**Meeting Minutes: Commission on Veterans Quality of Life**

**Date**: 28 April 2025

**Time**: 1:00pm

**Location:** Virtual

**1. Call to Order/Attendance:**

1. Cory Ahonen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04pm
2. Members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded

      **2. Roll Call:**

**1.** Cory Ahonen, Chair

**2.** Scott Pitta, OVA Designee

**3**. Leroy Ashwood, BRAVE for Veterans

**4**. Ashley Booker, Govenor Appointee, Veterans Advocacy

**5**. Robert Breaker, Senate Minority Leader Appointee, Veteran/Family Member

**6.** Sarah Bateman, Senate President Appointee, working with Veterans

**7**. Sergeant Ryan Puzzo, Senate President Appointee, working with Veterans

**8..** Bill Lebeau, Speaker Appointee, working with Veterans

     **3. Guests:**

1. Nicolette Slezak, EOVS admin

3. Phoebe Flynn on behalf of Senator Fernandes

     **4**.    **Members Absent:**

1. Al Tenorio, Govenor Appointee, Veterans Advocacy

2. Senator Dylan Fernandes, Senate President Appointee, working with Veterans

3. Melissa Alden, House Minority Leader Appointee, Attorney

8 members present. We do have a quorum.

     **A.  Administrative Matters:**

**a.** Cory Ahonen, Chair addressed Motion to approve theMarch 24, 2025, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**b**. Member inquired about legal opinion of communicating outside of Commission on Veterans Quality of Life meeting.

     **B.**  **Open Discussion/New Business:**

**a.** Cory Ahonen,Chair, outlined the key agenda items, emphasizing discussion on creating a starting point to prioritizing and adding topics, sub-categories, emergency, short-mid term needs, and flow-charts to create a systematic approach to assess each veteran priority. Members suggested to include caregivers, communication, access to healthcare, suicide prevention, transportation and veteran outreach to priority topics. The committee discussed focusing on exploring ways to accentuate veteran organizations that are conducting outreach by reaching veterans before discharge and recently discharged. Members discussed providing resources, word of mouth, literature, funding, data sharing on state, municipal and local levels to create strategic partnerships as a means to connect with veterans. Cory Ahonen, Chair discussed the process of gathering and sharing veteran data and the difficulties that are encountered with connecting to current and past veteran discharge information. Cory Ahonen, Chair addressed the high priority need for housing. Members identified the key areas impacting veterans from purchasing a home, exploring ways to get the support needed for veterans to obtain stable housing.

     **C.  Next Steps/Action Items:**

**a**. Members suggested adding a Tab on Executive Office of Veteran Services online form for Recently discharged Veterans.

**b**. Members inquired looking into what other states and federal government are doing to help re-purpose our idea and what bills provide support.

**c.** Member suggested making recommendations for legislative to change licensing board policies for veterans across the board.

**d**. Next meeting is May 27, 1:00pm

  **D**. Public Comments/Questions:

a. None

     **E. Adjournment**

a. Meeting adjourned at 1:59