



## **CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes #734  
October 20, 2011**



**Tom Moran, Chair  
Thomas Richards, Vice Chair  
Alexander Tsao**

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

The California Veterans Board met by video conference between the Barstow Veterans Home, Chula Vista Veterans Home, West Los Angeles Home, Yountville 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, Alexander Tsao, 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. The Chair then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and give a little of their background. Chair Moran announced the appointment of two new Board Members, Alexander Tsao and John Farrell. Member Tsao attended the meeting via video conference from West Los Angeles, and Member Farrell attended in Sacramento.

Secretary Gravett introduced the Department staff, Undersecretary Homes Robin Umberg, Chief Counsel Robert Wilson, Deputy Secretary Communications JP Tremblay, Deputy Director Farm and Homes Jim Lowrey, Assistant Deputy Secretary Lynn Scott

### **MINUTES**

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the minutes of the August 18, 2011 Board minutes.  
Member Chong moved to approve the minutes. Member Richards seconded.  
Motion unanimously approved and carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **A) Policy Review**

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

The language regarding the admission of applicants with criminal histories was revised for better clarification.

Member Richards made a motion to approve the revision. Member Dacier seconded.

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

#### C-7 – Land Use

The Policy Committee added language to allow exceptions to avoid delays in negotiations or decisions in notifying the Board of plans for usage of the Homes or land.

Member Richards made a motion to approve the revision. Member Dacier seconded.

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

#### C-11 – Inter Facility Transfer Policy

The language under 3(a) was revised to update the policy.

Member Richards made a motion to approve the revision. Member Dacier seconded.

Motion unanimously approved and carried.

### **B) Discussion of Board Responsibilities on Policy Making Issues**

Ed Warren, Yountville Allied Council, discussed the desire by the Council and residents to have earlier notice of policy changes and the ability to provide input regarding the changes.

## **DEPARTMENT FORUM**

### **A. Veterans Services Update**

Craig Osborn briefed the Board on the latest efforts of the Veterans Services Division:

- a. purchasing of license plates is now on line and has increased sales 20%
- b. new Veterans plate will be available next year
- c. contracting with the CVSO's to do the Vet Academy
- d. Craig participated in the development of the curriculum for the Police Officer Standard Training that covers dealing with Veterans

### **B. Homes Update**

Robin Umberg updated the Board on:

- a. the enterprise-wide computer system set to be implemented in February
- b. the latest census of the Homes
- c. the transition from private food service to civil service food service
- d. review of pharmacy sharing of medical services

- e. West Los Angeles licensing and hiring process has begun
- f. training in CIGMA 6 focusing on productivity and the billing process

**C. Farm and Home Report**

Jim Lowrey provided a Powerpoint handout for an overview of the Farm and Home activities for the last quarter.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion on How the Board can Support and Assist the Department**

This item was tabled for a future meeting due to a lack of time.

**B. Board Legal Counsel**

Chief Legal Council Wilson advised the Board that the Administrative Law Judge had rendered a decision in the appeal of Timothy Taylor. The decision will be forwarded to the Board for review, and voted on at the December meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Dr. Chong reported that the Policy and Procedures Committee has completed its review of the Board policies, with no new policies being adopted.

Member Richards will send out a list of bills passed and bills vetoed for the session just ending. He requested that 2012 Veterans Legislation be placed on the December agenda for discussion.

Member Dacier reported that she will be resuming her communications with the Yountville residents to assist them with their project.

**COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS**

Member Dacier reported on the success of the recent Women's Veterans Conference which she recently attended.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:00 NOON.**