Meeting Minutes: Commission on Veterans Quality of Life

Date: 22 September 2025
Time: 1:00pm
Location: Virtual

1. Call to Order/Attendance:

a. Cory Ahonen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm
b. Members were reminded that the meeting was being recorded

2. Roll Call:

1. Cory Ahonen, Chair
2. Bill Lebeau, Speaker Appointee, working with Veterans
3. Phoebe Flynn, on behalf of Senator Dylan Fernandes
4. Matthew Connolly, Sen. Dylan Fernandes
5. Melissa Alden, House Minority Leader Appointee, Attorney
6. Robert Breaker, Senate Minority Leader Appointee, Veteran/family member

3. Guests:

1. Nicolette Slezak, EOVS Admin
2. Nicholas Charrette, EOVS Deputy Chief Engagement Officer

4. **Members Absent:**

1. Al Tenorio, Govenor Appointee, Veterans Advocacy
2. Leroy Ashwood, BRAVE for Veterans
4. Sergeant Ryan Puzzo, Senate President Appointee, working with Veterans
5. Scott Pita, OVA Designee

6 members present.

A. Administrative Matters:

a. Cory Ahonen, Chair addressed Motion to approve the August 25, 2025, minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Open Discussion/New Business:

a. Chair Cory Ahonen led a discussion on deadlines and potential extensions, emphasizing the importance of staying on track with the Commission's current course while allowing sufficient time to develop a comprehensive and detailed report aligned with the commission's intended outcomes.

Chair reviewed the priority topic sub-groups and invited members to share any input or suggest additional areas and needs to be incorporated into the shared working Excel spreadsheet. Members were encouraged to expand on their assigned topics within their sub-groups, taking charge of their priority-topic to develop comprehensive content that will guide the development of the final legislative report.

Chair asked each sub-group to identify and prioritize their top three recommendations related to their assigned priority topic. These focused, actionable items will shape the final recommendations presented in the commission's report.

C. Next Steps/Action Items:

a. Discuss information gathering on each priority topic assigned

b. Members are encouraged to add notes to SharePoint working Excel document to expand on topics, priorities and next steps.

c. Identify top three recommendations per priority topic

d. Next meeting is October 27, 1:00pm

D. Public Comments/Questions:

a. None

E. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm