



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Meeting Minutes #740

June 20, 2013



Alexander Tsao, Chair
John Farrell, Board Member

Donna L. Dacier, Board Member
Charlene Taylor, Member

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Alexander Tsao, Chair, Donna Dacier, Member, Charlene Taylor, Member, John Farrell, Member

Chairman Tsao presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Tsao welcomed the group in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting. He then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and give a little of their background.

Department staff, Secretary Peter Gravett, Undersecretary Michael Wells, Chief Financial Officer Pounh Simpson, Assistant Deputy Homes Lynn Scott, Deputy Secretary Veterans Services Keith Boylan, Chief Counsel Todd Irby, and Eric Tiche

MINUTES

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the December 13, 2012 Board minutes.

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

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Warren, Yountville Allied Council, would like the Department to consider adding more private rooms.

Jac Warren, Yountville resident, presented a resolution requesting the Department to sign a copy right infringement contract for \$10,000 to allow KVET to broadcast movies to all of the Homes.

OLD BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT FORUM

Department Update

A. Department Audit/Homes

Lynn Scott reported that the audit was very positive regarding the work that the Homes has been doing. The updated Strategic Plan will incorporate all of the recommendations of the audit. Due to the opening of the Fresno and Redding Homes in the Fall, we will be hiring approximately one thousand new civil service employees. The implementation of switching to an electronic health record system has been completed at Barstow, Chula Vista, Lancaster, Ventura and W. Los Angeles. Later this year, we will begin implementing the system at Yountville, Redding and Fresno.

B. Veterans Services

Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary Veterans Services introduced himself and gave a little of his background. He was newly appointed in February.

He reported that he met with the County Veterans Services Officers to determine best practices to create uniformity in the offices, and produced a draft manual, which is currently being reviewed by the Governor's Office.

The newly signed budget includes additional money for Veterans services, including \$3M to fund 36 positions throughout the State, 12 in each regional office to work on the disability claims backlog.

A consultant has been contracted to work on CalVet Connect, projecting to have it on line 2/14. CalVet Connect is a portal that connects all data bases with vet contact information.

C. Farm and Home

Eric Tiche announced that the rate for home loans has been lowered to a very competitive 2.9%, and we now have a AA rating. Our programs have allowed over 300 Veterans facing foreclosure to remain in their homes. In conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, groundbreaking has begun in Sylmar for twelve homes for low income Veterans, and in Santa Clarita for 3-4 homes.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Privatization of Veterans Homes Operations

Chair Tsao raised the issue of investigating the privatization of several of the Homes. Pounh Simpson responded that it would impact the level of care ratio, and that the Texas homes that have been privatized are currently in the red.

B. Delegation of Chair and Vice Chair Positions

Alex Tsao, as Acting Chair called for a vote to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair due to the vacancies left by Members Moran and Chong.

Member Farrell nominated Alex Tsao for the Chair position, and Member Taylor seconded.

Member Tsao nominated Charlene Taylor for Vice Chair, and Member Dacier seconded.

C. Designation of Committee Positions

With the departure of Tom Moran and Vernon Chong, vacancies were left on the Policy and Procedures, Administrative, and Communications Committees. To fill these, Donna Dacier and Charlene Taylor were appointed to the Policy and Procedures Committee, with Member Dacier as Chair; Charlene Taylor and Donna Dacier were appointed to the Administrative Committee, with Member Taylor as Chair; and Alex Tsao was appointed to the Communications Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:00 NOON.