

# STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET ROOM E120  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis Wimer, Director

## Indiana Veteran Affairs Commission Meeting

January 11, 2019 at 1300

**Present for meeting:** Chairman Steuterman, Acting Director Vincent, Senator Niezgodski, Sen Tomes, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Baker, Mr. Ballard, Mr. Kendall, Mr. Hylton, Mr. Coley, CSM Gordon and Mr. Elsener

**Absent:** Rep Macer and Rep Zent

**Location:** Indiana Government Center South Rooms 1 and 2, Indianapolis, Indiana

Chairman Steuterman: Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Steuterman: Verified Quorum.

Chairman Steuterman:

- Motion to pass minutes: Jay Kendall motion, second by Greg Baker. Minutes pass
- MFRF rules adopted on Jan 3, 2019.
- Grant Services Rules in progress
- Acknowledged Cathy Griffin – services to incarcerated veterans

Acting Director Vincent, IDVA status update:

- Creating Benefits Book to be posted on website
- Indiana Veterans' Cemetery – 107 interments, 170 headstones set (27 spouses and dependents) memorial certificates. Bust of WWI Medal of Honor recipient – Samuel Woodfill.
- Indiana Veterans' Home – 203 residents
- Coordinating Rules for hyperbaric oxygen treatment and homelessness
- Working with Indiana State Department of Health on MOU for hyperbaric

Cathy Griffin – Department of Corrections:

- Warden Miami Correctional Facility
- DOC – 2300 identified veterans – 1856 verified – 41 female
  - 470 diagnosis of mental health issue
  - All facilities except Rockville have an American Legion

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- Working with Traumatic Brain Injury – of 39 tested 67% showed TBI
- Working on additional grants

## Gordon Smith – Indiana Veterans Court:

- 92% of our individuals have TBI.
- One of our challenges is that half of our veterans don't qualify for disability. Big challenge is finding a way to provide benefits.
- Recidivism is less than 3%.

## Adryanne Bonner – Communications update:

- The 2019 financial disclosure statements are being done currently.
- 2018 report has been given to the General Assembly.
- Our E-News letter is gaining members we now have 18572.
- 350 companies looking to hire veterans

## Jeff Wirt - Employment update:

- For the year 2018 we helped over 149 veterans and their families with jobs.
- We have helped one veteran this year.
- Since 2015 we have assisted 462 veterans in finding a job.
- We have brought on a DWD person into our office – Lupe Martinez to help with the relationship between our two departments.

## Jim Morrison - LT Governor Office update:

- As of this morning we have 400 employer providers.
- Next level veterans out of state recruitment since it was started last year there have been 35 base visits made.
- Operating under phase 1 of the program 537 veterans registered.
  - They can register up to 18 months out in conjunction with their TAP program.
  - 29 veterans have moved to IN and gained employment thru the program.
- We have a new collaboration between NextLevel Vets and Purdue to train for a career in agriculture.

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## Amber Merten - SAA update:

- Last month SAA received our rating for 2018 we received a grade of satisfactory.
- Cooperative agreement has been signed.
- For 2019 we have 48 compliance survey visits YTD 13 completed.
  - We have assigned ourselves an additional 40 visits YTD 4 completed.
- Working with the commission for higher education requiring eligible students to receive instate tuition.

## Tim Dyke - Training and Benefits update:

- Year to date 2018 – plates – 552, tax 604, hunting and fishing 334, tuition and fee 664 on-line applications.
- Processing from 16-17 school year over 3,100 applications.
- By putting it on line the student only has to apply one time and we processed 664 in 2019.
- Accreditation is currently at 88.
  - We have one CVSO that is covering 2 counties.
  - Scott, Davis and Rush counties currently not accredited but working on it.
  - 2 counties with possible retirements.
- Secured Atterbury again this year for the CVSO conference 10-12 June of 2019.
- The GDX report from FY17, not a noticeable change in money coming in to Indiana.
- Recipients did increase by about 3,000.
- Vetraspec is the claims management system we use and 84 counties have at least one account.

## Tom White – DSO update NW district:

- He is not present but sent his info to Tim. Traveled about 16,000 miles.
- He held two DVSO meetings,
- Helped Jasper County with accreditation
- Conducted several hours of face to face visit with CVSOs in the district.

## Desley Snyder – DSO update SW district:

- Have had 5 new hires in the last year.
- Attend meetings with local organizations and veteran groups.
- I belong to Southern Indiana rehabilitation committee.
- Attended 5 different stand downs in the last year.

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- I have 17 counties and we meet quarterly.

Joe Devito - DSO update SE district:

- I have 15 counties.
- I have quarterly meetings and each county volunteers to host.
- Currently have 14 CVSOs accredited.
- I am on the Jefferson County Veterans Council.
- I do a monthly radio show, hoping to add 2 more.

Mark Smith – DSO update CE district:

- Have met with the Chamber of Commerce in all of my counties.
- 5 new service officers covering 6 counties.
  - There is one CVSO covering two counties (Shelby and Fayette).
- Rush County will start using Vetraspec.

Cameron Lochner – DSO update NE district:

- I have had one new CVSO in the last year in Allen County.
- Attend town hall events and community outreach events.
- Have had 3 district meetings.

Kevin Hinton – DSO update CW district:

- Last year trained 2 new CVSOs.
- I have 15 counties.
- Attend 3 to 4 meetings with community partners.
- Did 5 to 6 outreach events.
- 2 biannual CVSO training meetings.

Matt Vincent MFRF update:

- We track our data by fiscal year. By July 1, we awarded \$792,000 to 709 veterans.
- We have the pre 9/11 and post 9/11.
  - 73% of the recipients are pre 9/11.
- On pace to do roughly what we did in FY18.
- We have all of the applications broken down by county.

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- We have been working on the SOP and would like for the commission to look at them and give me feedback before the next meeting.
- Working to establish the appeals process.

## Jason Thompson Rule update:

- The MFRF rule has been approved by the Gov office. In our 30 day window before it can be published.
- What I recommend is that we adopt a process in where we would engage an Administrative Law Judge and delegate the authority to that judge. The veteran can come in and make their case. Judge will produce an order to either uphold or overturn the appeal.
- 15 days for the veteran to appeal.

## Kevin Coley:

- Motion to delegate authority to a judge. We do not have a second.
- Chairman: The motion did not pass.
- We will not have an appeals process for another three months.

## Mike Aichele Legislation update:

- We are slotted to receive a \$320,058 grant from the National Cemetery Association to realign the headstones.
- I will begin the grant proposal for expanding grave sites and fixing water run off problems.
- Currently tracking 23 bills.

## Matt Vincent – Old Business:

- Grants for veterans services. It is a 2 part rule, one is the hyperbaric oxygen therapy.
  - State Dept of Health wrote the rules, they were approved in Sept.
  - Clark Memorial is the only one that sent a proposal.
- Homeless veteran rule, we are close to sending that to the Indiana register.
  - This is a department rule, not a commission rule. Have 21 days to have a public hearing. Works like the MFRF rule. We received a moratorium from the SBA on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December. Comments from commission a week from today.

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Chairman:

- Next meeting on 5 April 2019 in South Bend. It will be posted on our calendar and community calendar.
- Moving meetings around so the veterans have an opportunity to take part in a meeting.
- Meeting is adjourned 3:33.

Erika Steuterman, Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)  
Chairman

Date

4/5/19

~~Matthew Vincent, Acting Director~~

IDVA ~~Dennis Wimer, Director~~

Date

Ken Hylton, American Legion

Date

Greg Baker, VFW

4/5/19

Date

Richard Caldwell, AMVETS

April 05, 2019

Date

Jay Kendall, CVSO Representative

5 Apr 2019

Date

CSM James Gordon, INNG

Date

Kevin Coley

5/April/2019

date

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Mr. Greg Ballard, Member

4/5/19

Date