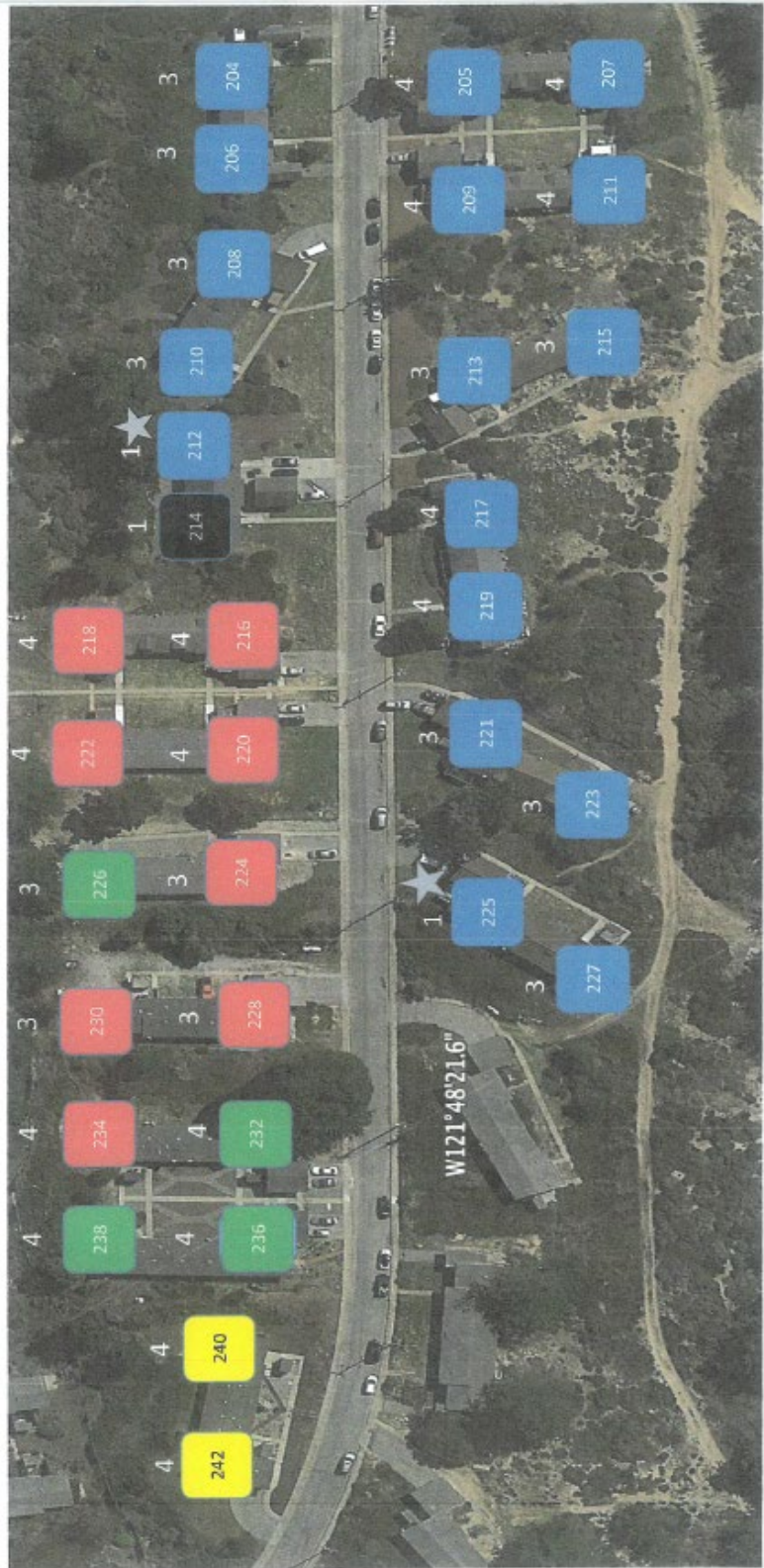
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erica Chaney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned that AI and Friends offers free brunch every Sunday mornings at 8:30am. The brunch is located at Windows by the Bay on the Del Monte bike path.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, Ian Oglesby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a new law AB 2449, which extends the ability for legislative bodies to meet in a hybrid capacity. It extends the ability past the end date of the National Health Emergency. Members who use Zoom must have an exemption and are subject to a vote by the Committee members. Members cannot use Zoom for more than three sessions consecutively. This will likely replace AB 361 (Brown Act). • We should ensure Supervisor Alejo is in contact with Candice King (Public Comment) before the press conference. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I have a meeting scheduled for Monday with the Monterey County Legislative Attorney and Communications Specialist in reference to the press conference. I will have more information at our next meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military Officers Association (MOA) luncheon is on the 20th at noon at the Bayonet Black Horse Golf Course with guest speaker, Leon Panetta. It is open to the public and I will send out the newsletter to the public. It is limited to 100 guests. \$25 per ticket.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sid Williams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have Veteran of the Year tickets available. I encourage all members to attend if possible.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mary Estrada	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The electronic check-in at the VA clinic is working well.
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8. ADJOURNMENT: Chair, Ian Oglesby

- GPD ● HCHV ● PSH ● LTORRP ● 24 Hour/Security & Maintenance ● Family ☆



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

September 2022



9

Outreach Events

152

New Contacts



601

Phone Calls

341

Vet Rep Appointments

522 Claims Actions



250 Unique Veterans

158 Compensation Awards

15 College
Fee Waivers
\$111,198

New Disability Compensation Awards

\$580,582

Retroactive Payments

\$80,207

Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

88% Very Satisfied!

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