

Board of Veterans Services
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)
June 20, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on June 20, 2024 at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 S. Belvidere, Richmond VA 23220.

Members Present

1. David Ashe (Zoom)
2. Jason Ballard (Zoom)
3. Carl Bedell
4. Scott Davidson
5. Michael Dick
6. Tara Durant
7. Robert Eisiminger
8. Michael Feggans (Zoom)
9. Mario Flores
10. Jackie Glass (Zoom)
11. John Lesinski
12. Terence McKnight
13. Matthew Miller
14. Melissa Watts
15. Carl Holcomb, representing the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
16. Darius McKenney, representing the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation
17. Pam Seay, representing the Virginia War Memorial Foundation
18. Chuck Zingler, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Members Absent

1. Victor Angry
2. Joe Campa
3. Jennifer Carroll Foy
4. Vincent Griffith
5. Joyce Henderson
6. Carlton Kent
7. Russet Perry
8. Joshua Thomas

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

1. Jordan Stewart, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
2. Tramaine Carroll-Payne, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
3. Steven Combs, DVS
4. Michele Crone, DVS

5. Kendra Ellison, DVS
6. Jasmine Gore, DVS
7. John Hall, DVS
8. Donna Harrison, DVS
9. Brandi Jancaitis, DVS
10. Clay Mountcastle, DVS
11. Ravi Padma, DVS
12. James Toczko, DVS
13. Tiffany Woody-Wiggins, DVS

Members of the Public

1. Ralph Hensley
2. Michael Parker
3. Jenna Rowe,
4. Kayla Owen
5. Kristi McGinnis
6. Andrew Sullivan
7. Caitlyn Goodale-Porter
8. Tom Coffman
9. Michele Rowan
10. Rory Quinn
11. Mark Arbeen
12. Ryan Bennett
13. Donna Lewis

Materials Distributed as part of the Agenda Packet

1. Draft Agenda
2. Draft Minutes of the May 3, 2024 meeting
3. 2024 Military & Veterans Bills and Budget Matrix – as of 05.01.2024
4. BVS 2024 Meeting Schedule and Workplan – proposed update June 20, 2024
5. Virginia Department of Veterans Services Update for BVS
6. Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Services Report to the BVS
7. Virginia Veterans Services Foundation Report to the BVS
8. Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) Update for BVS
9. BVS Guidance for “Point of Contact” Reports
10. BVS POC List as of 06/06/2024
11. BVS POC Report – Benefits Services
12. BVS POC Report – Behavioral Health, Rehabilitative Services, and Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addition Services (SOS)
13. BVS POC Report – Transition & Employment Services
14. BVS POC Report – Justice Involved Veterans and Veteran Treatment Dockets
15. BVS POC Briefing – Justice Involved Veterans and Veteran Treatment Dockets
16. BVS Background Paper on the Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program

Item I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Michael Dick called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m. and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Chairman Dick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item II. Roll Call, Introduction of Members, and Quorum Determination

The roll call determined that only 13 of 26 members were physically present and that there was not a quorum. Senator Durant arrived at 10:37 a.m., bringing the total number of members physical assembled to 14 of 26 members present. A quorum was established. Four members joined via Zoom, bringing the total to 18 of 26 (14 physically present, 4 via Zoom). There was no objection to the 4 members participating virtually.

Item III. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Dick made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bedell, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The approved Agenda is attached to these minutes.

Item IV. Approval of the Minutes of the May 3, 2024 meeting and the revised BVS 2024 Work Plan

Chairman Dick made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bedell, to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2024 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Dick made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bedell, to approve the minutes of the amended BVS 2024 Work Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Item V. Introduction of DVS Staff and Guests

DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler asked the DVS Staff members in attendance stand and introduce themselves. Their names, and the names of the guests, are listed above.

Item VI. Updates

- a. DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler presented the DVS update.
- b. Mr. Carl Holcomb, representing the Joint Leadership Council, presented the JLC update.
- c. Mr. Darius McKenney, representing the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation, presented the VVSF update.
- d. Ms. Pam Seay, representing the Virginia War Memorial Foundation, presented an update on the VWMF.

Item VII. BVS POC Reports

- a. Mr. Bedell and Mr. Davidson presented the Benefit Services POC report.
- b. Mr. Ashe presented the Behavioral Health, Rehabilitative Services, and Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addition Services (SOS) POC report.
- c. Mr. Flores presented the Transition & Employment Services POC report.
- d. Chairman Dick and Ms. Harrison presented the Justice Involved Veterans and Veteran Treatment Dockets POC report.

DVS Commissioner Chuck Zingler presented a special plaque to outgoing BVS Chairman Michael Dick in recognition of his service as BVS Chair. Commissioner Zingler then departed. DVS Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs represented DVS for the rest of the meeting.

Item VIII. New Business

- a. Establish BVS workgroups and update POC assignments for 2024-2025: BVS Chairman Michael Dick made a **motion, seconded** by Senator Durant, to defer this to the new BVS Chair. The motion was agreed to by unanimous consent.
- b. Initial review of budget/legislative process for the 2025 General Assembly – BVS Chairman Michael Dick gave a brief overview of the timeline leading to the 2024 session.
- c. “Troops to Teachers” update – BVS Chairman Michael Dick called the members to the material in the agenda packet related to the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program, highlighting the work that the College of William & Mary does in support of TTT.
- d. Good of the Order reports – none were offered.
- e. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
 - a. BVS Chairman Michael Dick nominated Mr. Carl Bedell for BVS Chairman. There were no other nominations. Mr. Bedell was confirmed as the new BVS Chairman by unanimous consent.
 - b. BVS Chairman Michael Dick nominated Mr. Scott Davidson for BVS Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations. Mr. Davidson was confirmed as the new BVS Vice Chairman by unanimous consent.

Item IX. Public Comment

Public comment regarding the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP) was offered by Ms. Kayla Owen, Ms. Caitlyn Goodall-Porter, Mr. Thomas Cuffman, Ms. Michelle Rowe, Ms. Jenna Rowe, Ms. Kristy McGinnis, and Mr. Michael Parker.

Item XI. Wrap Up & Adjournment

There being no further business before the BVS, Chairman Michael Dick adjourned the meeting at 1:27. p.m.

Approved Agenda
BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES
June 20, 2024

Virginia War Memorial
621 S. Belvidere St
Richmond VA 23220

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:00 – 10:02)
- II. Roll Call, Introduction of Members, and Quorum Determination – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:02 – 10:05)
- III. Approval of Agenda – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:05 – 10:06)
- IV. Approval of Minutes of the May 3, 2024 meeting and updated BVS 2024 Meeting Schedule/Work Plan – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:06 – 10:07)
- V. Introduction of DVS staff and guests – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (10:07 – 10:08)
- VI. Updates
 - a. DVS Operations – *Chuck Zingler, DVS Commissioner* (10:08 – 10:25)
 - b. Joint Leadership Council – *Kevin Hoffman, JLC Chair* (10:25 – 10:30)
 - c. Veterans Services Foundation – *Brad Williamson, VSF Chair* (10:30 – 10:35)
 - d. Virginia War Memorial Foundation Update – *Rick St. John, VWMF Chair* (10:35 – 10:40)
 - e. Preserving VMSDEP Task Force – *Robert Eisiminger, BVS and Chuck Zingler, DVS Commissioner* (10:40 – 10:55)
- VII. BVS POC Reports – ten minutes each (10:55 – 11:35)
 - a. Benefits Services: *Carl Bedell, Scott Davidson, and Carlton Kent*
 - b. Behavioral Health, Rehabilitative Services, and Suicide Prevention and Opioid Addiction Services (SOS): *David Ashe and Carlton Kent*
 - c. Transition & Employment: *Victor Angry, Mario Flores, David Ashe, and Joyce Henderson*
 - d. Justice-Involved Veterans & Veterans Treatment Dockets: *Joe Campa and Michael Dick*
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Establish BVS workgroups and update POC assignments for 2024-2025 – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:35 – 11:45)
 - b. Initial review of budget/legislation process for 2025 General Assembly - *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman and BVS Legislators* (11:45 – 11:55)
 - c. “Troops to Teachers” – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman* (11:55 – 12:10)
 - d. “Good of the Order” Reports - *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman and all*

members (12:10 – 12:15)

- e. BVS Elections (Chair and Vice Chair) for 2024-2026 - *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman (12:15 – 12:20)*

IX. Public Comment - *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman (12:20 – 12:30)*

X. Wrap Up & Adjourn – *Michael Dick, BVS Chairman (12:30)*