

CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD

Meeting Minutes #738

October 26, 2012

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 at the Yountville Veterans Home in Yountville at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tom Moran, Chair, Vernon Chong, Vice Chair, 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. He then asked the Board Members to introduce themselves and give a little of their background.

UnderSecretary Lawrence Gonzales introduced the Department staff, Deputy Secretary Homes Jim Lowrey, Deputy Secretary Minority Veterans Affairs Lee Guterrez, Chief Counsel Tod Irby, Legislation Phil McAllister

MINUTES

Executive Officer, Bonnie Kelly

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the minutes of the June 14, 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. Interagency Council

Undersecretary Gonzales reported that an Executive Officer has been hired for the Council. An update on the Council's progress is currently being written for publication.

B. Veterans Services

Lee Guterrez announced that there will be a Veterans Resource Fair at DQ University near Davis on November 10th.

Plans are being explored to expand a Veterans program in El Cajon for alcohol and substance abuse issues by utilizing a vacant hospital. Interfaith Services will operate the program.

Mr. Guterrez and the Secretary attended the recent County Veterans Services Officers (CVSO) conference and met with them afterwards to discuss legislature format reporting concerns to address better formatting to show better visibility and productivity of the CVSO and the Department's activities.

The Department has been looking at the success of Texas in reducing the backlog of claims in the system, and recently had a conversation with their Director and Operations staff to discuss the issue. The Department is working with USDVA to create a plan to assist with completing these claims in a timely manner.

Mr. Guterrez is working on increasing the collaborative efforts between federal and state to work together on programs on the issue of the increasing number of Veteran suicides. He is working with the Rand Corporation to publish a policy or research paper to draw attention from the legislators to the problem.

The Department is working with Home Depot, who has offered \$5,000 grants to disabled Veterans to repair their homes. Wells Fargo has a surplus of repossessed homes that need repair and they are willing to donate to Veterans who meet certain qualifications. The Veteran can then use the \$5,000 gift card to make the repairs.

C. Homes Update

- CalVet purchased and is planning to install an automated medication dispensing system, which will increase resident safety by reducing medical errors, reduce costs by reducing medication waste and improve staff efficiency.
- The new Enterprise Wide Veterans Homes Information System health record has now been implemented in Barstow, W. Los Angeles, Lancaster and Venture.

Chula Vista:

-Plans are moving ahead to make Chula Vista the center for the Southern California regional pharmacy to eventually support Barstow, Lancaster, Ventura and West Los Angeles. The Home is installing the software to support the regional pharmacy.

-Chula Vista continues to maintain census above budgeted capacity.

-The Home continues to be rated a CMS "Five-Star" facility.

Lancaster

-Thelma Burt, Sales Merchandise Manager for Edwards Air Force Base, has extended a monthly gratuitous privilege for the Lancaster residents to visit their duty-free exchange.

Yountville

-The bowling alley is scheduled for completion 11/12/12. On 8/1/12, the Tavern (social center) opened. On 9/1/12, the short-order-style cook Café is now open. Cirque del Sol will perform 7/10-23/12 at the Lincoln Theatre.

Barstow

-A wander-elopement system is near completion.

-The new Energy Management System will result in better cooling and heating and reduce future costs.

-The TeleHealth program has been installed at no expense to the State. It's function is for vets to reschedule appointments, read lab reports, etc. for USDVA system.

Ventura

-A plan is in place for successful transfers of residents in need of WLA SNF.

West Los Angeles

-First ten residents to memory care admitted 10/22/12.

-Department of General Services has proposed funding figures for the SNF kitchen to expand the licensure.

-Resident Fran LeMountain is assisting with coordinating video- taped Veterans Oral History Project. The Project was approved by Congress in AD 2000 to collect first person interviews of veterans of military wars. The tapings are submitted ongoing to the Reagan Library and the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center in Washington, D.C.

Redding/Fresno

-The Hiring authority for the new homes has been provided to begin hiring in Spring 2013. The first RCFE residents are scheduled to be admitted in the Fall of 2013. As of 10/19/12, we have 566 statements of intent to apply for residence in Redding and 326 statements for Fresno.

-Job Fair and recruitment efforts are in planning for events scheduled to be held in January 2013.

D. Farm and Home – CalVet Loan Funding

Jim Lowrey announced that the financial statements have been completed. The Department lost \$1.7 Million over the last year, but our asset to liability ratio went up from 1.104 to 1.26. This will maintain our AA rating.

CalVet funded five loans in June 2012 totaling \$311 thousand, as compared to four loans in May 2012 for \$500 thousand. Over the 2010-11 FY, we funded 156 loans for \$19 million.

CalVet's delinquency rate as of 6/30/11, was slightly below FHA, and above VA as follows: CalVet 6.84%, FHA 7.44% and VA 4.70%. CalVet's foreclosure inventory was significantly lower than FHA and VA's as follows: CalVet 0.89%, FHA 1.96%, and VA 1.32%.

A tentative agreement has been reached with Standard Insurance Company to renew our life insurance policy contract, with a guaranteed rate for two years through 1/31/15. As of 2/1/13, the current mandatory life insurance requirement will cease and become optional for all new loan contracts. Current loan holders will have three opportunities to opt-out of the program over the two year renewal period.

CalVet remains an active participant in the Keep Your Home California program. Since the inception in March 2011, CalVet has received \$3,882,457.76 as of 8/31/12. Projected savings to the CalVet Home Loan Program could reach \$15.4 million and allow 252 veterans and their families to remain in their homes.

Our Department has put together an agreement with Habitat of Humanity to build 110 homes in Sylamar and Santa Clarita for Veterans villages.

E. Executive Staff Reports

Phil McAllister reviewed the list of

NEW BUSINESS

A. KVET Presentation

Jac Warren gave an overview of KVET, a closed circuit television station established in the early 1990's to serve the Yountville Home. In November 2010, the supervision of the project was transferred to the Allied Council. They are currently able to broadcast live productions, and are proposing a media network connecting all of the Homes, with KVET as the hub of that Network.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Committee Discussion on Proposed Legislation

The Board discussed drafting legislation to amend Section 66.5 of the Military and Veteran's Code to eliminate all, or some of the prescriptive requirements for

appointment to the Board. At the December 13 meeting, the Board will propose and draft an amendment for the Department's Legislative Division to finalize and move forward.

COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:00 NOON.