

**ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS SERVICES
MINUTES**

Skype Audio
+1 (808) 829-4853,601324908# (Dial-in Number)
Friday, April 3, 2020
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair
Ms. Bridget Komine, Vice Chair
Mr. Clay Park
Mr. Harold Bugado
Mr. Michael Lilly
Mr. Jim Traxler
Mr. Wilbert Pereira

OVS Staff: Mr. Ron Han, OVS, Director
Ms. Yam Yi Lee, Administrative Services Assistant
Ms. Yolanda Ehere, Secretary

Ex-Officios: Ms. Amy Rohlf, Representing the Director, VAPIHCS

Guests: Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, VBA Benefits
CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Mr. Wade Ishii, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering
Mr. Juan Babiak, Veterans Liaison, Yukio Okutsu State Veterans
Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific
Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office

Absent: Ms. Chelsea Fernandez
Department of Health
Department of Human Services
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Oahu Veterans Center

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & CALL TO ORDER – A Moment of Silence

Chair Ann Greenlee led the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

II. MINUTES

The Board reviewed the March 6, 2020 minutes. Clay Park motioned to accept seconded by Harold Bugado. Minutes were unanimously accepted by the Board Members.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

None

IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ms. Amy Rohlf, Representing the Director, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – Pacific Island Health Care System-Medical -

Briefed on: Clinics are still opened, Appointments have been reduced to telephone or telehealth, Set up a drive thru pharmacy, There are chaplin services available, Prosthetics have set up a drive thru to drop off at the ACC, Monday, April 6th Leeward Community Outpatient Clinic will be closing; all appointments will be done via telephone or telehealth and all the Lab, Radiology and Pharmacy will be transferred to the ACC.

Questions for Amy

1. Clay Park asked about VA mental health information for veterans with other than dishonorable regulation that came out 02/28/20. Are you familiar with that? Amy answered yes, I am.
2. Clay Park asked there's a mass email sent out by VA executive in charge Dr. Richard Stone that discuss the VA's fourth mission to provide care for the community during crisis and beyond hospital beds. Are you aware of that also? Amy answered I am.

Mr. Sergio Chao, Director, VBA– Benefits -

Briefed on: VBA is 100% telework and at least one staff member report to check and process mail daily, central office is looking at some options of what to do with the mail, Claims are still being processed; most NODs will be done by the end of April, Voc. Rehab has gone completely online/virtual meetings and also still trying to fill the position in Hilo, Still working to bring new employees on board

Questions for Sergio

1. Ann Greenlee asked if the job posting could be sent to her? Sergio answered will do.
2. Clay Park asked what was the outcome from the discussion they had from the last meeting? Sergio answered he sent it to the Director and Debbie. Amy might be able to speak to it. But I did not hear resolution; they were supposed to handle on their own with the veteran. I do not have a response for you, but I scanned everything and sent it to them.

Mr. Ron Han, Director, OVS -

Briefed on: OVS office protocol is the same as everyone; telephone appointments for OVS clients, state public hearings are shutoff, Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony will be cancelled, two potential candidates for the State Advisory Board – 2 male candidates, Vandalism to HSVC bathrooms.

Question for Ron

1. Ann Greenlee asked if the State considered doing something along the lines of removing flowers; something similar to Punchbowl? Ron answered we have . We have a cycle. There is a maintenance cemetery plan that has to be executed on a biweekly basis. The problem is the State maintenance is deemed nonessential. There is a maintenance plan we go through.

CPT Shaoyu Lee, State of Hawaii DOD Engineering–

Briefed on: Grant in aid projects are all moving along, Hawaii State Veterans Home still ongoing; awaiting supplemental funding, West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery, Additional Columbaria Units – Final inspection conducted on March 20th, Kauai Veterans Cemetery – 65% Design Review and is moving along, Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Additional Columbaria – still actively trying to get project started; awaiting for contract executions, Maui Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Restoration – has been completed

Question for Shaoyu

1. Carlos Santana asked Table 2 umber 6 says VA cancelled a project. However, the project itself isn't cancelled, but it is just moved back into solicitation. Correct? Shaoyu answered my understanding is yes. In other words, we're back looking for a potential site.

Mr. Juan Babiak , Liaison, Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home in Hilo –

Briefed on: No COVID-19 cases to report, please could I get updated cell numbers?

Director Ann Greenlee, U.S. Department of Labor, VETS-

Briefed on: 100% teleworking, American Job Center has been closed, but available online.

Mr. Jim Horton, Director, National Cemetery of the Pacific

Briefed on: Split shifts for staff, Interments only, no services associated with it, Families have been given the option to do the services later pending return to normalcy, For next meeting discussion on whether to host a mass service. All flowers will be removed once a week starting Friday.

Question for Jim

1. Carlos Santana asked are you still also doing the floral policy where arrangements are not permitted during the interment until after 4:30pm on that same day? Jim answered yes, that was what Ron was just mentioning. we are allowing if people are doing an urn interment at the niche if the family has an arrangement with them that their holding ; then we are okay with them placing.

Mr. Carlos Santana – Senator Mazie Hirono’s Office

Briefed on: Working on Newsletter, Veteran’s Stimulus checks

Department of Health – Not present. No submitted report.

Department of Human Service - Not present. No submitted report.

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations - Not present. No submitted report.

Oahu Veterans Centers- Not present. No submitted report.

V. BOARD MEMBER’S REPORTS

1. Kauai – Mr. Wilbert Pereira – Report submitted. No additions.
2. Maui – Ms. Chelsea Fernandez – No submitted report.
3. Oahu – Mr. Michael Lilly -Report submitted.
 - Will send Sergio Chao the name of the Audiologist
4. Oahu – Mr. Clay Park - No submitted report.
5. Oahu – Ms. Bridget Komine - No submitted report.
6. Oahu – Ms. Ann Greenlee, Chair - No submitted report.
7. Big Island – Mr. Harold Bugado - Report submitted. No additions.
8. Big Island – Mr. Jim Traxler - Report submitted. No additions.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Legislative Committee
No Report
- B. By Laws and Procedures
No report.
- C. Recognition and Awards
No report.
- D. Women's Committee
 - a. No Report.
- E. Project and Events Committee
 - a. Rededication of the WWII Memorial in 2020 – Ron thanked Bridget for all her work with the National Association for Letter Carriers, put the requirement in to Jim Hisono with DAGS, Jim is looking for vendors on the letter, spoke with him a week ago, but he hasn't found any vendor yet. Jim reviewed the plaque and the wording; his only comment is that it seems to be large. He is thinking about placing it along the bottom. Vendor for the plaque is on the Big Island
 - b. Maui Veterans Cemetery Blessing/Dedication Event – Still waiting on Lot 1 to be released

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

X. WORKING SESSION – OVS / Advisory Board Issues / Ideas

XI. ADJOURN – 9:53am

Yolanda Ehere – Recorder
Attachments