

**Veterans Commission
Meeting Minutes**

May 13, 2024

Present: Donna Vaillancourt, Fred Baer, Brandon Jones, Stan Maupin, Mary Carvalho, Keith Darby, Aditi Patel

Staff: Ed Kiryczun, Samay Chhun

Public Comments By: John Helin

Topic	Discussion	Actions/Next Steps
Meeting called to order & Pledge of Allegiance Recited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm- Pledge of allegiance and roll call taken – 7 present	No Additional actions or steps
Approval of minutes & adoption of agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minutes from March 11, 2024, commission meeting was adopted.- Minutes approved 6 Y/ 1 abstain.- Agenda approved 6 Y/ 0 N	No Additional actions or steps
Public Comments	No public comments	No Additional actions or steps

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<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Ed Kiryczun, VSO Operation Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a series of continuing changes with the VA and their approach towards eligibility. - VA most importantly acknowledgement towards toxic environment that many Veterans served in - Big Changes was Blue Water Navy Act in 2021 which extended the presumptive for agent orange exposure out to 12 nautical miles from intercostal waterway of Vietnam. - When the PACT ACT was introduced in August 2022, the VA ramp up their staffing to be prepared for influx of claims. VA was not fully prepared for how much attention was received. - We will continue to get more and more claims done with lots of changes as Veterans age and start to experience symptoms 	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>
<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Ed Kiryczun, VSO Operation Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach to reach Veterans who can't make it out to our office will play a major role in Veterans getting their benefit. - Not a lot of Veterans know we or our office exist until VA healthcare tell them to call or stop by our office to talk about filing a claim. - Quick overview of upcoming events on May 23, 2024. The Fallen Heroes Memorial Ribbon Cutting Ceremony starting at 11:00am in Central Park, San Mateo - May 27th, 2024, we are supporting the Golden Gate National Cemetery Memorial Day Event - June 7th, 2024, Veterans Stand Down at Elks Lodge San Mateo 10:30 am-3pm will follow up with more details there after 	<p>No Additional actions or steps</p>

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Veterans Commission Business (Continued)	Donna Vaillancourt; Event Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">- April 17th provider event had a great turn out for all the service providers.- Big "Thank You" to all the commissioners that was able to attend and help.- Over 50 organization that attend and over 100 people that volunteered.- At the end of the event, there was a card that the service providers had filled out on whether they would like to attend the June 7th Stand Down, to keep collaborating with one another after the event.- First meeting with other commissioners from Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Francisco to gather information and talk about what each other are doing to help Veterans	No Additional actions or steps
Veterans Commission Business (Continued)	Keith Darby; Legislative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reviewing legislative update; there is about over 1100 bills.- Start looking at the ones that are going through the VA committee for review.- About 21 that are currently that has been seen or progressing through- Most are going thorough VA committee and to the senate side once they hit appropriation based on priority order.- Stan Maupin request if Keith happen to get any legislative news pertaining to housing if he can pass the information his way	No Additional actions or steps

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	<p>Veterans Commission Business (Continued)</p>	<p>Mary Carvalho and Brandon Jones; Mental Health Support Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Want to point out quick update on Veteran Rites Support who did a presentation last year with the commission. - Are offering women Veterans 12-day programs up in Washington State. If any commissioners know of anyone who are suffering from mental health issues, including gold star families. - Downside is that Veterans Rites only do this quarterly. September would be their last 12-day program until January - Can send link for those who are interested. <p>Kyle Corcoran (remote participation)</p> <p>*Inquiring about if there was any counties reaching out to our Veteran Service Office regarding housing and what steps are being taken</p>	<p>*Donna and Brandon to bring up topic to commissioners from other counties on how they are taking initiatives with housing for Veterans</p>
	<p>Adjournment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm - Adjourn approved 7 Y/ 0 N 	