



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Meeting Minutes #733

August 18, 2011



Tom Moran, Chair
Thomas Richards, Vice Chair

Donna L. Dacier, Board Member
Vernon Chong, Board Member

The California Veterans Board met by video conference between the Barstow Veterans Home, Chula Vista Veterans Home and the California Department of Veterans Affairs in Sacramento at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

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 new Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs, Peter Gravett.

Secretary Gravett introduced the Department staff, the new Deputy Secretary for Veterans Services Trevor Albertson, Undersecretary Homes Robin Umberg, Assistant Deputy Secretary Lynn Scott, Vasilios Spyridakis, Legal Counsel

MINUTES

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the June 16, 2011 Board minutes.

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

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Warren, Yountville Allied Council, requested the agenda item from the June meeting on "The Discussion of Board responsibilities of policy making issues relative to the Military and Veterans Codes" be added to the October agenda as the discussion on that item was not concluded during the June meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT FORUM

A. Veterans Employment Update

Deputy Albertson briefed the Board on the latest efforts to overcome the stigmas associated with hiring Vets, and working with employers to create opportunities to re-tool Veterans and re-engage them in employment. They are also concerned about returning Vets being re-integrated into the training pipeline utilizing the 911 G.I. Bill.

B. Homes Update

Robin Umberg updated the Board on:

- the census of the Homes, and exploring opportunities to utilize the rooms for students
- moving forward to synchronize the pharmacy program
- the six month delay of the Fresno and Redding Homes resulting in an opening date of January 2013
- the need for a medical marijuana policy
- a resident benefit package for discussion at the next meeting

NEW BUSINESS

A. Receive Appeal for:

Andrew Genninger – Re-Admission Denial
Gerald Carter – Student Waiver

B. Review of Board Policies

C-2 – Disqualifying Conditions for Admission to the Veterans Homes

The language regarding the admission of applicants with criminal histories was discussed, and will be revised for better clarification. Legal Counsel will review, and a draft of C-2 will be presented at the October meeting for final approval. Also, “waiting for State statute” will be removed.

C-7 – Land Use

The Board made note that as stated in C-7, any plans for usage of the Homes or land, needs prior Board approval. The Policy Committee will add language to allow exceptions to avoid delays in negotiations or decisions. A draft will be presented for approval at the October meeting.

C-11 – Inter Facility Transfer Policy

Dr. Chong, recommended the language under 3(a) be revised, and it was agreed that this policy would be further reviewed, and tabled until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – N/A

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Member Richards reported that the recent San Diego Commander's Council meeting was very successful, and Secretary Gravett attended. He will circulate the legislative reports from the meeting. Deputy Secretary Veterans Services Trevor Albertson will attend the next Council meeting.

Member Richards requested an agenda item be added to next month's meeting of a discussion on how the Board can support and assist the Department.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:20 AM.