

CalVet DVBE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 16, 2015 Meeting

Date: April 16, 2015

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Medal of Honor Hall CalVet HQ

Attendees

Council Members Attending:

Brian Campbell, Coreena Conley, Leslie Converse, Rene Cota, Dave Dickey, Ted Fuentes, Don Gonnevill, Carolyn Hall, Howard Hernandez, Richard Judd, Marty Keller, Levi Kinnard, Dean Lane, Robert Morrow, Bob Mulz, Jim Robinson, Mike Sabellico, Sandy Schneeberger, Eric Almquist (Alternate for William Schroyer), David Scott and Robert Vermillion.

Council Members Absent:

Jack Jernigan*, Kelly Moskalik
Notified CalVet by phone prior to meeting*

CalVet:

Keith Boylan, Angela Yamamoto, Robert Beamer, Gloria Anderson and Stewart MacKenzie.

DGS: Angel Carrera, Susan Sudmann and Tanya Little.

Guests: Rick Fowler, Nina Martinez, Lori Okamoto, Wade Teasdale and Renee Vermillion.

Welcome, introductions and approval of January 29, 2015, meeting minutes.

Council Co-chair DVBE, Sandy Schneeberger opened the meeting and asked Council member Dave Dickey to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked Council members, CalVet and DGS staff and guests to introduce themselves. Ms. Schneeberger asked Council Members to review the minutes for the January 29, 2015, meeting and asked for a motion to approve. Rene Cota motioned for approval of the minutes, Michael Sabellico, seconded. The Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2015, meeting.

Business Items

CalVet Overview – Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veteran Services Division (VSD)

- Deputy Secretary Boylan commented that it was great to see a full room and he appreciates everyone's efforts to move the council forward.
- Mr. Boylan mentioned that on March 13, 2015, he attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery in Seaside, California, and how beautiful the location is. The site covers more than 78 acres on the former Fort Ord Army post. In February 2015, Phase I initial construction began and will include the construction of the main entrance, roads, an assembly area, a committal shelter, columbaria, 5,000 columbarium niches, landscaping, a memorial walkway, and supporting infrastructure for 17 acres. Phase I has an anticipated completion date of July 2016.

CalVet DVBE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DGS Update – Angel Carrera, Chief, Certification and Outreach Branch

Mr. Carrera updated the Council on the status of the Small Business/DVBE study that the Department of General Services (DGS) has commissioned Sacramento State to conduct. The report has been delayed for the next two or three months to conduct some more research and analysis on some portions of the study. He also mentioned the Sac State study that was conducted in 2009 that contained good information on the benefits of the Small Business/DVBE programs.

Advocates Update – Bob Beamer, DVBE Outreach Coordinator, CalVet

From our surveys, State Agency Advocates have told us they want an Advocate certification process. To that end CalVet and DGS have developed an Advocates Bootcamp. The training will be one full day with the morning session conducted by current State advocates and the afternoon session conducted by CalPCA (Procurement and Contracting Academy) staff. After the one day Bootcamp Advocates will be required to take a few courses by webinar and after successful completion will be awarded their Certified Advocate's certificate.

Debbie Endsley – CalVet Acting Secretary

Secretary Endsley told the Council she has thirteen years of experience at the California Department of Rehabilitation and is very supportive of the DVBE program. She mentioned her background in human resources, budgeting and contracts. The Governor's office called her out of retirement to see if she could improve some of the programs at CalVet. She said the Veteran's Services Division is not an area that needs her attention with the great job Keith Boylan is doing. One of her goals is to develop a Service Center for veterans that come to CalVet for answers. Her vision is to have all resources available here; whether it is Federal, state, county or community. She projects the Service Center will be up and running in approximately six months.

Tanya Little – Business Development Program Manager, DGS

Ms. Little has attended numerous Advocates Steering Committee meetings and commented on what a great job Bob Beamer (CalVet) and Michael Aguilio (DGS) are doing with that group. She said she has two active outreach activities going on now; one is with the National Association of State Procurement Officers to see if California is number one in providing services to small businesses relative to what other states are doing and the second is looking at California's subject matter experts on construction contracts. There has been some conversation about gaps in the number of available DVBEs for some types of construction contracts and she is exploring remedies. She will be convening a collaborative summit on June 9, 2015, to look at this issue in more detail.

CalVet Legislative Overview – J.P. Trembley, Deputy Secretary, Legislation and Government Relations

Mr. Trembley said that he is currently tracking about 80 bills in the Legislature and has spoken with the Advisory Council's Legislative Committee Chairman, Marty Keller, about the three bills and the resolution the Council committee is tracking. Mr. Trembley said he would follow those bills more closely himself. At this point in time the department has no formal position on any bill and probably won't for another month or so. Mr. Trembley mentioned that it is helpful for him when the Council takes a position on a bill because it committing CalVet.

CalVet DVBE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

CalVet Capital Outlay – Angela Yamamoto, Chief of Operations, VSD (in place of Dave Gerard)

Ms. Yamamoto reported that a total of 2.6 million dollars will be available in July 2015, for maintenance at the CalVet Veterans Homes in Barstow, Chula Vista and Yountville, only. She recommended that any interested parties contact the Plant Operations Chiefs at each home for more information. Their general contact information is available on the CalVet website.

Council Strategic Plan Discussion – Angela Yamamoto, Chief of Operations, VSD

Ms. Yamamoto said that CalVet took into consideration the suggestions that were submitted by Council members for a Council Mission Statement. She asked Council Members to review the suggestions in their folder and the distilled Mission Statement at the bottom of the page. She said the Mission Statement is overarching and once the Council decides on the Mission Statement the Committees can be much more specific when aligning their goals with that Mission. She asked if there were any comments or need for discussion on the proposed Mission Statement. There were none, so she explained that Committees, while aligning with the Council's Mission Statement, can now have much more focus in defining their objectives and goals to collectively achieve the Mission. Rene Cota said he would like the business community to be included in the Mission Statement. A lively discussion ensued and it was decided the final version of the Mission Statement would read: "To provide California's DVBE community a united voice to the State and business community, ensuring veterans can equitably and effectively access state contracting opportunities."

Committee Reports – Committee Chair (unless otherwise noted)

CPUC Committee – Rene Cota

Mr. Cota said that the Committee plans on talking to groups under the CPUC's oversight that have exceeded the DVBE goal and highlight their accomplishments to develop a best practices model to use as a teaching tool to help those groups that specifically have done very little spend with DVBEs. Mr. Cota mentioned Southern California Edison as an example of a utility that is doing all the right things in their use of DVBEs. Member Mike Sabellico commented that at the last CPUC En Banc the Alliance and the Elite sent very different messages. He said he was responsible for the lack of clarity in the message to the CPUC and wanted an open dialogue with the Elite so the two groups can speak with one voice. Kevin O'Connor asked to whom do the Utilities report their spend? Bob Beamer said it goes to the Legislature and Mr. Boylan asked Mr. Beamer to find out who that person is in the legislature.

Action Item: A united message from both the Elite and the Alliance at the next CPUC En Banc.

Action Item: Set a meeting with the new CPUC President, Michael Picker.

Action Item: At Mr. Boylan's request, Bob Beamer will find out who the person is in the Legislature the Utilities report their DVBE spend to.

Action Item: The Committee will develop Goal(s) that align with the newly adopted Council Mission Statement and present them to the Council at the July 16, 2015, meeting.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

CalVet DVBE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DGS FI\$Cal Update – Susan Sudmann, FI\$Cal Project Team

Ms. Sudmann updated the Council on the status of the FI\$Cal rollout. FI\$CAL is coming to all agencies in a multi-year phase-in for the purpose of all: accounting functions, budgeting projections and proposals, procurement, and cash management. All training related to functionality of the new system will be online. Off-the-shelf software will be implemented in the project. It will be released in waves and each wave adds more functionality. All current DVBE functions will be available in FI\$Cal and DVBEs will retain their current certification number. All DVBEs want to know if they are going to be used as a subcontractor on a project, she said that when FISCAL is fully implemented in July 2017, a DVBE identified on an Agency contract can find that information on FI\$Cal. Also mentioned was that all DVBEs and small businesses need to update their profiles in the eProcurement system prior to data being moved into the FI\$Cal database. She said the last day to move profile information would be June 15, 2015. Details about the FI\$Cal rollout can be found at: fiscal.cmo@ca.gov

Wade Teasdale, Chief Consultant, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

Mr. Teasdale said the DVBE program may be working extremely well but it's hard to tell with the data capture issues at so many State agencies. The issue is dollars awarded -vs- dollars spent and how that is reported to DGS by State Agencies. SB159 (Neilson) clarifies existing law and does not impose any new responsibilities on anyone. The change would ask agencies to report dollars spent for that FY year, and not dollars awarded for the term of the contract.

Committee Reports (continued) – Committee Chair (unless otherwise noted)

Legislative Committee – Marty Keller

Since the last Council meeting in January, the Committee took up four bills for review and voted unanimously to ask the Advisory Council for a vote of support for each bill. In order of hearing date the bills are: AB 413 (Chavez); AB 1302 (Brown); AB 1445 (Brown) and AJR 7 (Mathis). These bills are available at: www.leginfo.ca.gov

Council member Bob Mulz asked the Council to ask Assembly Member Chavez to extend the three year period in AB413, which deals with the rights of survivorship for the dependents of a DVBE, to a ten year period. Mr. Mulz made a motion for a vote for Council support and Don Gonnevillie seconded. The vote was: Eye: Mulz, Vermillion and Gonnevillie and 19 noes. The motion was defeated. The four bills the Legislative Committee presented to the Council for a vote of support all passed.

Action Item: The Committee will review AB 1218 (Weber) and SB159 (Nielsen) once they are out of committee and any other bills the Council deems appropriate and report to the Council at the July meeting.

Action Item: The Committee will develop Goal(s) that align with the newly adopted Council Mission Statement and present them to the Council at the July 16, 2015, meeting.

Membership Committee – Dave Dickey

Mr. Dickey said the Committees most important task is to fill the vacant seat on the Council. Stewart MacKenzie, the Committee Liaison, will provide all relevant applications to the Committee for review at the next Committee meeting. The Committee will select and rank the candidates for Deputy Secretary Boylan's review and selection.

Action Item: Filling the vacant seat on the Council. This seat is for an organization not a DVBE.

Action Item: The Committee will develop Goal(s) that align with the newly adopted Council Mission Statement and present them to the Council at the July 16, 2015, meeting.

CalVet DVBE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Committee Reports – Committee Chair (unless otherwise noted)

Outreach & Education Committee – Bob Beamer, Committee Liaison

Mr. Beamer reported that CalVet and Charter Media are still exploring options on how to utilize the CalVet database without compromising veteran's privacy. These discussions are on-going. The Committee is also researching non-profit groups that could partner with CalVet to fund the media project.

Action Item: Provide ideas for a CAL TAP teaching module that would educate service members about the benefits of the DVBE program.

Action Item: The Committee will develop Goal(s) that align with the newly adopted Council Mission Statement and present them to the Council at the July 16, 2015, meeting.

Procurement Committee – Bob Mulz

Committee Member Sandy Schneeberger continues to work with CalVet and DGS Procurement, Outreach and Reciprocity Unit to establish a process with templates for DVBE organizations to approach local governments to make it easier for them to understand the benefits and options available for offering a DVBE program. She expects to form a group using their work with the City of Los Angeles to refine and develop the process and develop the templates. Working with CalVet and DGS the Procurement Committee will facilitate the rollout of the new process through the CalVet DVBE Advisory Council by December 31, 2015. One committee objective was completed on March 16, 2015, when DGS, changed statewide procurement policy and procedures by notifying departments that they are to use a new set of Acquisition Methods effective July 2015. The new set of Acquisition Methods requires that buyers must now identify acquisitions as either SB Option-Competitive, DVBE Option-Competitive, Public Works – SB Option or Public Works-DVBE Option. A second objective was completed on March 27, 2015, when DGS established new requirements for reporting the purchase of good and services in Management Memo MM15-02.

Action Item: The Committee will develop Goal(s) that align with the newly adopted Council Mission Statement and present them to the Council at the July 16, 2015, meeting.

Operating Guidelines Committee – Don Gonneville

The committee presented the updated 2015 Council Operating Guidelines to the member's for a vote of approval. The most substantive change in the guidelines was using the word "Affiliation" throughout the document in place of "Constituency." Other changes included:

- Removing the phrase "DVBEs must represent a constituent group." and substituting "Must support the DVBE community."
- Changing the wording that a member is the "Voice of their constituency" to "The voice of the DVBE community."
- Requiring the alternate member for a DVBE Council member to be a DVBE, or in the case of a non-DVBE Council member, from the same company as the Primary member.

Rene Cota motioned to approve the new Operating Guidelines, Bob Mulz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Don Gonneville brought to the attention of the Council that the Operating Guidelines Committee had completed the purpose it was formed to accomplish and offered that the Committee be retired. Mr. Gonneville having consulted with the Council Co-Chairs, who by the Guidelines can form and retire committees, and having received their consent to dissolve the committee, announced the Operating Guidelines Committee was retired.

CalVet DVBE Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Public Comments

- Rick Fowler commented that he was putting together a team to support companies for the DVBE portion of the Proposition 41 that mandates them to have 5% DVBE participation in their bids.
- Lori Okamoto from Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) informed the Council of SMUD's upcoming "Get Connected with SMUD" event on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at SMUD Headquarters in Sacramento.

Closing Remarks & Next Meeting Date – Sandy Schneeberger

- Next Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2015 – CalVet Headquarters, Sacramento
 - Video Teleconferencing available at: West Los Angeles, Chula Vista, and Redding Veterans Homes

Adjournment

For questions, please contact:

Stewart MacKenzie, DVBE Outreach and Education Coordinator

stewart.mackenzie@calvet.ca.gov (916) 503.8383

Next Meeting: July 16, 2015 Medal of Honor Hall CalVet Headquarters

Amendment to the Minutes of the April 16, 2015, DVBE Advisory Council Meeting

Council member Bob Mulz, upon questions from members of the Advisory Council's CPUC Committee, said he would provide contact information for the California Utilities Diversity Council (CUDC) and the National Utilities Diversity Council (NUDC), to facilitate the possibility of a CPUC Committee representative joining these Council's.