



VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

222 W. Hospitality Ln., 3rd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0470

Minutes of the Meeting September 23, 2024, 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE –Members: Rachel Hay (Board Liaison), Jeff Allen, Jim Frost, Paul Marsh, Terry Porter, Michael Rector, James Willingham, and recording Secretary Johnna Yuhas were present. Kelly Maxwell, Octavio Sanchez, and George Valenzuela were absent.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Minutes from the meeting held on July 22, 2024, were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Rachel Hay provided an update.

- The Department has attended the following events:
 - September 18 – Copper Mountain Resource Fair
 - September 19 – Redlands Mental Health Summit
- The Department will be attending these upcoming events:
 - September 26 – Twenty-Nine Palms Expo
 - October 24 – Barstow Resource Fair
 - November 2 – Fourth District Supervisor Curt Hagman’s Veterans Resource Fair
 - November 7 – Fifth District Supervisor Joe Baca’s Veterans Resource Fair
 - November 9 – Apple Valley Resource Fair
- The Veterans Advisory Committee will be having a slight venue change for the next meeting. The large conference room where the meetings are currently held will be under construction. The department has made arrangements with the Risk Management Department to utilize their conference room which is in the same building, and same floor, as the Veterans Affairs office. The committee will be updated if there are any other changes.
- The Clinical Therapist II position will be managed by the Department of Behavioral Health for the time being. The candidate for Director will be going in front of the Board of Supervisors tomorrow for appointment tomorrow and we expect them to be starting soon after. Filling the Deputy Director position will occur following the Director’s start.
- The Diploma Project is open and accepting applications. The Department does not process the applications, this is done by the San Bernardino School District, however, the department does verify eligibility. There are no applicants currently.

FROM THE MEMBERS

Jeff Allen – Would like to remind the committee that San Bernardino County VA receives more funding each year than any other county in the state. The State Senate introduced a bill to increase the upper limit for property taxes. This bill would have two tiers with both partial and full exemptions. The exemption would increase the limit to over \$800,000. Jeff encourages the members to reach out to elected officials to vote yes on this bill. Everyone is invited to Grand Terrace to the Veterans Wall and event that will be held on Veterans Day at 11 a.m.

Jim Frost – Participated in Run for the Wall again this year. Along the way 23 gold star families were visited and honored.

Terry Porter – Nothing to report.

James Willingham – Veteran members of his church will be recognized in a ceremony at services prior to Veterans Day.

Paul Marsh – Nothing to report.

Michael Rector – Nothing to report from the veteran community but has some questions regarding the hiring/probationary time for the Veterans Service Officers. Rachel explains that the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) position is a journey position, and the probationary period is longer due to state and national accreditations and requirements. San Bernardino County Veterans Affairs has high expectations for their VSOs and that is reflected in

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the level of service and care provided to our Veterans and their families.

DATE/TIME/LOCATION OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, January 27, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Risk Management conference room (please check in at Veterans Affairs) and via Zoom.

Monday, March 24, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. physical location TBD and via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT - Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Allen".

Jeff Allen
Chair