



**CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes #760**  
**May 17, 2017**



**Charlene Taylor, Chair**  
**Hugh Crooks, Jr., Vice-Chair**  
**Todd Trotter, Member**

**Carla Thornton, Member**  
**Juan Gonzalez, Member**  
**Tina Lassiter, Executive Officer**

The California Veterans Board met at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 1816 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA at 9:00 AM.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Charlene Taylor, Hugh Crooks Jr., Carla Thornton and Todd Trotter. Juan Gonzalez participated via teleconference.

**Absent:** -. None

Chair Taylor presided.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Taylor welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. The Board introduced themselves.

**MINUTES RECOMMENDATION**

Approve minutes from the March 15, 2017 Board meeting. Vice Chair Crooks moved to approve the minutes and Member Trotter seconded. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

**PRESENTATION: Dave Thielker, Staff Services Manager 1, California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).** Mr. Thielker gave a presentation on the Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) Program. He spoke of its intent, its implementation and the affects to the Homes thereafter. (Attachment).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Ms. Lorraine Perales introduced herself and thanked the Board for allowing her to submit her appeal (Tuition Fee Waiver) to them for final review.

**CHAIR’S UPDATE** – Ms. Taylor gave a brief update of her chair activities since the last meeting of the Board. The Chair reported that the Board received a letter from CalVet regarding the Miller Appeal for Tuition Fee Waiver. The letter explained that there is no longer any need for the Board’s involvement in the Brian Miller case.

The Chair went on to report that the Board continues to have two vacancies. She has been working with the Governor’s office and has interviewed several highly qualified candidates. She hopes to have that resolved shortly. Furthermore, the Deputy Secretary, Legislation and Government Relations position within the Department has recently become vacant.

**DEPARTMENT FORUM: Department Update, Undersecretary Russell Atterberry.**

The Undersecretary introduced himself and explained that the Secretary was asked to be in Sacramento to speak with the Budget committee about the trailer bill. He then went on the report on the following:

- The Department continues with its efforts to update the Military and Veterans code.
- Homes: Ursula Stuter is acting Administrator at Yountville following Mr. Veverka’s departure. The Department welcomes Steve Cope, the new Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Administrator in Redding and Elvie Ancheta the new Administrator in Lancaster. The Homes continue to do very well with the Surveys. With the exception of Yountville, all homes are 4 stars and some are 5.
- Electronic Health Record project is going really well with Phase 4 beginning soon to narrow down the Vender of choice.
- The Department is in the process of converting the transitional housing program in West LA back into a Skilled Nursing Facility.
- The automated medical dispensary unit project continues to run smoothly. It has been implemented in a couple homes and is still going well.
- The Department will undertake three projects out at Yountville in the next year or two with USDVA grants and priority given to the projects.
- Services: Deputy Secretary, Keith Boylan joined Governor Brown down south recently to visit the new Cemetery site.
- The Leadership Summit was a big success and the next smaller event is already in the planning stage.

- Rick Reyes, Deputy Secretary for Underrepresented Veterans has been working with the Native American initiatives in the Governors' office and will be involved in the upcoming Native American day.
- The department continues its efforts to draft regulations regarding California's acceptance of medical cannabis. The process has proven to be rather complicated by the conflicting federal regulations and federal funding.
- CalTAPP was a hot topic at the leadership summit. All positions have been filled and the curriculum is in the design process.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **Strategic Plan and Objectives**

#### **Action Items:**

#### **1. Hugh Crooks: Communication and Marketing**

No report at this time.

#### **2. Carla Thornton: Services**

Member Thornton reported on the success of the recent Leadership Summit. She provided a suggestion that CalTAPP focus on demographic areas that are underserved. She also reported a recent challenge to (CSAAVE) in that if certificate programs cannot show employment data, CSAAVE will no longer be able to certify them for student veteran services.

#### **3. Todd Trotter: Administration**

No report at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Allied Council Meetings:** There were no new updates.

## **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board met in closed session to deliberate and decide on the two Review of Record appeals brought before them. Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Crooks, Member Trotter, Member Thornton were present and Member Gonzalez participated via teleconference. Executive Officer Lassiter, Chief Counsel Matthew Dana and Staff Counsel Megan Elsea (Counsel for the Board) were also present.

Racquel Martinez: After deliberating, Votes were taken by roll call and the board voted unanimously to uphold the Department's decision to deny the Appellant the College Tuition Fee Waiver benefit because Ms. Martinez's income exceeded the poverty threshold making her not eligible for the Tuition Fee Waiver benefit. (California Education Code §66025.3).

Lorraine Perales: After deliberating, Votes were taken by roll call and the board voted unanimously to uphold Ms. Perales' appeal to receive the Tuition Fee Waiver benefit. Ms. Perales' allowance from AmeriCorps should not be considered income in determining her eligibility for the Tuition Fee Waiver benefit. The National Community Service Act that governs the AmeriCorps program states that such allowances "shall not be considered to be income for the purposes of determining eligibility for ... aid furnished under any

Federal or federally assisted program based on need.” (42 USC §12637, subd. (d).) Thus, Ms. Perales’ income without the AmeriCorps allowance placed her within the eligibility range for the waiver.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Policies & Procedure review:**

California Veterans Board Procedures:

Procedure #1: Conduct of Meetings: No revisions

Procedure #2: Board Agenda: No revisions

Procedure #3: Board meeting publicity: No revisions

Procedure #7: Election of the Chair and Vice Chair (carried over from last meeting): #1 will read, “.....The Chair would be elected at the first meeting of the year in odd years; the Vice Chair would be elected at the first meeting of the year in even years.....”.

Procedure #8: Schedule of meetings: #3 will read, “The Board should conduct meetings at a Veterans Home whenever feasible”.

Procedure #9: Board Quorum: No revisions

Vice Chair Crooks moved to approve the revisions to the Board Administrative Book and Member Trotter seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

### **Appeals:**

No new appeals.

### **Complaints:**

Executive Officer Lassiter reported that there were two complaints dealing with home loans that were both satisfied promptly by the Farm & Home division. (Attachment)

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Member Thornton suggested that the Board try to have meetings at other organizations such as Community Colleges and Universities.

As of June 1, 2017, Todd Trotter will take over as Chair of the Board.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45**

**ATTACHMENT**

# CAL\*»VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

## **MORALE, WELFARE, & RECREATION (MWR) PROGRAM**

May 17, 2017

Presented by Dave Thielker

## **Ag da**

- **What is MWR?**
- **Funding & Allocations**
- **Regulations**
- **Questions/Comments**

# What is MWR?

- What are some of the attributes of MWR?
  - The MWR program is a collection of activities, celebrations, events, and engagement to promote the physical and mental well-being of the resident community in each Home.
  - These activities are intended to enrich the quality of life of the residents, and may be used to fund physical and recreational activities, social engagements and celebrations for the community's benefit, and to meet the spiritual needs of the Home's residents.
  - The Home's Allied Council represents the interests of the community in the Home and advises the Administrator of the community's preferred areas of participation.
  - The Allied Council consults with the Administrator in the planning for the Home's unique MWR program. (MWR Advisory Committee)

*Programs that provide for the physical, cultural, and social needs and well-being of the residents*

# Funding & Allocations

## What funds MWR?

- The unreimbursed cost of care (URCC) for residents collected from the estates of deceased residents in the Veterans Home Community.
- These URCCs are collected in the MWR Special Fund, a continuously appropriated fund in the State Treasury.
- The Administrator of each Home has a MWR Operating Fund to administer the quality of life activities for the general welfare of the resident community.
- The Department now determines the annual allocation for each Home based on their relative share of the population to the Veterans Home Community as a whole.
- This allocation will be disbursed from the MWR Special Fund to each Home's Operating Fund.

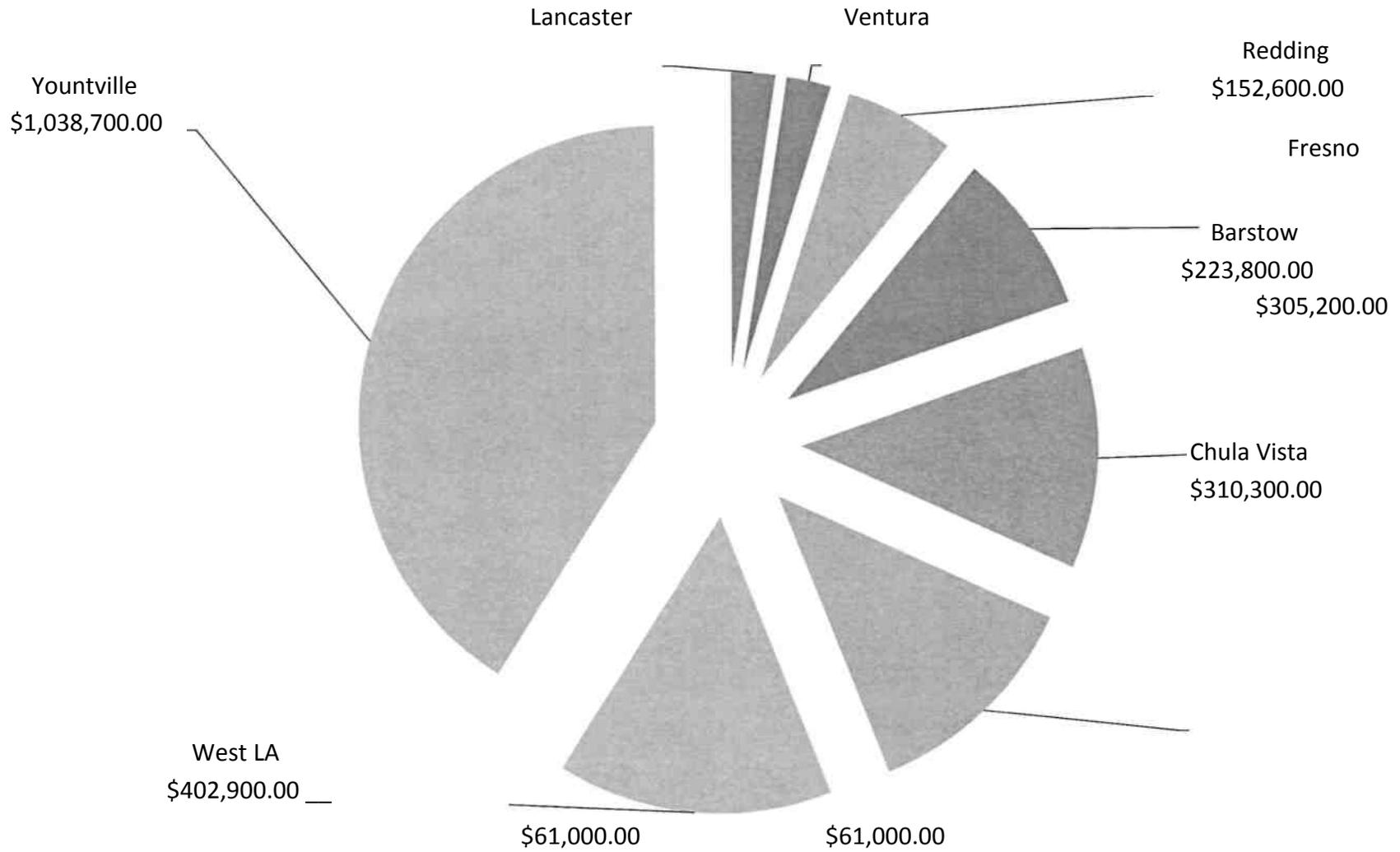
*Sustainability, Transparency, and Proportionate Disbursement, year after year*

# Funding & Allocations

Home	% Residents relative to VHC	Average Revenues from last 3 Years	Average Expenditures from last 3 Years	FY 17-18 Allocations*
Lancaster	(60) 2.39%	\$ 55,560.55	\$ 9,557.10	\$ * <b>61,000.00</b>
Ventura	(60) 2.39%	\$ 24,861.48	\$ 21,544.66	\$ <b>61,000.00</b>
Redding	(150)5.97%	\$ 61,439.13	\$ 25,487.91	\$ <b>152,600.00</b>
Barstow	(220) 8.76%	\$ 196,960.03	\$ 149,703.31	\$ <b>223,800.00</b>
Fresno	(300) 11.94%	\$ 50,538.79	\$ 17,135.88	\$ <b>305,200.00</b>
Chula Vista	(305) 12.14%	\$ 527,083.61	\$ 347,306.12	\$ <b>310,300.00</b>
West LA	(396)15.76%	\$ 40,363.02	\$ 21,764.66	\$ <b>402,900.00</b>
Yountville	(1021) 40.64%	\$ 1,598,917.59	\$ 1,504,102.03	\$ <b>1,038,700.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2512) 100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 2,555,724.21</b>	<b>\$ 2,096,601.66</b>	<b>\$ 2,555,500.00</b>

**\* (Average Revenue from last 3 FYx Home's Population % = Annual \$ Allocation)**

# Funding & Allocations



**This amount shall be disbursed proportionately by each home's relative share of the total population of the entire veterans' home system.**

# Regulations

- What does it mean for the community?
  - Regulations set a level playing field for all Homes, codify some of the "how to" procedures, and create processes for transparent administration and resident involvement. Some examples include:
    - Administration of MWR Special Fund & MWR Operating Fund
    - Annual budget submission process & process for the receipt of allocations
- What will future involvement will look like?
  - The department will consult with the MWR Advisory Committees on Regulations throughout the year. This involvement will be inclusive of the resident community in the Homes.

*Regulations will create identical policies **and** procedures in MWR for the entire community*

# Questions/Comments

DRAFT