

County of San Diego
Health and Human Services Agency
SAN DIEGO MILITARY & VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)
Phone (858) 694-3222 * Fax (858) 505-6961

Via [Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 824 2960 5417
Passcode: 235251

MEETING MINUTES
October 09, 2021, 9:30 AM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order by Chair Jack Harkins at 9:32 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by OMVA Director Wil Quintong
3. Roll Call & Introductions:

- Griselda Delgado, District 1.
- Paula Jansen, District 2.
- Danny Jackson, District 3.
- Jack Harkins, District 4.
- Philip Kendro, Member at Large Seat 7.
- Tony Teravainen, Member at Large Seat 8.
- Jude Litzenberger, Member-at-Large Seat 9.
- Wil Quintong; OMVA Director, Ex-Officio

Absent: Mia Roseberry, District 5.
Mark Balmert, Member-at-Large Seat 6.

4. **Action Item: Authorization of Teleconferencing Meeting Option pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e).**

Chair Jack Harkins informed members that in order for the Council (being a “legislative body”), to now meet remotely by teleconference means - and to not be obligated to fulfill the requirements of the General Teleconferencing Rule that is within Gov. Code §54953(b), i.e., the “Brown Act” - then the Council must take action to avail the authorization in AB 361, new law effective October 1, 2021, that amends Government Code section 54953: Adds subsection (e), which allows suspension of the General Teleconferencing Rule listed above, if specified circumstances in a state of emergency exist and a legislative body meets and makes specific findings: that a proclaimed state of emergency exists and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

Jack Harkins recommends one motion to make the two findings of facts:

- 1) Find that there is a proclaimed State of Emergency.
- 2) Find that State and Local Officials have recommended measures to promote social distancing.

Tony Teravainen made the motion and seconded by Danny Jackson. All Council Members vote ‘Yes’.

5. **Action Item: Approval of Minutes.**

Jack Harkins moved to approve the Aug 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Tony Teravainen seconded the motion. Motion passes by majority, with Members Jude Litzenberger and Philip Kendro abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. None.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

7. Chair comments. Attention is directed to completing Form 19 Incompatible Activities Statements and Ethics Training.

ACTION / PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. **Information Item.** CALVET/CalTap Update Presentation by Lance lunker, CalVet San Diego

- College Fee Waivers, DMV Programs, Fishing & Hunting License, State Parks, Tax Programs, State Cemeteries, CALVET Homes for long-term care (8 in California) CALVET run homes, Farm/Home Loans program.
- CalTap: On-line Curriculum, Department of Defense (DoD), Institution of Higher Learning/California Community Colleges (CCC), Community Webinars.

9. **Discussion Item:** SDMVAC Communications to Board of Supervisors. Jack Harkins notes: Valuable information contained in the letter from Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA) Office of Strategy and Innovation on subject of "Advisory Board Adherence to Policies and Administrative Communications" covering communications between Council and Board of Supervisors. It is part of the County provided resources issued with the Council portfolio, and members are encouraged to become familiar with the document.

10. **Information Item:** San Diego County Office of Military and Veterans Affairs Update.

- Wil Quintong announces that OMVA now falls under Self-Sufficiency Services (SSS). Nick Macchione, AIS Director of HHSA move OMVA to SSS.
- All main OMVA site lobbies remain open to the public. All non-profit veteran support organizations continue to be allowed to occupy a workspace at the MVRC's if they have an approved MOA and Facilities Agreement with the County.
- All Non-Profit Orgs occupying space are now allowed to see clients within the MVRC. Safety protocols will be enforced. Strict compliance regarding MOA and Facilities Agreements will be enforced.
- VSR Virtual counselling: There are VSR's present at each OMVA site. Majority of OMVA VSR's are conducting virtual benefits counselling with a goal of maintaining 1 to 1-1/2 week wait-times for veterans or family members.
- Submission of CalVet College Fee Waivers (CFW) applications have slowed but anticipate submissions will pick up again early in 2022.
- Vet-Connect sites are all open in all designated libraries. OMVA is working with HHSA IT and PERATON, previously known as PERSPECTA, to develop a business solution to enable access to OMVA VSR counselling and to develop a more efficient online appointment system via smart phone or device without having to go to a library. Exploring other options to replace the current WEBEX platform such as MS TEAMS.

- OMVA's VSR Outreach program which allows veteran to meet face-to-face with a VSR at a designated library (City/County) is currently suspended but plans are moving forward re-start the program in the next 60-days.
- Vet-Connect Site expansion to the Bunker in Tijuana, Mexico is currently on hold until Border restrictions for non-essential travel are lifted. Border restrictions are extended up to Oct 21st. Once lifted, the contractor will be ready to install the station at the Bunker in Tijuana.
- Live Well Mobile Unit, North County Stand Down were able to connect with approximately 100 homeless veterans during the 3-day event. During Stand Down in Downtown San Diego OMVA historically connects with over 300 homeless veterans The Live Well on Wheels (LWOW) Mobile Unit in partnership with Self Sufficiency Services (SSS) is scheduled to make trip out the Borrego Springs Library on Nov 15th for outreach and VSR counseling. SSS will also provide CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKS enrollment assistance.
- Southeast Live Well Center groundbreaking event occurred last Friday, Oct 08th. OMVA will have a footprint at this Live Well Center. It will not be in the form of a MVRC but a type of Community Hub. Size of footprint is still in discussion.
- Wil Quintong announced that the OMVA Website Section on the SDMVAC now contains past Meeting Minutes that go back in a year. Looking into utilizing County Library space to hold SDMVAC meetings allowing for better access for the public. This may increase public participation in the Advisory Council meetings

11. **Information Item:** Military Retirement Pay Tax Exemption for California.

- Jack Harkins shared that in four past consecutive years, new bills were introduced in both houses of the legislature to propose exempting military retired pay from state income tax in the following fiscal year; but none came to the floor in either house. In the current year a bill was introduced to make military retired pay tax exempt in progressive increments over multiple fiscal years, and it was not brought to either house floor for vote. Current grass roots actions to support enactment of exempting military pension from taxation will be specifically identified to Council members, with tools such as letters to legislators offered to share with associates.

12. **Information Item:** NAVWAR Old Town Campus Revitalization Draft EIS – to bring up in Dec meeting.

- Jack Harkins notes that draft is being finalized at the Department of Navy Level. Final subject for approval.

13. **Action Item:** New Business – None.

14. **Information Items:**

- Council Members Activity Reports: None.
- Griselda Delgado suggested if Wil Quintong can include members' names, email addresses on the Council Website so District 1 can have access to be aware of the issues. Wil confirmed to look into getting each of their names if allowed point of email to be posted on website.
- Chair Jack Harkins requested that the draft minutes of this meeting and future meetings be expeditiously prepared and delivered to the Executive Committee in order for additions and corrections to be provided to OMVA for prompt issuance to SDMVAC members.

15. **Information Item**: Next Regular Meeting will be held on **December 11, 2021**, via ZOOM.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 1103H

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