

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS
ADVISORY COUNCIL (SDMVAC)**

**Held In Person
North Central Live Well Center
5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123
Phone (858) 694-3222**

Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:

<https://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/84273398850>

**SDMVAC Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025**

Members Present

Danny Jackson
Jude Litzenberger
Jaime Yslas
Paula Jansen

Staff Present

Alberto Banuelos, Asst. Director, Self-Sufficiency Services
Amy Klock, OMVA
Ray Flores, OMVA

Members Absent

Tony Teravainen
Mark Gracyk
Philip Kendro

Guests

Ashley Camac – CEO of Zero8hundred, Inc.
Chuck Callahan – Veteran Staffing Consultant of Work for Warriors
Shawn VanDiver – President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac
Joshua Heredia - VETART
Michael Kern – Zero8hundred
Joey Jerome – Zero8hundred
Tim Mathues – Zero8hundred
Ty Milles – Zero8hundred
Chad Lunsford – Navy Region Southwest
(Online attendee names are attached on a separate sheet)

1. Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - SDMVAC present members noted above.
4. The February 20, 2025, meeting minutes were approved by the four Council members present.
5. Public Comments:
 - Joshua Heredia, representing VETART and affiliated with the DOD Skill Bridge internship program, provided a public comment during the meeting. He spoke about opportunities provided through the Skill Bridge internship for transitioning service members. He highlighted potential collaboration and support for Veteran focused initiatives.

6. **Discussion Item:** New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended. The Council members shared updates on various Veteran related events they recently attended and upcoming activities.
7. **Presentation Item:** Zero8hundred, Ashley Camac, CEO of Zero8hundred, Inc. Ashley Camac, CEO of Zero8hundred, provided an in-depth presentation on the organization's mission and programs designed to support Veterans and their families. She discussed the various services offered, including transition assistance, career development, and community integration, aimed and helping Veterans successfully transition to civilian life.

Public Comment: Chad Lunsford made a public comment in support with Ashley's presentation, emphasizing how Zero8hundred's effort to assist and collaborate with other organizations help strengthen the impact of their collective work in supporting the community.

8. **Presentation Item:** Work for Warriors, Chuck Callahan, Veterans Staffing Consultant of Work for Warriors. Chuck Callahan, Veterans Staffing Consultant for Work for Warriors, provided an overview of the organization's comprehensive efforts to help Veterans transition into the civilian workforce. He discussed how Work for Warriors connects Veterans with job opportunities through partnerships with employers, offers personalized career counselling, and provides skills development programs. Chuck emphasized the organization's commitment to matching Veterans with positions that align with their experience and interests, ensuring a smoother transition into civilian careers.
9. **Presentation Item:** Afghanistan Evacuee Update, Shawn VanDiver, President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac. Shawn VanDiver, President and Chairman of #AfghanEvac, provided an update on ongoing efforts to support Afghan allies. #AfghanEvac is a coalition helping and resettle Afghans who assisted the U.S, during the war, working with government and community partners to provide support and resources.

Public comment: Zainab Hashimi spoke about the current situation of Afghan visa applicants and emphasized the need for continued support in visa processing efforts

10. **Discussion Item:** Committee Assignments and Charters: Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger proposed a motion to establish committees focused on six key areas: Food Security, Housing, Education, Employment, Healthcare, and Legislation. The motion was seconded by Paula Jansen and unanimously approved by all members present

Each Council Member was assigned to one of these committees. The committees will examine how these focus areas currently impact veterans, anticipate future effects, and develop strategies to measure success within their respective categories.

11. **Discussion Item:** DOD/VA Policy Changes Regarding Gender- Affirming Care and Fate of Trans Service Members, Chair Jude Litzenberger. Chair Jude Litzenberger discussed her ongoing efforts to build a bridge between the LGBTQ+ community, the VA, and the San Diego Veterans Coalition in light of recent policy changes regarding gender-affirming care. She highlighted that many transgender service members are currently in a state of uncertainty and expressed her commitment to ensuring that they will have the necessary support as they transition out of the military.

12. **Discussion Item:** Report from all Chairs County Boards Meeting, Chair Jude Litzenberger. Self-Sufficiency Services, Assistant Director Alberto Banuelos provided an update on the hiring efforts within the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs (OMVA). He noted that progress is being made in filling open positions, which will strengthen the department's ability to serve veterans effectively and support the rollout of upcoming initiatives.

Following the update, Chair Jude Litzenberger raised concerns about ongoing staffing shortages at OMVA, particularly in relation to processing College Fee Waivers. She emphasized the need for additional staff to maintain service levels. A motion was made by Chair Litzenberger, seconded by Paula Jansen, and unanimously approved by all members present.

13. **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. Chair Jude Litzenberger suggested compiling all past presentations and discussions into a report to present to the Board of Supervisors. The report would focus on key issues facing Veterans and military families and provide recommendations for addressing them over the next 10 years.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on June 17, 2025.