

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SAN DIEGO MILITARY AND VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**MEETING NOTICE: 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/89295160176>

**August 21, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

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| 1:00 - 1:01 | 1. Call to Order |
| 1:01 - 1:02 | 2. Pledge of Allegiance |
| 1:02 - 1:03 | 3. Roll Call |
| 1:03 - 1:05 | 4. Action Item: Approval of June 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes |

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1:05 - 1:15 | 5. <u>Guidelines for Public Comment on Items not listed on the agenda:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Members of the public may request to speak about any issue within the purview of the Board.➤ Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.➤ Board members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this Agenda. |
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PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

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| 1:15 – 1:25 | 6. Discussion Item: New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council Members share community events they had recently attended. |
| 1:25 – 1:35 | 7. Action Item: Nomination for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice-Chair: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members |
| 1:35 – 1:45 | 8. Action Item: Election for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice-Chair: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members |
| 1:45 – 2:15 | 9. Presentation Item: Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD: Ashley Tatum, Case Manager/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselor at Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD |

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|-------------|-----|---|
| 2:15 – 2:35 | 10. | Discussion Item: Administrative Code Update: Ray Flores, Military and Veterans Affairs Officer, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs |
| 2:35 - 2:45 | 11. | Discussion Item: Nonprofit Board Training - Strengthening San Diego nonprofits serving Military, Veterans, and their families: Chair Jude Litzenberger |
| 2:45 - 3:00 | 12. | Discussion Item: Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members |

ADJOURNMENT/ NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on October 16, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED:

Agendas and records are available in alternative formats upon request. Contact the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Meeting staff contact at (858) 694-3222 with questions or to request a disability-related accommodation. To the extent reasonably possible, requests for accommodation or assistance should be submitted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so that arrangements may be made. Additional information can be found on the San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council (SDMVAC) website:

https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/ssp/veterans_advisory_council.html

**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/83797810267>

**SDMVAC Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2025**

Members Present

Danny Jackson
Jude Litzenberger
Philip Kendro
Tony Teravainen
David McCulloh

Members Absent

Mark Gracyk
Paula Jansen

Staff Present

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

Guests

Mark London
Jon Aasted
Vic Martin – San Diego Veterans Coalition
Alberto Vasquez
John Paul Sullivan

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Jude Litzenberger, Chair
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
 - SDMVAC present members noted above.
4. The April 17, 2025, meeting minutes were approved by the four Council members present and one abstain.
5. Public Comments:
 - No public comment

6. **Discussion Item:** New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended. Council members shared highlights from recent veteran-related events they attended, as well as upcoming engagements.
7. **Action Item:** Nomination for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice Chair. Phil Kendro nominated Jude Litzenberger for her second term as Chair, and Tony Teravainen nominated Danny Jackson for his second term as Vice Chair. Chair Jude Litzenberger moved a motion to accept both nominations, and all members present voted unanimously in favor. OMVA Officer Ray Flores confirmed that the election of the new Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the next SDMVAC meeting, scheduled for August 21, 2025.
8. **Presentation Item:** 25/26 Proposed Operation Plan Budget Presentation: Maryneeza Moraleja, Assistant Group Finance Director, Financial & Support Services Division, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Maryneeza Moraleja Assistant Group Finance Director of Financial and Support Services Division provided an overview of recent economic updates, State and Federal budgets, the CAO Recommended Budget for HHS for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, and shared information on upcoming budget events.
9. **Presentation Item:** Support The Enlisted Project (STEP): Tony Teravainen, PMP, CSSBB- CEO and Co-Founder of Support the Enlisted Project (STEP). Tony Teravainen CEO and Co-Founder of Support the Enlisted Project shared how the organization helps enlisted service members, Veterans and their families by improving financial wellness. STEP provides counselling, education, and financial assistance to help prevent issues like food insecurity, homelessness, mental health struggles, suicide and other crises. Their goal is to help families become financially stable and self-sufficient.
10. **Discussion Item:** Committee Reviews: Chair Jude Litzenberger updated the group on the formation of committee for Food Security, Housing, Education, Employment, Healthcare, and Legislation. She noted members have volunteered and emphasized the need for regular meetings. Chair Jude Litzenberger requested a template to draft the committee charters and reminded that each committee can have only three members per the bylaws. She asked about available data or metrics for each committee, public access to these records and sources of information. Committee will rotate presenting updates, with the goal of compiling a report for the Board of Supervisors supported by data and committee structure.
11. **Discussion Item:** Suggested topic for future meetings: All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council. Chair Jude Litzenberger encouraged the Council members to invite organization that supports Veterans and their families, as well as those involved in family engagement and community support.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on August 21, 2025.

ITEM #6 New Community Connections: SDMVAC Council members share community events they had recently attended

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



ITEM #7 Nomination for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice -Chair

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



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ITEM #8 Election for the 2025 SDMVAC Chair and Vice-Chair

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



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ITEM #9 Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD

Ashley Tatum, Case Manager/Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Counselor



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The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD



New Client Orientation

Facilitator

Ashley Tatum, MHA, Navy Veteran

Case Manager and SUD Counselor

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD, San Diego

Phone Number: 619-345-4611

Email Address: atatum@cohenvvsd.org

Website: vvsd.net/cohenclinicsandiego



MISSION



ACCESSIBLE

HIGH
QUALITY

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at VVSD's mission is to improve the quality of life for post-9/11 veterans, active-duty service members and their families by providing high-quality mental health care that is accessible to all.

Trained clinicians deliver **holistic evidence-based care** to treat mental health conditions, while destigmatizing mental health treatment.

OUR CARE

Our Cohen Clinics provide:

- Confidentiality
- Short wait times to receive care
- Military competent care
- Welcoming clinic environment for all
- Ongoing support for employment, housing, finances, and education
- Telehealth, face-to-face video therapy

LEADERSHIP

CVN and Cohen Clinics are operated by a team of highly qualified individuals including social workers, psychologists, psychiatrists, and mental health professionals-

many of whom are veterans themselves.



Regional Clinic Director

Shuna Ball, MA LMFT
Regional Clinic Director
The Cohen Clinics at VVSD
(San Diego, Oceanside, Torrance)
vvsd.net/cohenclinics

Phone Number: 619-345-4611

Email Address: sball@cohenvvsd.org



Lead Clinician

Giselle Vallejo, MA

LPCC #8050, NOC #88625

Lead Clinician/Associate Director

The Cohen Clinic at VVSD, San Diego

Phone Number: 619-345-4611

Email Address: gvallejo@cohenvvsd.org



Senior Office Manager

Celeste Gomez-Lozoya
Senior Office Manager
The Cohen Clinic at VVSD, San Diego

Phone Number: 619-345-4611

Email: cgomez@cohenvvsd.org



WHO WE SERVE

Post-9/11
Veterans & Active
Duty

Family Members

Includes
National
Guard and
Reserves

Includes
Dishonorable
Discharge

Includes
Caretakers,
Spouses,
Children

Others as
defined by the
veteran or
service
member

*Our Cohen Clinic also offers individual therapy for active duty with a TRICARE referral.

Clinical Overview

- Short-Term Model
 - Telehealth or in-person
 - 8-12 sessions
 - Weekly
- Measurement-Based Care
 - Completed prior to your session, either virtually or in person.
- Discharge
 - Booster sessions (3 sessions within 12 months).
- New Care
 - New intake assessment must be completed per presenting issue.



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at VVSD

Case Management Services

- We provide comprehensive case management services to veterans and their families who are clients or in the process of seeking mental health services at our clinic.
- We facilitate direct referrals for housing, employment, health care, legal services, education opportunities, peer support and all other essential community-based needs for clinic clients. Provides appropriate referrals, as necessary.



Substance Use Disorder Counseling

- Provides addiction severity assessments.
- Creates relapse prevention plans.
- Sets treatment goals.
- Shares AA or SMART Recovery approaches.

CONTACT US

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at VVSD, San Diego

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San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 345-4611
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vvsd.net/cohenclinicsandiego

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 [Cohen Veterans Network](#)

ASK US ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

Sign up for our clinic's newsletter, which is emailed directly to your inbox monthly and helps you stay up-to-date about our services and informed about our events, PLUS get mental health tips from our experts!



ITEM #10 Administrative Code Update

Ray Flores, Military and Veterans Affairs Officer, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs



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ITEM #11 Nonprofit Board Training – Strengthening San Diego nonprofits serving Military, Veterans and their families

Chair Jude Litzenberger



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ITEM #12 Suggested topic for future meetings

All San Diego Military and Veterans Advisory Council Members



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