

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Meeting Minutes #737

June 14, 2012

Tom Moran, Chair
Thomas Richards, Vice Chair
Alexander Tsao, Board Member
Charlene Taylor, Member

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

The California Veterans Board met in Sacramento at the Department of Veterans Affairs at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Moran, Chair, Vernon Chong, Vice Chair, Member, Donna Dacier, Member, Charlene Taylor, Member, John Farrell, 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. He introduced our new Board Member, Charlene Taylor. The Chair then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and give a little of their background.

Secretary Peter Gravett introduced the Department staff, Undersecretary Lawrence Gonzales, Undersecretary Homes Robin Umberg, Deputy Secretary Administration Mark Lennon, Deputy Secretary Homes Jim Lowrey, Deputy Secretary Women Veterans Lindsey Wathen, Deputy Secretary Minority Veterans Affairs Lee Guterrez, Acting Chief Counsel Denise Lewis, Deputy Secretary Communications J.P. Tremblay, Legislation Phil McAllister

MINUTES

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the March 15, 2012 Board minutes.

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

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT FORUM

Department Update

A. Report from Secretary Gravett

The Secretary updated the Board on the Interagency Council's progress on combining their resources and knowledge for housing, education, health care, and jobs. They are currently putting together a plan on how to track and measure their efforts, which will be published soon. He advised that the meetings are being held in other parts of the State to allow everyone to participate. A meeting was just held in Ventura, Los Angeles, Cal Poly, and at the Home in Chula Vista.

B. Minority Veterans Report

Lee Guiterrez, in addition to being the Minority Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary, will also be the Acting Deputy Secretary for Veterans Services. He advised the Board he had developed a plan to work with Veterans outreach groups to change their mindset to one of being a social organization to one of working with their communities. Mr. Guiterrez is also encouraging these organizations to participate in the Interagency Council. He has worked with various splinter groups to join together to create a United Veterans Coalition in San Diego that will meet monthly, and is working to create coalitions in Los Angeles and San Francisco..

C. Homes Update

Robin Umberg reported that the five primary objectives for the Homes are:

1. Provide the highest quality of care.
2. Increase our budgeted capacity, and increase the utilization of our Homes unbudgeted space.
3. Decrease the dependence on the General Fund by 7% every year for three years.
4. Create fiscal and operational efficiencies. Robin distributed a new Financial Focus newsletter in keeping with this goal.
5. Create a CalVet long term care business infrastructure.

Chula Vista:

- The food service conversion to civil service is complete.
- Expansion for the Dom's is being explored because that is where the greater need exists.

Lancaster

- The F-100 replica of "Pete" Knight's plane will be delivered in the next few months via Marine airlift.
- The Home has been included in a statewide proposal as a site for the use of alternative energy sources (solar panels).
- The food service conversion is still in progress.

Ventura

- The food service conversion was completed June 1.
- The Home is developing a contract with Oxnard Family Circle for ADHC community partnership who will offer no cost services to Veterans

West Los Angeles

- Now at full capacity
- Awaiting CDPH licensing visit
- 30 beds will be memory care
- A vendor for the food services has been approved
- Expansion of the kitchen is being evaluated

Redding/Fresno

- The Redding Home has 150 beds and Fresno has 300
- There are currently 850 letters of interest
- Letters of interest are followed up with phone calls to offer temporary residence at other homes until the opening
- Skeleton crews are in place at both homes

D. Farm and Home – CalVet Loan Funding

Jim Lowrey announced that the interest rate has been reduced to 4.6% on QMB and 4.95 for QVMB. In February \$220M in bonds were sold, and we saved over \$20M. The life and disability insurance with Standard Insurance Company is being reviewed, and rates are being negotiated for an all voluntary life insurance program. The Department sustained thirty-four claim losses in the month of April, and twenty-seven in May. CalVet remains an active participant in the Keep Your Home California Program established by CalHFA. CalVet has received \$1,787,885 as of May 31, 2012. Projected savings to the CalVet Home Loan program could reach \$15.3M and allow 204 Veterans and their families to remain in their homes.

E. Executive Staff Reports

Lindsey Wather announced that the next Women's Conference would be held in Sacramento on October 4th.

NEW BUSINESS

A. AB 2548 (Mitchell)

The Board discussed their reasons for opposition to the Bill which revises the composition of the Board to replace a current member requiring someone with a background in women veterans issues. The Board sent a letter of opposition to the author of the Bill. Deputy Secretary Tremblay will arrange a meeting with Assemblywoman Mitchell and the Board to discuss an amendment to the Bill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:00 NOON.