



# CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Meeting Minutes #731

April 14, 2011



**Tom Moran, Chair**  
**Thomas Richards, Vice Chair**  
**Vernon Chong, Board Member**

**Donna L. Dacier, Board Member**  
**Derek McGinnis, Board Member**

The California Veterans Board met at the Yountville Veterans Home in Yountville, CA at 9:00 AM.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present: Tom Moran, Chair, Thomas Richards, Vice Chair, Vernon Chong, Member, Donna Dacier, Member, Derek McGinnis, Member  
Chairman Moran presided.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Moran welcomed the group in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting. The Chair then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and give a little of their background. He then introduced the Acting Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Rocky Chavez.

Secretary Chavez welcomed the group and introduced the Department staff, Acting Undersecretary Jack Kirwan, Deputy Secretary Veterans Homes Stan Opegard, Deputy Secretary Communications J.P. Tremblay, Deputy Secretary Legal Affairs Rob Wilson, Hospital Administrator Marcella McCormack.

## **MINUTES**

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 Board minutes.

Member Chong moved to approve the minutes. Member Richards seconded.

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ed Warren spoke on behalf of the Allied Council on the Leaves and Passes Policy, and a request for public review requirements for any major rule/policy changes.

Board Member Richards moved to include on the next Board meeting agenda, a discussion of Board responsibilities on policy making issues relative to the Military and Veterans Codes.

Member Dacier seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Policy C-10 Revision**

The Policy and Procedures Committee introduced a revision to the Admission of Veterans and Veterans' Spouses policy to address the new homes that do not have independent living facilities.

Member Richards moved to approve the Policy with the removal of Item 5, and Member McGinnis moved to second the motion. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

## **DEPARTMENT FORUM**

### **A. Budget**

Acting Undersecretary Jack Kirwan reported on the 2011-2012 State Budget process which proposed a \$9.9 million dollar cut targeted primarily at outreach services for Veterans. The Department expressed a concern to the Governor's Office and an alternative was proposed of \$7.6 million.

### **B. Homeless Veterans Update**

The Federal government has developed a 5 year plan to address the issue of homeless veterans. Mr. Tremblay reported that the Department is partnering with federal, local and non-profit veterans organizations to address the issue in California.

### **C. Homes Update**

Stan Oppegard reported that the Department will be hiring a full time Veterans claim representative to speak with all of the Home residents to ensure they are getting all of the benefits they are entitled to. He also noted that the application process to apply for residence at the Homes is being simplified. The Redding and Fresno Homes are forty percent complete and administrators have been hired. A special outreach program has been launched at Lancaster to recruit new residents.

### **D. Status on Juan Nelmda and Timothy Taylor Appeal – Rob Wilson**

Mr. Wilson advised that the Administrative Law Office has been contacted to request scheduling for the two appeals to be heard.

### **E. Significant Matters**

There were no legal issues to report for this meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Communications:** Member Dacier reported that on April 13, she and Tom Richards met with members of the Allied Council's Communication Committee to review and advise them on the Two Year Strategic Plan for KVET, and a web portal between Homes.

**Legislation:** Tom Richards distributed copies of the California State Commanders Veterans Council's Legislative Report and gave an overview of pending legislation important to Veterans.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:45 AM.**