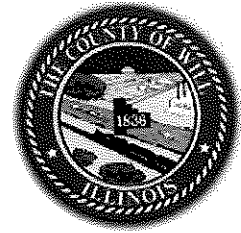




Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County



Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
 Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60435
 Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329

~~10 Sept 2020~~

Commission Meeting

1:00 PM

15 Sept 2020

7:00 PM

In accordance with Executive Order 2020-18 issued by Governor Pritzker, meetings will be held via videoconference/telephonically through the ZOOM Meeting platform. VAC Will County Board Members will be attending meetings remotely and the general public is strongly encouraged to do the same. If a member of the public would like to attend the meeting virtually, please send an email to vacwc@willcountyillinois.com and a link will provided.

- I. Call to Order:
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Opening Prayer:
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Secretary

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Vic Martinka	Chairman	
Jack Picciolo	Vice Chairman	
Denise Williams	Secretary	
Tom Mlynek	Treasurer	
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	
Jim Singler	Chaplain	
James Baskerville	Member	
Nicholas Barry	Member	
John Kestel	Past Chairman	
John York	Past Chairman	
Tony Sallese	Past Chairman	
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees:
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (13 Aug @ 1:00pm)
 - A. Motion:
- V. Superintendents Report:
 - A. Financial Assistance Report
 - a) Aug 2020
 - 1. Gas: (2) \$64.33
 - 2. Electric: (7) \$593.84
 - 3. Water: (4) \$313.70
 - 4. Shelter: (6) \$2,200.00
 - B. Award Log/VSO Productivity:
- VI. New Business:
 - A. COVID-19 Schedule VAC (revised)
 - a) Closed to walk-in/in-person appointments

- b) Door Unlocked – Veterans allowed in lobby only
 - B. Grant Opportunity for VAC through County
 - a) TBRA/CDBG/ESG
 - b) Veterans/Non-Veterans
 - c) Staff/Intern Support
 - C. Update By-Laws
 - a) Last update was 2016
 - b) Sent revised by-laws out via email to VAC Exec Board for review on 17 August 2020
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Will County CARES Funding \$120M
 - a) Supt. McNichol presented to WCB updates (attached)
 - b) VAC request for CARES will come from Gov't monies, will not have to apply
- VIII. For Good of the Commission:
 - A. New Building Update
 - B. DCEO Grant Van Purchase
- IX. Outreach planning for 2020
 - A. Virtual Veterans Day Celebration
- X. VAC Employee Training for 2020/2021
- XI. Motion to Adjourn

VAC Executive Committee Meeting
10/08/2020
1PM
2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435

VAC Commission Meeting
12 NOV 2020
1PM
2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435



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Jim Singler	Chaplain	P
James Baskerville	Member	E
Nicholas Barry	Member	P
John Kestel	Past Chairman	E
John York	Past Chairman	P
Tony Sallese	Past Chairman	E
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	P

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees:
 - Janet Blue – Monee Auxiliary, Trustee on Village Board of Monee
 - Gerian Wiesbrook – Military Mama Network

- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (13 Aug @ 1:00pm)
 - A. Motion: Picciolo, Koch; unanimous

- V. Superintendents Report:
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B. Motion – Horne, Picciolo; unanimous

C. Award Log/VSO Productivity:

total growth charge VSO Papineau created was shared with County, 2014 was \$964,000; 2020 is \$57 million; between 2014-2020 is 343% increased

D. Motion: Horne, Picciolo; unanimous

VI. New Business:

A. COVID-19 Schedule VAC (revised)

a) Closed to walk-in/in-person appointments

b) Door Unlocked – Veterans allowed in lobby only

McNichol advised staff is rotating, two days in the office, three at home; Veterans are not coming in beyond the lobby; VSO activity report shows claims, FA is keeping pace

B. Grant Opportunity for VAC through County

a) TBRA/CDBG/ESG

b) Veterans/Non-Veterans

c) Staff/Intern Support

McNichol advised VSO Tawrel was hired to investigate/identify grant opportunities; currently, all has been Covid-19 related; 20 formerly homeless veterans have been housed, 13 were self-resolved; VAC has been identified as eligible for some of these monies; "SHIPA" – Supportive Housing, V. Tawrel has been trained in the specific program, "Diversion"; "ESG" – Emergency Service Grant requires serving nonveterans

-Horne asked what communities are or are not participating

-McNichol advised the grants are available to all community partners, not all have applied; in the CoC, Daybreak, MorningStar, etc.;

-G. Wiesbrook asked what does the outreach to the community look like

-McNichol advised the VAC has already been identified as an entry point for homelessness, i.e., the shower, support staff (interns); budget per State Statute must go to veterans, these funds/this Covid-19 grant does not have to be used for veterans;

-V. Tawrel advised she has 5 veterans who are unable to get services due to SSVF programs being on hold; MSHV is on hold; Hines, Catholic Charities also on hold;

-D. Williams asked if there is a percentage requirement for use of ESG funds for nonveterans; how would the functionality/duties of staff be impacted;

-V. Tawrel advised other organizations have ESG monies but have not implemented/do not have the staffing, services, etc.

d) Motion: Board approve staff seek ESG grant/utilize the grants immediately; Williams, Barry; unanimous

-Horne asked the county positions;

-V. Tawrel advised the county is encouraging this action-

-T. Mylnek asked what we're going to be able to do with the money



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- V. Tawrel advised we will be able to place them in hotels, then identify permanent housing/rental units; the money is very flexible, can be used for transportation, medical, etc.
 - K. McNichol advised a pilot program has been started with the Will Grundy Medical Clinic to set up individuals w/community providers, in addition to full case management, including medical issues not covered by VA; under ESG the VAC could have prevented his homelessness.
 - K. McNichol advised the Community Development Block Grant the VAC can develop/partner for permanent housing, expand reach into other counties
- C. Update By-Laws
- a) Last update was 2016
 - b) Sent revised by-laws out via email to VAC Exec Board for review on 17 August 2020
- Horne asked for specifics on revisions
 - McNichol advised –
 - Article 11 – keeps our current schedule, adds special meeting in September for elections; overall, changes add accountability, reporting, i.e., delineates/clarifies when we do elections;
 - D. Williams identified “simple majority” and “super majority”
 - McNichol advised-
 - Article 12 - that if a staff member is a veteran, must be honorable discharge and a DD214 must be supplied
 - J. Blue asked if a Dishonorable Discharge would be employed by the VAC, expressed concern this could be discriminatory;
 - McNichol advised under new bylaws, DD would not be employable
 - Horne expressed the revision referring to veteran status/discharge characterization be referred to legal
 - McNichol advised –
 - Article 7, Section 6 – opening up commission Officers to auxiliaries;
 - Horne stated this is an excellent idea to open up commission membership;
 - Martinka advised –
 - Article 6, Section 1 – reducing number of people required to be Officers;
 - Mylnek advised the Officers and the Exec Community would be the same;
 - Martinka advised the past presidents would be removed from Officers, reduces requirement for quorum;
 - McNichol advised this formalizes in the composition of the Exec. Committee
 - Horne, Picciolo advised this is an excellent idea
 - McNichol clarified changes in bylaws, the DD214 part will need to be reworked

Motion – accept changes in bylaws, remove language about the DD214 requirement for staff; Motion – Williams, Horne; unanimous

VII. Old Business

A. Will County CARES Funding \$120M

- a) Supt. McNichol presented to WCB updates (attached)
-McNichol advised request should be granted, should hear 9/16/2020
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VIII. For Good of the Commission:

A. New Building Update

-McNichol advised the zoning was incorrect, should be able to close end of October, beginning of November, move-in date around March

B. DCEO Grant Van Purchase

-McNichol advised new wheelchair accessible vehicle has been purchased; funding expenditures await purchase/move in of new building

IX. Outreach planning for 2020

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-Advised event is in planning stages

X. VAC Employee Training for 2020/2021

-McNichol advised VA has waived travel for CEU's until next year

XI. Nominations of Officers

Motion to make nominations via email; Horne, Williams; unanimous

-Martinka asked timing of the next meeting; October meeting – Oct 13, 7pm, Zoom

XII. Motion to Adjourn

Picciolo, Mylnek; unanimous

VAC Executive Committee Meeting

10/13/2020

7PM

2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435

VAC Commission Meeting

12 NOV 2020

1PM

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10-Sept-2020

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Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary Williams