



Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
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11 May 2021

Commission Meeting

7:00 AM

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 be provided.

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

VAC Commission		
Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jack Picciolo	President	P
Nicholas Barry	Vice President	P
Denise Williams	Secretary	P
Amanda Koch	Sgt-At-Arms	P
Jim Singler	Chaplain	E
Tom Mlynek	Member	P
Janet Blue	Member	P
Steve Benicke	Member	P
Vic Martinka	Past Chairman	P
John York	Past Chairman	A
Wayne Horne	Past Chairman	A
John Kestel	Past Chairman	P
Lisa McGlasson	Member	P

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: Jennifer Roach, Plainfield ALA; Jim Romaine, Manhattan AL
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (13 Apr @ 7:00 AM)
 - A. Motion: Koch, Martinka; Unanimous
- V. Superintendents Report:
 - A. 2021 Second Quarter Financial Assistance:
 - a) Shelter \$7,350
 - b) Gas \$301.81
 - c) Electric \$934.36
 - d) Water \$232.27
 - e) Personal Needs \$1025
 - f) Food \$0
 - g) Total Served: 12 Senior Veterans

McNichol advised due to ongoing pandemic relief, moratorium on evictions, other assistance, need has been low

B. Award/VSO Productivity

a) VSO Papineau & Wiza working on Award Log: 2015 -> \$83.1M VA Benefits

-Wiza advised NPRC still lagging;

-McNichol, Wiza advised overall turnaround time for VA benefits has been either very, very fast or very slow

C. Project165 Report Valerie Tawrel

a) Homeless Prevention/Security Deposits: 7 House Holds

b) Received first \$30,000.00 Reimbursement from FEMA/UWWC

c) Total Served Hotel: 27 Vets 33 Individual Total Housed: 18 Total Ref: 11

-Tawrel advised \$165k for emergency relief, 12 rooms currently at Quality Inn, 3 have been housed in the past week; WCVAC is providing 25 of 27 veterans assistance, 2 are referrals from the VA

-Blue asked how WCVAC finds homeless veterans; Tawrel advised sometimes self-referral, sometimes referral from other agencies, from VA, stated primarily due to area agencies being unable to find other shelter, options

-McGlasson noted older age of majority of veteran clients, not currently finding current era

-Blue stated her Legion Auxiliary is finding the mothers to identify the veterans

-Tawrel advised average length age is 59.5 years old currently in the hotel

-McNichol advised the current 12 are different individuals from last month, advised as veterans are housed, they are replaced by new veterans

VI. New Business

A. By-Laws (Action Item)

-Picciolo complimented on job McGlasson on comp

-Williams reminded motion needed to accept the finalized copy of the By-Laws that was approved at last meeting

-Motion to approve/accept: Blue, Benicke; Discussion – Berry advised to update signature line; Unanimous

B. 2022 Budget (Action Item)

-McNichol advised in new budget, full time person under Emergency Grant for community outreach, Veterans Health and Welfare; advised marketing campaign also newly funded; identified line items staying in Executive Budget due to new Grants, will move into appropriate line items when funds are received; advised budget proposal for 2022 is essentially the same, differences are due to grants, eviction moratorium, numbers were skewed in 2020 due to pandemic; advised overall is \$1.5 million in Will County Executive budget community housing assistance no entity has requested/used

-Williams asked re:10% State budget cuts, potential impact on other agency's ability to meet their needs, impact on our need to supply services

-McNichol advised 80% of majority of budgets of social service agencies are Federal; advised future is programs, municipalities, agencies hiring for grant managers as this is a source of funding, takes more work/is a change in effort required to secure monies

-Motion to accept budget proposal: Berry, Blue; Unanimous

VII. Old Business

A. CARES Funding Update:

a) Exploring partnership with Veteran Community Project, Kansas City

-McNichol discussed \$1.5 million in CARES funding; will send link to slide deck to Kansas City Tiny Homes project; advised tiny homes function more like a free-standing hotel rooms; advised some properties have been identified as potentials; ongoing conversations

b) Presenting at Modern Community Housing Solutions, Ad Hoc WCB 5/11/2021 @ 3PM

-MAPP collaborative, other partners in hotel project; more to follow

VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment

-Martinka advised Lockport AL 7am-11am pancake breakfast, ceremony

-Williams advised MiddleEast Conflicts Wall ceremony at 11am to replace ALNC ceremony

-Mylnek advised 3 days prior to Memorial Day flags are being deployed at ALNC

-McNichol advised June 8th WCVAC w/Habitat for Humanity at VFW Cantigny at 8:00am; on June 22nd, 2nd event to include all Will County, Township, nonprofit service providers as veterans resource fair

-Romain advised Manhattan post will be covering ceremonies at 7 area cemeteries for Memorial Day

-Blue advised discussion of deportation of US Veterans; said up to 5k have been deported

-McGlasson advised there are complicated issues at stake, cautioned WCVAC against making a blanket statement; advised Duckworth is working w/President on this issue

-Papineau advised there is a mechanism to upgrade discharge individual veterans, advised we are a County-level organizations, this is a National policy; discharge upgrades can help veterans with bad paper

-McNichol requested to further investigate, place on agenda, potentially develop action plan

-Koch advised County-level government

-Picciolo advised we can create a committee to look into, address issue

IX. Motion to Adjourn: Mylnek, Blue; discussion: meetings to remain on zoom; Unanimous

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting
6/08/2021
7AM
2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435
VIA Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary Williams