

Illinois Veterans Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 8, 2020– 10:30am

Illinois Department of Affairs

Video Teleconference & Phone Conference Line

Attendance:

NAME	APPOINTED BY	PRESENT
Stanley Olenjack	Marine Corps League	
Anthony Ortiz	IDVA Director	X
Al Reynolds	Disabled American Veterans	
Senator Toi Hutchinson	President of Senate	
Senator Sue Rezin	Minority Leader of Senate	
Rep. Lance Yednock	Speaker of the House	X
Rep. Dan Swanson	Minority Leader of the House	X
Bill Wolff	IDVA Director	X
Clayton Young	IDVA Director	
Megan Everett	IDVA Director	X
Quinn Triplett	IDVA Director	X
Command Sgt. Maj. Dena Ballowe	National Guard	
Tom Banning	Attorney General	X
Greg Curran	IL Secretary of State	
Jorge Bermudez	IL Department of Securities	X
Myron Kirby, Chairman	The American Legion	X
Keith Wetherell	AMVETS	X
Maureen Cattani	Blue Star Mothers of America	X
Pat Noel	Catholic War Veterans	X
Dr. Jerry Field	Jewish War Veterans	X
Dan Finn / Joe Schaler	Military Order of the Purple Heart	X
Michael Peck, Vice Chairman	Military Order of the World Wars	X
Lou Myers	Reserve Officers' Association	X
Steve Fixler	Veterans Assistance Commission	X
Vince Long	Veterans of Foreign Wars	X
Roy Dolgos	Vietnam Veterans of America	
Ariel Shivers-McGrew	IDVA Director	X
Bob Tyler	MOAA	X
Bill Browne	Cook County VAC	X

New Members:

Guests: Janet Long

Call to Order 10:30am

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions:

IDVA Staff:

Linda Chapa LaVia, Director

Anthony Vaughn, Assistant Director

Amy Brennan, Legislative Liaison

Mark Patterson, Operations and Programs Division Manager

Len Winnicki, Senior Home Administrator

Crystal Womack, Programs Manager

Gwen Diehl, Homes Manager

Connie Watson, Grants Manager

Approval of December 11th, 2019 minutes

Motion to approve the Minutes by Jerry Field

Vince Long seconded motion

Minutes approved

Director Chapa LaVia:

Thank you everyone for being present on the phone call today. I know times are different right now and this is not our usual way to gather, but due to the circumstances and the safety for all of you I appreciate your cooperation.

At this time we have no positive cases at our homes and are taking strict precautions to prevent the virus from entering. We are taking temperatures for all staff that enter all of our facilities.

We will keep on top of all safety measures that are recommended. In the meantime, please be safe.

Chairman's Report

Myron Kirby:

We have made progress on the report to the governor's office. We will be voting on the FY2019 report today and depending on the vote it will be submitted. The FY2018 will be voted on during the June meeting. The most important point we want the governor to see is that we have been out of the headlines. That is an accomplishment. It means we are taking good care of our veterans.

I would like to say thank you to everyone for your patience during this time. And with that we will begin with our reports.

Veterans' Homes Coordinator Gwen Diehl:

Thursday, March 26, 2020 - IDVA requested Emergency project from the Capital Development Board (CDB) to create isolation rooms at each Veterans' Home

Requested SCOPE: Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the eminent danger it poses to the frail elderly population service the Illinois Veterans' Home, the Department of Veterans' Affairs must create a negative pressure isolation capability to protect our veterans in the event we have positive case or outbreak.

Anna Census: 47 (capacity 49)

LaSalle Census: 157 (capacity 184)

Manteno Census: 230 (capacity 294)

Quincy Census: 296 (capacity 382)

Sunday, March 28, 2020 - CDB approved Level 1 Emergency and Director Selection of Architect/Engineer firms for each Home.

CDB SCOPE: Provide for an assessment, guidance and potentially design services for the implementation of isolation space to meet the specific needs of the facility

Monday March 29, 2020 - Orientation meetings were held with the selected A/Es. The scope was further explained that the Homes desired to quickly implement isolation capabilities and to explore how additional isolation beds could be created.

As of Tuesday, April 7, 2020 -

ANNA - Immediate solution - Two single Occupancy rooms in the facility were designed for conversion to negative pressure rooms.

They started on the interior isolation units Saturday (4/04/2020). They just need to tie into electrical, remove PTAC units and seal it up.

The additional bed capability will be in a leased, converted mobile office (trailer) that will feature a five-bed capability. The trailer will require finish changes and HVAC upgrades to attain negative pressure and is expected to be operational in approximately two weeks (o/a April 20th). Not much information available on the trailer other than the plan is to have it operational by Friday. They did some site prep on Monday, 4/06, i.e. remove parking curbs. We are still waiting for design development on the site infrastructure upgrades (water, sewer, electrical) for the trailer.

Permanent Solution – May be the use of the two interior rooms and the possibility of getting the trailer back again if we need to have additional beds in the future.

LaSALLE - Immediate Solution - Six rooms in the vacant half of the Alzheimer's wing have been identified and are being converted for negative pressure isolation. Electrical and back-up generator

capacity are being reviewed; equipment availability is also an issue.

Long Term Solution - A/E is reviewing additional, possible locations for conversion to permanent beds for the long term. Currently reviewing the North West Wing for electrical capacity and HAVAC conversion.

MANTENO - Immediate Solution - The A Wing (of R-1) is being converted with construction of an ante room, negative pressure in the resident rooms, hallways and clean utility rooms (positive pressure in soiled utility rooms). Pressure monitoring gauges and alarms will be installed for the staff to know readily if there is a pressure loss in the rooms or the unit. A “clean room” ceiling system is being installed to assist with maintaining the negative pressure and will be completed by Friday 4/10. Mechanical equipment deliveries are expected on 4/09 and 4/10. Work has been authorized to continue second shifts and over the weekend as work is available so the unit can be completed as soon as possible.

Long Term Solution - When the A Wing is completed and passes test and balance, it will be sanitized and then furnished to accept residents. (Equipment is being removed from the units prior to and contractor or outside personnel entering the unit.) Work will move to C Wing after that wing is emptied of residents. The ultimate goal is to have all four wings of R1 capable of negative pressure and each able to be operated independently as negative pressure units and other wings under normal pressure.

QUINCY - Immediate Solution – Fifer A Wing is complete and currently occupied with non-Coronavirus residents. C Wing will be complete (next week, I believe) when observation cameras are installed and operational.

Long Term Solution - Non-Coronavirus residents will be moved into C Wing freeing up another wing for construction and progress to D-Wing.

Gwen Diehl:

Len Winnicki has returned to IDVA and is now over seeing the Chicago home project. He will be in charge through the opening of the facility.

The Chicago home is looking at August for an opening date. We have received 80 applications to date.

Legislative Report:

Amy Brennan:

With no gatherings being allowed during this time, session will be based on the necessary only. I do not believe there will be any veteran legislation discussed. I will keep everyone updated should this change.

Old Business:

Myron Kirby:

Gulf War Memorial at Oakridge Cemetery:

Lou Myers:

Copies of the design were shared with the committee for review. We are still in the working phase of this project. Fundraising will need to happen to finalize. Once we are able to meet again I will provide additional information.

Myron Kirby:

Medal of Honor Highway. Amy is aware of the request and has been connected with Bob Tyler. With there being a limited session this spring, we will have to work towards the future.

Myron Kirby:

Regarding the annual report, we currently have provided the FY2019 annual report for your review and approval.

The report is ready to file as stands and approved by the committee.

Motion made by Lou Myers and seconded by Bill Wolff

FY2018 report will be voted upon at the June meeting. Vice President Peck will be working on the 2020 report to be filed as well. He will be reaching out to those in specific fields for the creation and feedback.

New Business:

Myron Kirby:

Lottery Update

Connie Watson:

Currently we have 25 grants available and have received 12 applications to date.

General Discussion:

A vote took place to notify the legislature that IVAC wants action on 5 bills.

Motion by Lou Myers; seconded by Bill Wolff

No new cases of Legionaire at any of the homes.

We would like to work with DCFS to help homeless families stay together.

For the Good of the Veterans:

Retire the Colors:

Next Meeting Date: June 10, 2020 – WebEx

Adjourn: Myron Kirby, Chairman