

**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://zoom.us/j/91551255850>**

**SDMVAC Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2023**

Members Present

Jude Litzenberger
Danny Jackson
Mia Roseberry
Paula Jansen
Mark Balmert

Members Absent

Tony Teravainen
Philip Kendro

Staff Present

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services
Alberto Banuelos, Assistant Director, Self-Sufficiency Services
Michael Schmidt, Interim Office of Military & Veterans Affairs Officer, OMVA
Amy Klock, OMVA
Jesse Sesate, OMVA
Ray Flores, OMVA

Guests

Paul Redfern, 211/CIE San Diego
Karla Samayoa, 211/CIE San Diego
Red Gabriel, 211/CIE San Diego
Wilford Smith, Courage to Call
Vic Martin, SDVC
Christian Wallis, Grossmont Healthcare District
Stan Caplan
Erik Louis Mantsch
Kara Sturdevant
Bob Stonebrook

1. Meeting called to order at 1:05pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - SDMVAC present members noted above.
4. The August 24, 2023, meeting minutes were approved with the 5 Council Members present voting yes.

5. Public Comments:
 - Stan Caplan, Political Candidate, made a public comment about how federal legislation could be helpful to Military personnel and Veterans.
6. **Presentation Item:** 2-1-1 and Courage to Call: Bill York, President & CEO 211 San Diego. On behalf of President & CEO 211 San Diego, Paul Redfern, Chief Financial Officer, and Karla Samayoa, Chief Programs Officer, provided an overview of 211 San Diego and the Courage to Call program update. This update focuses on utilizing the gap in resources and how to provide the needs of the community more effectively.
7. **Presentation Item:** Prioritizing our Veterans, RFP 12513 Veterans Update, Establishing a Center of Military and Veterans Reintegration in East County: Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Wanne provided an update about the pending Board of Supervisors draft letter on prioritizing Veterans and establishing a center of Military and Veterans reintegration in East County and furnished a copy of the draft letter to the Council.
8. **Discussion Item:** Best practices we can employ to prepare San Diego County to serve military and Veterans in the future. Jude Litzenberger, Chair, San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council, and Ray Flores, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, (OMVA)
 - a. Demographics now (OMVA presentation)
 - b. How to prepare community for tomorrow
 - c. Key organizations which support community now
 - d. Challenges for the future
 - e. What can SDMVAC do to help lead into the future

Ray Flores, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, (OMVA), provided the Council a demographic data of California and County Veterans. Jude Litzenberger, Chair San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council requested a list of organizations to be invited for future meetings the purpose of this is to raise visibility and awareness that will be helpful to the Council in serving Veterans.

A public comment was made by Erik Louis Mantsch, a member of the public, stating that Hispanics and Latinos, about 45% of Veterans in San Diego County per the data presented, have different cultural conscientious.

9. **Discussion Item:** Update on the Veteran's Day Parade event on November 12, 2023. Ray Flores, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, (OMVA) provided an update on the Veteran's Day Parade event on November 12, 2023, as well as the various upcoming San Diego Veterans Day events including the 33rd Annual Military Women's Luncheon on October 21, 2023 at Veterans Association of North County (VANC) Oceanside, Operation Dress Code on November 5, 2023 at Paradise Point Resort, and the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2023 at Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial.

10. **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Members. Chair Litzenberger suggested a demographic report from 2-1-1, Veterans lifecycle, and would like to request to invite Dr. Frank Pearson, Director of VA San Diego Healthcare System to speak at a future Advisory Council meeting, as well as the representatives of the following organization;
- CALMOAA – California Council of Chapters of Military Officer Association of America
 - SDVC – San Diego Veterans Coalition
 - SDMAC – San Diego Military Advisory Council
 - Say San Diego (HSMFRC) – Healthy Start Military Family Resource Center
 - SDMFC – San Diego Military Family Collaborative
 - Foundation of Woman Warriors
11. **Discussion Item:** Information Sharing. Jude Litzenberger, Chair San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council requested the member to give an update on the event and topic that has been assigned to them for the next Advisory Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on December 21, 2023.