



# Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

June 18, 2014

## Minutes

### 1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:06 am

- a. Present: Chairman Roger Newall, Vice Chairman Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Steve Overman, Stephen Asher
- b. Absent: Elise Wheeler, Louis Tafoya, Pat Gaston & Brian Lee
- c. Present: Pending Members: Caroline LaBlanc, Mandy Dykman
- d. Absent: Pending Members: Diallo Dphrepaulezz
- e. Secretary: Mirella Chacon

### 1. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2014

- a. The May minutes were accepted.

### III. Public Comments – No Public Participation

### IV. Old Business

- a. Albuquerque Employee Coins
  - Difficulty setting meeting with Police Department
- b. Hiring Preference
  - Mtg. w/HR coordinators from different department upcoming week
  - 14 Veterans were in the New Police Cadet Class
  - APD - Still in discussion w/Education component requirements and who qualifies as Military; 3 years of military (Active?) service is current requirements for the City.
  - Basic Requirements of the City for Veterans are:
    1. Completed Basic Training and Assigned to a unit - Guard & Reserve or Honorable discharge
  - Current APD Requirements:
    1. 3 years of Military Service (Active and/or Guard & Reserve??)
    2. Consideration could be given for type training and an added bonus will be Educational area. A statement could be included indicating that credit hours or ability to get credit hours in Criminology or Related Fields will be considered. Still an ongoing discussion.
    3. Hoping to visit with Supervisors next week in hopes of learning how they are processing Veterans' claims or requests.
- c. Membership
  - A new Boards and Commissions person has been named: Carmen Ortiz
  - Resignations – Gary Zura
  - New opening available – must be resident of the City of Albuquerque, w/Military experience and can bring something to the committee that is a perspective to enhance the overall view.
- d. Projects
  - Working w/Police
  - Working w/VA: cooperation in Crisis Management
  - Boots to Business – small business development center (concerns lie with continuity and longevity)
  - Barelas Senior Center– a Veterans Wall will be implemented to recognize Senior Veterans within the center in which they are asked to bring a picture of them while in the service and a brief paragraph of the type of service they did. Eventually we will continue this program at other centers.

e. Legislation

- Tim Hale / Tom Church – Coordinate funding for transportation systems including Rail Runner. VA Pass Program. Goal is to reduce fare or provide free transportation to Veterans (that can provide proof) and Veterans with VA Card. This is in the “Consideration Process” but we are taking strides in the right direction.
- Chief of Staff and Secretary of State Mr. Ortiz– will be meeting next Tuesday (June 24, 2014) to propose changes in documentations that will be necessary to be filed with Secretary of State to start a business. Included will be a question inquiring Veteran status for the purpose of compiling data for Veteran owned businesses in the state. 22,000 are in the census and 142 are registered with the state tax and revenue as resident veteran own businesses and contractors.
- The confusion with the various numbers of veteran businesses lies with whether the business is Federal or State registered or registered at all. It is a trickledown effect for small businesses. A problem we face is the 95% of veteran businesses that have no desire to be involved with government contracts.

Discussion ensued on topic.

- Roger is still involved with Congressional Group with the VA Information Investigation. Last meeting attended offered information on new Veterans waiting on appointments –
  - 1) New Veterans, we have 1034 waiting for appointment over 30 days.
  - 2) Current Veterans involved with the VA waiting over 30 days for another appointment is about 1,047.
  - 3) 45,000 scheduled appointments 41,600 of them were under 30 days = 92%.
  - 4) 3,485 over 30 days = 8%

Discussion ensued on personal VA appointments

Questions and Answers: Is there any validity on the so called Phantom List?

Answer: There may be some validity depending on the department. There is a possibility that what may have occurred here is being short staffed. A PC Dr. was created and names of people that could not be scheduled immediately were placed on this list so as to keep track of them. This could be interpreted as a Side List.

Question: Any truth to medical schools (UNM) serving as Physician’s Assistants that are providing services?

Answer: Have not heard of them working unsupervised.

- Physician’s Assistance –the care received is in cooperation with UNM Medical School. They are in as residents and rotate within departments.

Discussion ensued on VA situation and hiring process.

- Concern is not any different than that of the state of New Mexico – hiring of physicians full time, continuity and longevity.
- A concern was shared: Application process within the state makes it nearly impossible for those interested in this particular field.
- Currently in the process of hiring two complete Primary Care Physician Teams – difficulty lies in finding them.

V. New Business:

- May 19 - Veterans for Peace – demonstration at VA Hospital
  - Clarification was requested on a statement that is generally made when events are held at the New Mexico Veterans’ Memorial is ..... “This is a non-political park”. Where is this written?
  - Answer: Implied based on what has been done in the past – political promotions (distribution of Political materials is expressly prohibited).
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Kick off of the Veteran Wall at Barelás Senior Center main room 9:30

- July 2 – “Poetry in Time of War” at Book Works
  - July 4 – “For Voices” exhibit on the 4<sup>th</sup> program at Museum of American Military Families
  - 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebrations – concert at the memorial
  - The Telling Project (National Theatrical Project) @ the South Broadway Cultural Center to be held September 11, 13, 19 & 20<sup>th</sup>. Need volunteers to help with this project.
  - Downtown 11<sup>th</sup> floor office has had some recent changes – additional inside double doors have been added for security purposes due to previous incidents.
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- Setting of Future Meetings – July 16, 2014 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans’ Memorial
  - Adjourned – 10:30 am.

DRAFT