

**Minutes of the
Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs Meeting
Wednesday February 17, 2010
Jayhawk Tower Central Office, Topeka, KS**

Commission members present: Ed Wieggers, Chairman; Jim Buterbaugh, Commissioner; Joy Moser, Commissioner; and Michael Neer, Commissioner.

Staff present: Jack Fowler, Executive Director; Jim Hays, KVH Superintendent; Steve Dunkin, KSH Superintendent; Wayne Bollig, Veteran Services Director; Marshall Kennedy, Chief Fiscal Officer; Kafer Peele, Cemetery Program Director; and Kim Tatum, Human Resources Director.

Guests in attendance: Christian Kramer, DAV; Ken Stodgell, VFW; Darrell Bencken, VFW; Ken Stodgell, VFW; Roger Casebolt, AL; Ronald Morris, AL; and Jeff Hanson, FRA.

1. Chairman Ed Wieggers opened the meeting of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs at 10:00 AM.
2. Executive Director Jack Fowler introduced the pledge leader, Jim Hays. Pictures will be available on our website <http://www.kcva.org>.
3. Chairman Wieggers began with the January 20, 2010 Commission minutes.

MOTION: Commissioner Michael Neer moved to approve the January 20, 2010 Commission minutes subject to the changes that were brought up. Commissioner Joy Moser seconded. All in favor; no dissenting votes, no abstentions. Motion passed.

4. Executive Director Jack Fowler gave the agency updates. (A) Director Fowler reported that the Social Services of Budget Subcommittee made its recommendations to the Appropriations Committee and they approved the governor's recommendations with a couple of notations. Those notations basically were to add \$648,585 from the State General Fund (SGF) to the KCVA in order to maintain the FY2011 SGF appropriation at the same level as FY2010. The committee

further states that the addition of funds is due to the decision of the governor to reduce the state agency general fund appropriation by that amount in Medicare and Medicaid funds. Director Fowler commented that nobody is getting out lobbying for veterans. We need recognition and support from Kansas Veterans. Christian Kramer from the DAV suggested that all the Commissioners should be attending all of the budget hearings.

5. Chief Fiscal Officer Marshall Kennedy reported on budget issues. **(A)** Mr. Kennedy reported that we are fifty eight percent into the current fiscal year. The Administration, Veteran Services, VCAP, Kansas Veterans' Home, and the Kansas Soldiers' Home programs are all over budget. At the end of December the state took out enough money to cover a six month time frame all at once for the allotment. The FY2010 expenditures do not show any Medicaid or Medicare dollars, we are uncertain how much revenue they will bring at this point. **(B)** Mr. Kennedy showed where the agency is on the budget cycle. In February and March the appropriation bills are reviewed and agencies explain their budgets to the legislature.
6. Veteran Services Program Director Wayne Bollig reported on the Veteran Services Program and Veterans Claim Advisory Program. **(A)** Mr. Bollig reported on the medallion program. He reported that we have completed all the processes and we have received the bid contract. The only thing left to do is to get the funding and send out the medallions. Currently, over 300 applicants have been approved for the medallion. **(C)** Mr. Bollig reported on claims production. Claims production and contacts have both jumped significantly. The field offices reported that they are seeing an increase in referrals from both the Department on Aging and SRS.
7. 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 January 2010 KCVA cemeteries completed 22 new interments and 34 new pre-certifications. Total interments for the cemeteries are at 816, and pre-certifications are at 2,116 YTD. **(B)** Mr. Peele reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Mr. Peele reported on operational funds as of January 2010. **(D)** Mr. Peele reported on recent events.
8. Superintendent Jim Hays reported on the Kansas Veterans' Home (KVH). **(A)** The current census is 133 residents which includes 115 veterans and 18 non-veterans. There were two admissions and one death. There are 36 applicants on the KVH waiting list. All but about ten of those applicants

are not ready to be admitted. The ten applicants that are actively seeking admission are looking for long term care or special care and we do not have that available at this time. **(B)** Superintendent Hays reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Superintendent Hays reported on operation and finance as of January 31, 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported on the Medicare/Medicaid project. He reported that the KVH has to participate in a MDS (Minimum Data Set) test transmission prior to the Medicaid survey. **(C)** Superintendent Hays reported on surveys at the KVH. He reported that the Medicaid certification survey should be combined with the annual KDOA survey and will occur soon; the annual inspection for the VA Survey is due in March 2010; and the annual inspection for the State Fire Marshal Survey is due in June 2010. **(D)** Superintendent Hays reported that Cowley County has hired the Hein Law Firm of Topeka, Kansas to be a lobbyist on behalf of the Winfield Correctional Facility, KVH and other state-funded organizations in Cowley County. The annual cost will be \$24,000 plus \$1,000 in expenses. Funding will be provided by private sources, banks, Arkansas City, the City of Winfield and Cowley County. **(E)** Superintendent Hays reported on recent and upcoming events at the KVH.

9. Superintendent Steve Dunkin reported on the Kansas Soldiers' Home (KSH). **(A)** The current census is 142 residents which includes 113 veterans and 29 non-veterans. There was one admission and two deaths. There are five applicants on the KSH waiting list. **(B)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on staffing and personnel issues. **(C)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on operation and finance as of January 13, 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. He reported that they have been working on Medicare billing training with AccuMed via telephone and Pinon Management is to follow up in March with more training and actual billing plus MDS training. The current Medicare census is five residents on Medicare Part A and one resident on Medicare Part B. Medicare revenue for Medicare Part A thru the month of December was \$31,343.62 and Medicare Part B thru the month of December was \$3,348.58. The cost report for Medicaid is being sent to the rate contractor to calculate a per diem rate. **(H)** Superintendent Dunkin reported on recent and upcoming events at the KSH.
10. Chairman Wieggers opened the forum to the audience. Christian Kramer from the DAV commented that he attended a fundraiser in Worcester, Massachusetts that was put together by one of his

friends that owns a nursing home to see how he raises money for his nursing home. The fundraiser was a "sweetheart ball" and the ball raised the nursing home fifty thousand dollars after expenses.

11. Chairman Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting for not more than 20 minutes and go into an executive session and talk exclusively about personnel matters.

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

12. Chairman Wieggers reopened the meeting.

13. Chairman Wieggers called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

14. Chairman Wieggers adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

Ed Wieggers, Chairman

March 24, 2010