

**Minutes of the
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Meeting
Wednesday April 21, 2010
Kansas Veterans' Home, Winfield, KS**

1. Commission members present: Ed Wieggers, Chairman; Jim Buterbaugh, Vice Chairman; Joy Moser, Commissioner; and Michael Neer, Commissioner.
2. Staff present: Jack Fowler, Executive Director; Jim Hays, KVH Superintendent; Steve Dunkin, KSH Superintendent; and Kim Tatum, Human Resources Director. Via telephone: Wayne Bollig, Veteran Services Director; Marshall Kennedy, Chief Fiscal Officer; and Kafer Peele, Cemetery Program Director.
3. Guests in attendance: Ed Brake, VFW Winfield; Bill Vaughn, American Legion and VFW Winfield; Floyd Clarkson, Winfield; Richard Warren, Winfield; Christy Haynes, Winfield; Stan Schwantes, Winfield; Marie Potter, Winfield; Linda Poyner, Winfield; Leanne McMurray, Winfield; Ardes Bauer, Winfield; Shelly Marley, Winfield; Claudine Madison, Winfield; Mabel King, Winfield; Ann Burns, Winfield; Joan and Warren Haslouer, Winfield; Roy Graber. Courier, Winfield; and Sharnell Weakley, KCVA Winfield.
4. Chairman Ed Wieggers opened the meeting of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs at 10:00 AM.
5. Superintendent Jim Hays introduced the pledge leader, Mr. Robert Ivan Wood. Pictures will be available on our website <http://www.kcva.org>.
6. Chairman Ed Wieggers began with the March 24, 2010 Commission minutes.

MOTION: Chairman Jim Buterbaugh moved to approve the March 24, 2010 Commission minutes. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

7. Executive Director Jack Fowler gave the agency updates. **(A)** Director Fowler reported on the status of the KCVA's budget. The Governor is facing a 510 million dollar shortfall. The KCVA was required to submit a report to Omnibus on the status of Medicare and Medicaid certification at the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH) and the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). The KSH is certified for both Medicare and Medicaid and the KVH should be Medicaid certified any day now. The Governor's people asked us to estimate how much money was going to be brought in from both Medicare and Medicaid for both of the homes by the end of FY10. Our estimation was that we'd have \$90,000 for the KVH thru Medicaid and about \$388,000 from Medicare and Medicaid at the KSH by the end of FY10. The Governor's people stripped that much money from our SGF based on our estimates we provided. The Omnibus report that Director Fowler recently reported on was telling them that it doesn't look like we are even going to come close in terms of revenue for both of the homes. **(B)** Director Fowler reported on the KCVA in the media. Roy Graber from the Winfield Courier had an excellent article in the newspaper on privatizing the KVH; Tim Carpenter from the Topeka Capital Journal has been in contact about writing a story on the lack of Veteran Service Representatives here in Kansas; and another reporter from Wichita is also working on a story about the lack of Veteran Service Representatives here in Kansas.
8. Chief Fiscal Officer Marshall Kennedy reported on budget issues. **(A)** Mr. Kennedy reported that we are seventy-five percent into the current fiscal year that ends June 30, 2010. Several programs are still over budget because of the allotment. We intend to meet budget for all programs with the exception of possibly the Kansas Veterans' Home.
9. Human Resources Director Kim Tatum reported on program updates. **(A)** Mrs. Tatum showed charts on the KCVA's FTE (full time equivalent) data. The number of FTE positions the legislator has authorized our agency to have is 513 FTE and 8 non-FTE; we have 310.75 positions filled as of yesterday. The number of FTE has been reduced by 17% since the reductions began in April of 2009.
10. Veteran Services Program Director Wayne Bollig reported on the Veteran Services Program and Veterans Claim Advisory Program. **(A)** Mr. Bollig reported on the Veteran Services/VCAP budget for FY10. **(B)** Mr. Bollig reported on operating financial issues and claims production. Claims production year to date has increased by 17 million dollars over the same period last year. New claims production has increased by 2.4 million dollars so far this year. The KCVA has 3,823

new claims approved YTD for FY10. Contacts are up by 9,926; this is a 17% increase over last year. One dollar in SGF puts 89 dollars in federal benefits in the hands of Kansas Veterans, survivors and dependents.

11. Cemetery Program Director Kafer Peele reported on the cemetery program. **(A)** Mr. Peele reported on the operational activities of the cemetery program and statistics. In March 2010 the KCVA cemeteries completed 18 new interments and 45 new pre-certifications. Total interments for the cemeteries are at 836, and pre-certifications are at 2,583 YTD. **(B)** Mr. Peele reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Mr. Peele reported on operational financials as of March 2010. **(D)** Mr. Peele reported on recent events.

12. Superintendent Jim Hays reported on the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). **(A)** The current census is 130 residents, which includes 113 veterans and 17 non-veterans. There was one admission, zero discharges and two deaths in long-term care. There are 31 applicants on the KVH waiting list. **(B)** Superintendent Hays reported on staffing and personnel issues. The KVH will be short at the end of FY10 by about 74 to 85 thousand dollars. **(C)** Superintendent Hays reported on operation and finance as of March 31, 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported on surveys at the KVH. The Medicaid certification survey has been completed. The Kansas Department on Aging inspectors arrived on March 23, 2010 and exited on March 26, 2010. The plan of correction was submitted on March 31, 2010 and is still pending. The VA Survey inspectors arrived March 24, 2010 and exited on March 26, 2010. The report is pending. The annual survey of the long-term care and administrative areas for the State Fire Marshal was completed on March 17, 2010. There were three minor deficiencies found. The plan of correction was accepted on April 7, 2010. The domiciliary inspection for the State Fire Marshal is due in June 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported on recent and upcoming events at the KVH.

13. Superintendent Steve Dunkin reported on the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH). **(A)** The current census is 129 residents which includes 102 veterans and 27 non-veterans. There were zero admissions, six deaths and three discharges. There were eight inquiries to the KSH. **(B)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on operation and finance as of March 31, 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on surveys at the KSH. The VA survey will be in November 2010; the KDOA survey will be in August 2010; and the State Fire Marshall's survey will also be in August 2010. **(F)**

Superintendent Dunkin reported on repair and rehabilitation issues. **(G)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. The current Medicare census is four residents on Medicare Part A and five residents on Medicare Part B. Revenue from Medicare to date is \$24,625 and zero from Medicaid. **(H)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on open issues at the KSH. **(I)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on recent and upcoming events at the KSH.

14. Chairman Ed Wieggers opened the forum to the audience. Ron Bauer commented on the status of the KCVA's budget. Carol Harker commented on privatizing the KVH. Ann Burns (spouse of a resident at KVH) commented on the great level of care at the KVH that her husband receives daily. Michael Finney also commented on the status of the KCVA's budget. Dick Headburg also commented on privatizing the KVH. Roger Casebolt also commented on the KCVA's budget. Claudia Madison also commented on privatizing the KVH and the status of the KCVA's budget. Shellie Mullinix commented on the excellent level of care her brother receives at the KVH and privatizing the KVH. Artis Bauer commented also commented on the excellent level of care at the KVH.

15. Chairman Ed Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into an executive session for not more than ten minutes and talk exclusively about personnel matters.

MOTION: Commissioner Joy Moser moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

16. Chairman Ed Wieggers reopened the meeting.

MOTION: Vice Chairman Jim Buterbaugh moved to offer a salary of up to \$70,000 to hire an Assistant Director of Nursing for the Kansas Soldiers' Home, subsequent to final approval from the Governor. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded the motion. Motion passed.

17. Chairman Ed Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

18. **MOTION:** Vice Chairman Jim Buterbaugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Michael Neer seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes; no abstentions, Motion passed.

19. Chairman Ed Wiegers adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM.

Ed Wiegers, Chairman

May 12, 2010