

Veterans Services Division

Date: September 23, 2015		Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Meeting Location: Executive Dining Room, DGS
Type of meeting	Small Business(SB)/Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Advocates Meeting		
Attendees	<p><u>Participants</u> Advocates - 38 Advocates on Teleconference - 27</p> <p><u>California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)</u> Roberto Herrera, Manager Special Programs, Veterans Services</p> <p><u>California Department of General Services (DGS)</u> Angel Carrera, Chief, Certification and Outreach, Procurement Division Tanya Little, Manager, Business Development Danetta Jackson, Manager, Outreach, Procurement Division</p>		
Topics Covered In Meeting			
<u>Welcome</u> Bob Beamer opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce him or herself. This included all of the Advocates participating on the Webinar.			
<u>Mentor Program</u> Three new Advocates requested and assigned mentors.			
<u>Roberto Herrera, Manager Special Programs, CalVet</u> Mr. Herrera started at CalVet working on the Governor's Interagency Council on Veterans. He worked with state agencies and veteran service organizations to connect veterans with benefits. As Special Program Manager, Mr. Herrera works with veteran benefits and issues such as mental health, Veteran Treatment Courts and incarcerated veterans in addition to the DVBE program. He elaborated on the role of CalVet as the State Advocate for the DVBE Program. If an SB/DVBE Advocate's Agency does not have the time or resources to deal with a DVBE issue, please contact by phone or email any individual in CalVet on the SB/DVBE Advocates webpage. By coordinating with the SB/DVBE Advocates in this way, CalVet can be strategic in outreach planning and increase visibility to other state agencies. Mr. Herrera affirmed the CalVet and DVBE partnership and how the two agencies worked together to solve problems. For example, CalVet received a complaint from a DVBE that their Vendor Identification Number (VID) had been changed and could not be restored. The new VID severely impacted the DVBE's marketing and marketing materials. CalVet and DGS worked together to solve this problem and restored his original VID. Mr. Herrera then announced the DVBE Advisory Council Meeting, October 29, 2015, in the Medal of Honor Hall, CalVet, 1227 O Street, from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Parking is free in front of building. Enter the parking lot off of 13th Street by driving through the one car opening to the parking area. One Advocate stated they stopped attending because they could not participate during the meeting. Mr. Herrera explained that the Council meeting followed the Bagley Keene Act rules. There is three minute Public Comments section in the afternoon. Many agencies take that opportunity to announce events or handout solicitations. Mr. Herrera also recommended Advocates to volunteer for the DVBE Advisory Councils' Committees. For more information, please contact Bob Beamer.			
<u>Angel Carrera, Chief, Outreach and Communications, DGS</u> Mr. Carrera invited the Advocates to the next Small Business Advisory Council Meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 16, 2015 - Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District March 2, 2016 - DGS He stated that the September 2, 2015 meeting had the largest attendance in the Council's history which included nine advocates. Mr. Carrera made the following comments about the Statewide Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All but two departments submitted their reports on time. This is an outstanding achievement for all of the agencies. DGS will select six to ten of the large agencies to conduct training assistance visits based upon the CAR. Top Management from the agency CalVet and DGS will attend. DGS strongly recommends that the Agency Advocate attends. DGS anticipates the meeting's with the large Agencies will start in late November and continue into December. The smaller agencies training assistance meeting will be conducted by Danetta Jackson, DGS and Robert Herrera, CalVet. Members of their staffs will also attend. Mr. Carrera then asked Mr. Jessie Torres, Go-Biz Small Business Advocate had been invited to the meeting. Ms. Tanya Little, Business Development Manager, DGS stated that she had invited him but he was unable to attend. She stated that Mr. Torres did confirm to attend the next meeting. Mr. Carrera then asked for questions. The CalVet Advocate stated that there was still a lot of confusion about the Prime Contractor's DVBE Sub Contracting Report (DVBE Subcontracting Report). She volunteered to be a clearinghouse of best practices. In response to several agencies stated their best practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Water Resources (DWR) - DWR did not have a close contract to report this year. However, they are developing procedures to address multi-year contracts. California Public Employees Retirement System - CALPERS Enterprise System has the capability to flag invoices that have not submitted a DVBE Subcontracting Report. This would be a possible improvement to FI\$Cal in the future. Department of Transportation (Caltrans) - Caltrans reported that it did not make final payment until the final walk-thru of a construction contract. For more information on see Contractor's Corner http://www.caltrans.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/contract_awards_services.html State Controller's Office (SCO) - SCO is a Wave One department and had only FI\$Cal reports and data to prepare for the FY 2014/15 CAR. The 810D (DVBE Subcontracting Report) was not automated. However, the data was available to do it manually. Susan Sudmann, FI\$Cal thanked him for this information and would look into the status of the automated 810D Report. Several advocates brought up the point that there are no consequences for Prime Contractors who fail to submit the DVBE Subcontracting Report. Mr. Carrera stated Advocates can use their own agency legal departments to levy sanctions. Also, several advocates requested additional training before the November 1, 2015 deadline. Mr. Carrera stated he would look into this with his Reports Coordinator but he doubted that there would be enough time.			

Veterans Services Division

Susan Sudmann, Manager FI\$CAL, DGS

FI\$Cal announced earlier this month that the go-live date for statewide procurement functionality has been shifted from summer 2015 to December 9, 2015. Statewide procurement functionality includes the existing BidSync eProcurement functionality; California State Contracts Register (CSCR), the State Contracting and Procurement Registration System (SCPRS), Small Business/Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (SB/DVBE) certification, searching for certified SB/DVBEs and searching for Leveraged Procurement Agreements (LPAs). Users should continue to use the BidSync eProcurement system until implementation of the same functionality is available in FI\$Cal.

This extended timeline will result in a new enhanced procurement portal for state customers, vendors and the public that will include a responsive design for ease of use on smart phones and tablets. In the upcoming months the Department of General Services and FI\$Cal will continue to work together on the development of the policies and procedures needed to support reengineered business processes, enhancements to end-user training, and additional outreach to users.

For questions regarding this notification, please contact:

The Office of Policies, Procedures and Legislation

PPO@dgs.ca.gov

Ms. Sudmann noted the following updates:

- Eventually, the DGS portion of FI\$CAL will be designated Cal eProcure.
- FI\$Cal is developing quick links that could be placed on all agencies webpage. No completion date.
- Current Vendor Certification Identification Numbers will be the same in FI\$CAL as currently in BidSync.
- All solicitations originally placed on the California State Contract Register (CSCR) in BidSync will remain on BidSync until they expire.
- Towards the end of November all vendors and current state users will receive a live email with a temporary password to sign up for FI\$CAL.

Tanya Little, Business Development Manager DGS

The 2016 Winter Business Showcase that will be held at the Department of General Services, 707 3rd Street West Sacramento, on Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 9AM -3PM. The showcase will help advocates meet California small businesses and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise firms that provide the goods and services Advocates intend to purchase in 2016. Participate all day or for a few hours.

The best value for your department and guest business professionals requires a minimum of three staff from your department from 9AM to 3PM (one staff per cohort group). Please forward this email and get two others from your department to join you for the day and rotate between cohort groups to get the full experience of all activities. If you or your peer cannot stay the entire day, use the multiple cohort session links to identify a variety of participation options. Please contact me if you wish to participate and in what capacity.

The Business Development Program will debut its first business collaboration award at the 2016 State Agency Recognition Awards (SARA) event. The award will go to a prime contractor, certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) or Small Business (SB) contractor, and state agency for their collective contracting success with California's certified businesses.

Awardees will be judged based on prime contractors', certified businesses', and awarding departments' success stories submitted to the program related to DVBE and SB contracting achievements between July 2014 and June 2015.

Steering Committee Updates

Robert Beamer stated the two objectives for the Steering Committee in FY 2015/2016:

- Mentors - Currently 21
- Objective for 2015/2016 - 30
- Currently 17 mentees in program with mentors
- Conduct an Advocate Certification Class in Spring 2016

Three Advocates signed up for the Steering Committee

Several Advocates signed up to conduct presentations for the next meeting.

Upcoming SB/DVBE Events

October 2, 2015 - Turning Contacts into Contracts, DVB Alliance, Los Angeles

October 14, 2015 - CPUC/Comcast Small Business EXPO, South San Francisco

November 4, 2015 - 5th Annual SWVBRC Veteran Business Conference, Moreno Valley

November 5, 2015 - SACPAC Small Business EXPO, Sacramento

November 13, 2015 - DVB Alliance, Salute to Veterans, Los Angeles

May 25, 2015 - CalVet DVBE Veteran Owned Business Forum, Irvine (planning date)

Advocates that need assistance with travel justification can contact Bob Beamer to request a letter from CalVet. Mr. Beamer instructed the Advocates to include in their request the name and address of their manager that makes the travel decision.

Open Forum Closing

Agenda Item - How will SB 854 Public Works affect the SB/DVBE Advocates

FI\$Cal Training Available

Next Meeting : February 10, 2016, DGS, Executive Dining Room

Discussion	The following topics will be discussed at the next meeting
Bob Beamer	Mentor Program
Bonnie Sauter	Agency Report OBAS
Tanya Little	Vendor Showcase
Susan Sudmann	FI\$Cal Lessons Learned and next steps
Brittany Heth-Tran	Lessons Learned - Prime Reports DVBE Participation

Veterans Services Division

Date and time:	February 10, 2016 - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm	
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Advocates will update their website to insure "How to do Business" with their department is on their homepage.	All	February 10, 2016