

Meeting Minutes: Commission on Veterans Quality of Life

Date: 27 October 2025

Time: 1:00pm

Location: Virtual

1. Call to Order/Attendance:

- a. Cory Ahonen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

2. Roll Call:

1. Cory Ahonen, Chair
2. Leroy Ashwood, BRAVE for Veterans
3. Melissa Alden, House Minority Leader Appointee, Attorney
4. Robert Breaker, Senate Minority Leader Appointee, Veteran/family member
5. Scott Pita, OVA Designee

3. Guests:

1. Nicolette Slezak, EOVS Admin
2. Nicholas Charrette, EOVS Deputy Chief Engagement Officer
3. Robin Cody, DPH
4. Vanessa Langer, BRAVE for Veterans
5. Matthew Connolly
6. Raymond Carville, Veterans Inc.

4. Members Absent:

1. Al Tenorio, Governor Appointee, Veterans Advocacy
2. Sergeant Ryan Puzzo, Senate President Appointee, working with Veterans
3. Bill Lebeau, Speaker Appointee, working with Veterans
4. Phoebe Flynn, on behalf of Senator Dylan Fernandes

5 members present. We do have a quorum.

A. Administrative Matters:

- a. Cory Ahonen, Chair addressed Motion to approve the September 22, 2025, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Open Discussion/New Business:

- a. Chair Cory Ahonen led a discussion inviting members to share any questions or concerns regarding the one-page drafts summarizing the past, current state, and ongoing needs for each priority topic assigned to member sub-groups.

Chair reviewed the established priority topic sub-groups and encouraged members to provide input on identifying gaps, shortcomings, historical context, potential solutions, and any additional areas or needs to be incorporated into the shared working Excel spreadsheet and final document.

Members expressed their commitment to continuing work on their assigned priority topics and shared updates on the progress of their drafts, demonstrating sustained engagement in the process. Chair outlined the next steps, emphasizing upcoming deadlines and the importance of collaboratively developing a comprehensive and detailed report aligned with the Commission's objectives for submission to the legislature.

Chair expressed appreciation for members dedication to advancing the work of the Veterans Quality of Life Commission. Chair invited members to raise any new business, additional thoughts, or issues, and concluded by reviewing expectations for the next Commission meeting.

C. Next Steps/Action Items:

- a. Review one-page drafts provided by members of each assigned sub-groups
- b. Final draft document completed by November 24, 2025
- c. Next meeting is November 24, 1:00pm

D. Public Comments/Questions:

- a. None

E. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1: 42pm