



MINUTES

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 9, 2023
3:00 P.M.

www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory

Location:

1300 S Grand Ave, Building B
Santa Ana, CA. 92705

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Stephanie Wade
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL: OC Community Services Representative
PRESENT: John Burick, Alexis Federico, Robert McDonald, Steven Vargas, Stephanie Wade
ABSENT: Erik Duane, Alex Maslin, Michael Radigan
4. INTRODUCTIONS: Chair Stephanie Wade
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At this time, members of the public may address the Council regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes, unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).

Robert Buchanan Oral re: Risen Warriors Treatment Center. Center providing mental health and addiction treatment services to veteran community. Center is close to opening but has faced multiple challenges
6. PRESENTATION:

Orange County Master Plan on Aging
Presented by Tammy Peng, Director of Operations, Advance OC
7. ACTION ITEMS:
 - i. OCVAC Meeting Minutes:
Recommendation to request the Veterans Service office take written OCVAC meeting minutes. Amended Recommendation: OCVAC requests that staff prepare action minutes for each OCVAC meeting. The action minute shall contain at a minimum the agenda

items from the previous meeting and reflect actions taken, council decisions, and public comments. OCVAC shall vote on whether to approve the action minutes at the following OCVAC meeting; approved action minutes shall be posted on the OCVAC website along with the meetings audio recording.

Motioned by Alexis Federico, 2nd by Steven Vargas

Unanimous Vote to Approve Amended Recommendation

ii. SJR 6: Don't Ask, Don't Tell: Discharge Characterizations

Recommendation to review and approve re-sending the 2021 OCVAC Letter of Support regarding SJR 6: Don't Ask, Don't Tell to the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Stephanie Wade, 2nd by Steven Vargas

Unanimous Vote to Approve Recommendation with Staff to draft cover letter to BOS

iii. Welcome Home Program

Recommendation to review and approve re-sending the 2022 OCVAC Letter of Support regarding the Welcome Home Program to the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Stephanie Wade, 2nd by Steven Vargas

Unanimous Vote to Approve Recommendation with Staff to draft cover letter to BOS "The OCVAC wishes to recommend that you (BOS) revisit the issue that OCVAC raised in the letter dated March 9, 2022, recommending the County BOS create and fund a Welcome Home Event for Post 9-1-1 Veterans"

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

i. Committee Reports

Council Member Steven Vargas volunteers for Events/Outreach Committee.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Stephanie Wade

Chair Wade appoints Alexis Federico as Vice-Chair.

10. OCVSO UPDATE: Claudia Harris, Director, Aging and Veterans Services

11. CALVET LINC UPDATE: Ben Gales, Local Interagency Network Coordinator

12. COMMITTEES:

i. Communications Standing Committee Report: Council Member Alex Maslin

ii. Events/Outreach Standing Committee Report: Council Member Michael Radigan

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT