

Veteran Advocate Nominating Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2023

9:00 – 9:30 am

Date of meeting: Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Start time: 9:00 am

End time: 9:30 am

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote I*
1	Daniel Shark (<i>chair</i>) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)	X
2	Sean Collins – Board of Trustees of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home	X
3	Emmanuel Dockter – Executive Office of Veterans' Services (EOVS) (<i>designee of Secretary Santiago</i>)	X
4	Brooke Doyle – Department of Mental Health (DMH)	-
5	Jeffrey Farnsworth – Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)	X
6	James C. Fratolillo – American Legion	X
7	Gary W. Keefe – Mass. National Guard	X
8	Bill LeBeau – Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	-
9	Tom Lyons – Board of Trustees of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home	-
10	Mark Messer – Office of Senator John Velis (<i>designee of the Senator</i>)	X
11	Bridget Plouffe – Office of Representative Cassidy (<i>designee of the Representative</i>)	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Assistant Secretary Shark called the meeting of the Veteran Advocate Nominating Committee to order at 9:00am. He noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call vote.

Assistant Secretary Shark summarized that at the last meeting, the Committee conducted 7 first round interviews and will use the time today to narrow down the list to 4 or 5 candidates to bring to the full committee for consideration.

Assistant Secretary Shark declared that for the remainder of the meeting, the preliminary screening committee will enter executive session per Executive Session Purpose #8 to conduct an initial screening of the 29 Veteran Advocate applicants as doing so in an open session will have a detrimental effect on obtaining qualified applicants. He noted that the meeting will adjourn from executive session and the Committee will not reconvene afterwards.

Vote 1 to approve preliminary screening committee to enter Executive Session: Assistant Secretary Shark called for a vote for the preliminary screening committee to enter executive session. Mr. Dockter introduced the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Farnsworth and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Assistant Secretary Shark noted that should members have any questions, they should feel free to reach out to Committee Staff. He asked that members hold Thursday June 1st from 1:30-2:30pm for the next Committee meeting. Committee staff will follow up with an invite and more details on the agenda. He stated that the meeting will now enter Executive Session with the preliminary screening subcommittee and that subcommittee members should enter a separate Zoom meeting, that will be closed to the public, which was sent to them via email by Committee staff.

The preliminary screening committee entered Executive Session at 9:10AM and adjourned at 9:30AM