

Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission

Meeting Agenda

February 03, 2023, at 1000 AM

Location: Arrowheads Community Club

1000	Call to Order	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Moment of Silence	Vice-Chair David Eisele
	Pledge of Allegiance	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Introduction of Commission Members	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Achievement Awards: Ms. Kathy Knaub, Mrs. Susan Meighen	Brig Gen Michael Regan
	Oath of Office:	
	•	
	Chairman's Open Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	TAG's Opening Remarks and Comments	Brig Gen Michael Regan
	Approval of 06 January 2023 Meeting Minutes	Requires Vote
	Reading of Official and Other Communications	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	DAG-VA Opening Remarks and Report	BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
	• PPL, BVH, PIRO	
	• Programs Report	
	VISN 4	
	Committee Reports	
	• VSO Grant	Mr. Matthew Hollenbeck
	• RETX	Mr. David Eisele
	• Legislative	Mr. Robert Heister
	• Pensions/Relief/Grave Markings	Mr. Larry Googins
	• Women Veterans	Ms. Lisa Kaye
	• Veterans' Health	Mr. Mark Baylis
	• Governance Committee	Mr. Michael Brooker
	• PAWVC Update	President Mr. Bernard McDonald
	Unfinished Business	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	• Further Discussion on Bylaws	
	New Business	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	• Briefing on Access to FIG	Mr. Brian Natali
	Good of the Order	SVC Commissioners
	Agenda Items for Next Meeting	SVC Commissioners
	• Movement to MS Teams Platform	
	Closing Remarks	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Next Meeting	
	April 14, 2023, 10AM	
	Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville	
	Retiring of the Colors	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
	Adjournment	Chairman Nicholas Taylor

State Veterans' Commission Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2023

10:00 AM to 11:20 PM

Arrowheads Community Center, Fort Indiantown Gap

Call to Order	Chairman Nicholas Taylor
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The Pennsylvania State Veterans' Commission (SVC) meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

The moment of silence was presented by Vice-Chairman Mr. David Eisele.

Recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commission Introductions

Mr. Marc Ferraro	Executive Deputy Secretary-DMVA
BG (PA) Maureen Weigl	DAG DMVA-OVA
Mr. Nicholas Taylor	SVC Chairman; Commander, Catholic War Veterans
Mr. Henry Manella	Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Bernard McDonald	Commander, AMVETS
Mr. Gerald Hawk	Executive Director, AMVETS
Mr. John Getz	Adjutant, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. David Gui	Adjutant, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. William Albert (on phone)	Commander, Blinded Veterans of America
Mr. David Eisele	President, PA State Association of County Directors of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Robert Heister	President, Military Officers Association of America
Mr. Phillip Arnold	Adjutant, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Larry Googins	President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Ms. Constance Snavelly	Designee, Keystone Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mr. David Brady	Commandant, Marine Corps League
Mr. Craig Wilhelm	Commander, The American Legion
Mr. James Hogan	Adjutant, The American Legion
Ms. Lisa Kaye	Member-at-Large
Mr. Charles Jackson (on phone)	Member-at-Large
Mr. Michael Brooker	Member-at-Large
Mr. Tim Liezert	VHA, VISN-4

Absent Members

Ms. Terri Lynn	Commander, Disabled American Veterans
Mr. Mark Baylis	Member-at-Large
Mr. Frank Boken	President, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mr. Richard Fine	Commander, Jewish War Veterans

Others Present

Brig Gen Michael Regan	PANG-Air
CSM Jon Worley	PANG-Army
Mr. Joseph Batt	DMVA-Counsel
Mr. Dave Cowgill (on phone)	VISN-4

Mr. Nate Silcox	Office of State Senator Patrick Stefano	
Ms. Holly Blauch	Senate of PA	
Mr. Rich Hamp	Special Assistant to DAG-VA	
Mr. Joel Mutschler	Director DMVA-PIRO	
Mr. Travis Davis	Director DMVA-BVH	
Mr. Nicholas Gilliland	DMVA-PIRO (Outreach and Reintegration)	
Mr. Brian Natali	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)	
Mr. Jeffrey Wallitsch	DMVA-Counsel	
Mr. Michael Woody	DMVA-PPL	
Mr. Jeffery King	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)	
Ms. Joan Nissley (on phone)	DMVA-Public Affairs	
Mr. Tom Cherry	DMVA-PIRO (Programs and Services)	
Ms. Jennifer Hagaman	DMVA-PIRO (Outreach and Reintegration)	
Ms. Jennifer Spitler	DMVA-PIRO (Outreach and Reintegration)	
Mr. Thomas Coreau	PASACDVA-Dauphin County	
Mr. David W. 'Spike' Gyger	VFW-Senior Vice-Commander	
Mr. Leonard M. Johnson	DAV	
Mr. Sam D. Robinson III	DAV	
Mr. William Kelley	President, KWVA	
Mr. Mike Rang	CWV	
Mr. Matthew Hollenbeck	TAL	
Mr. James Vollrath	TAL	
Mr. Richard Hudzinski	VVA	
Mr. Ronald Genito	Veterans Administration (retired)	
Mr. Kristy Brawley (on phone)	Penn State Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness	
Oath of Office		EDS Marc Ferraro
EDS Marc Ferraro administered the oath of office to Ms. Constance Snavely of the KWVA.		
Recognition		
None		
Chairman's Opening Remarks		Chairman Nicholas Taylor
<p>Chairman Taylor welcomed all the members to the meeting, informed them that TAG was out of the country visiting the PA National Guard troops. He congratulated Ms. Snavely on her new role as the representative of the KWVA; and noted on her continued long-term commitment to the SVC</p> <p>Chairman Taylor said he was looking forward to having a very successful year building on the successes the SVC had over the past 18 months; including the strong working relationship with the DMVA staff that has been developed.</p> <p>Chairman Taylor briefed the members on a new procedure change for 2023 SVC meetings: he said for the sake of brevity guests' comments and statements from the floor will be limited. He said guests should contact a member and relay their issue with that member who will raise it at the meeting.</p> <p>He said the SVC had made progress and is now operating with the full confidence of the DMVA and staff; and the paramount function of the SVC is the protection of our Veterans. It's important the SVC speaks with one strong voice with credibility, ethically and morally, and is not distracted from their roles addressing legislation and policy. To ensure the actions and objectives of the SVC are done respectfully.</p> <p>Chairman Taylor said the SVC should speak with one consensus collective voice in the pursuit of the following goals: suicide, transportation (veterans to medical appointments), and homelessness for the good of all. He noted it was the sworn duty of the members to do that.,</p>		

The chairman thanked the members for their devoted commitment to veterans/families and the commission. He said he was proud to work side by side with the members in having the commission take the direction forward and not backward. He said he needed the input for all the members to accomplish that task.

Questions/Discussion

None.

TAG’s Opening Remarks **EDS Marc Ferraro**

EDS Marc Ferraro greeted the members on behalf of TAG, he informed the members TAG was overseas visiting the PANG soldiers and airman in area of operations within Central Command in Europe.

He said TAG was able to visit 4 of the 6 homes over the holiday period but weather prevented TAG from visiting Erie and Hollidaysburg. Mr. Ferraro reminded the members of the upcoming military and family day on January 12, 2023, at the PA Farm Show. He urged the members to attend and to spread the word throughout their organizations.

Mr. Ferraro reviewed the current PANG deployments: approximately 1000 PANG soldiers and airman are deployed in Central Command and other areas of Europe; and PANG has troops deployed to the southwest border. He said more deployments are in process to include Europe and Africa, as some deployments come to an end.

Mr. Ferraro said announcements from the new administration will be forthcoming so the members should just sit tight and await those announcements. He said DMVA has been in contact with the new administration’s transition team and provided the team with a draft brief. DMVA is awaiting what the transition team would want and get clarification once DMVA meets with the team.

Mr. Ferraro ended by saying he is looking forward to working with the members in 2023.

Questions/Discussion

None

Approval of the January 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mr. David Eisele, made a motion to approve the minutes.

Second: Mr. Robert Heister, seconded the motion.

The body agreed; motion carried. Minutes approved.

Reading of Official and Other Communications **Chairman Nicholas Taylor**

Chairman Taylor said he received only one official communication and that was a draft memo from the Legislation Committee that had outlined a new procedure/approach; and requested the draft memo be distributed to the members.

Chairman Taylor said that he had agreed with some of the suggestions mentioned in the draft memo but taken in its entirety he believed they were far apart on what the overall vision is for the SVC. Therefore, he decided to suspend the actions of the Legislative Committee until the SVC was able to get the ideas and guidance of how the new administration would like to direct the SVC into the future.

Deputy Adjutant General-VA Remarks **BG (PA) Maureen Weigl**

DAG-VA briefed the members on the tremendous cooperation between DMVA-VA and VISN 4. She said she wanted to publicly acknowledge the helpful assistance from Mr. Tim Liezert VSIN 4 with the Del Valley Recognition survey which is allowing DMVA-BVH to take care of 41 more veterans. DAG-VA said Mr. Liezert’s expertise in the regulations and polices involved in how a survey is conducted are complex and his assistance was instrumental in producing a successful survey.

DAG-VA informed the commission she attended a round table on veterans benefits with United States Senator Casey, the Deputy Secretary of the VA and Mr. Liezert VISN 4 discussing the situation that so many veterans were unaware of the federal and state benefits are available to them. VISN 4 is now synchronizing state benefits by providing information on VETConnect and county directors at their medical centers.

Questions/Discussion

None

DMVA PPL

Mr. Michael Woody briefed the committee on the status of the new legislature: he said due to the requests from Harrisburg they have re-set the initiatives and objects were re-tabled. Mr. Woody said once everything is published, he will be able to distribute it.

Questions/Discussions

Chairman Taylor: Would it be possible to provide the commission with the various committees and who's assigned to them? (Mr. Woody called on Mr. Nate Silcox-office of state senator Stefano-to answer)

Mr. Nate Silcox: The state Senate has comprised their committees, but he can't speak for the house.

Chairman Taylor: Mr. Woody would you please get those for the commission.

DMVA Bureau of Veterans Homes

Mr. Travis Davis

Director Travis Davis informed the members that TAGs visits to the homes were well received by the veterans. He noted that it seemed like the first time since COVID that everything was returning to normal, the breakfasts, dinners and over all interactions with family and friends.

- 22 residents with COVID- lowest since pandemic
- 3 residents with active flu
- 19 staff out with COVID

The Medicare (CMS) Survey ratings: Delaware Valley and Erie Soldiers and Sailors Homes received 5 stars, Gino Merli, Southeastern Veterans Center, and Southwestern Veterans Center received 4 stars and Hollidaysburg received 3 stars.

Director Davis reiterated what the DAG-VA said about the Del Valley Recognition Survey and said the staff is in place for those 41 beds. He informed the members that Gino Merli, Erie Soldiers and Sailors and Southeastern Veterans Center homes all had their VA Annual Survey; and Erie underwent the Department of Human Services Survey.

- The BVH census currently stands at 915.
- BVH has stepped up admissions

Director Davis addressed BVH's recruiting program: he said BVH still has many vacancies but noted the walk-in Wednesday's job fairs are working out very well. He said they are more successful than the other recruitment measures undertaken by BVH. He informed the members of the new marketing approach BVH will add to its recruitment efforts. Director Davis said Mr. Tom Cherry-PIRO will do some clips of current employees talking about how good it is working for BVH and use the clips to target potential employees.

Director Davis briefed the members on the current construction situation: the Hollidaysburg project has not started yet but unofficial bids have been taken, and in two weeks official bids will be taken. As the project current stands it is under budget by 2.9 million, estimated cost at 77.1 million.

The Erie Soldiers and Sailors Home construction project is 92% completed, the completed sections which are the dining area and therapy area are finished and being used. The personal care area is not quite finished due to some small delays.

Questions/Discussion

Chairman Taylor requested Director Davis to ask his employees what and how the SVC can support what they need. Director Davis said he would do that.	
DMVA PIRO	Mr. Joel Mutschler
Director Joel Mutschler briefed and updated the members on VETConnect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VETConnect had over 60,500 contacts and over 1900 resources. • VETConnect will roll out its new system which will include a GIS system integrated with Zip Codes making it user friendlier and target resources for Veterans. • The VETConnect system changes are focused on technology advancements, the website face will have very limited changes. <p>Director Mutschler said the VETConnect Outreach employees are doing a tremendous job with connecting with resources within the communities and veterans. He said they will be adding 5 more employees soon which will take them to full staffing. Director Mutschler added that the coordination between VISN 4 and VETConnect has been going extremely well, and he thanked Mr. Tim Liezert for a great job and a solid working relationship. He also noted the VISN 4 mailing through PennDOT were a success.</p> <p>Director Mutschler informed the members that the grant program due date is January 19, 2023, he reminded the members that the www.va.gov/pactact is a wonderful resource and to please spread it among their service organizations. He also reminded members to attend the PA Farm Show: DMVA-Outreach will be in space 2208, PANG in space 2215 and this year they added a WWII Display in space 2310.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Questions/Discussion</u></p> <p>None</p>	
Approval of State Veterans' Programs Reports	
Motion: Mr. Bernard MacDonald AMVET, made a motion to approve the programs report	
Second: Mr. David Eisele PASACDVA, seconded the motion	
The body agreed; motion carried. Programs reports approved.	
VISN-4	Mr. Tim Liezert
Mr. Liezert reviewed the VISN 4 talking points that were presented in the 06JAN23 read ahead with the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Derek is now appointed the Director at the James E. Van Zandt VAMC, Altoona, PA. • Ms. Kaneen Allen, Chief Financial Officer at the VA Pittsburgh is now appointed as the Associated Director in Pittsburgh, and the transition is going very well. <p>Mr. Liezert informed the SVC members that there are no separate monies under the PACT Act for the toxic exposure fund. He requested the SVC members to please continue to spread the word about VISN 4, PACT Act and other VA benefits. He also informed the members the PennDOT and DMVA collaboration has been very successful.</p> <p>Mr. Liezert briefed the members on the increased number of COVID19 patients, urged everyone to get the vaccine, including the flu shot. He said VISN 4 is preparing for a spring break surge in COVID19 cases.</p> <p>Mr. Liezert reviewed the new treat change: VISN 4 has moved from treating in the mode of time and place to the mode of anytime and anywhere. The new approach incorporates the use of virtual which can be done via computer and/or smart phone. In addition to the new approach veteran patients can now share photos and images to care providers via MYVA utilizing their smart phones/computers.</p>	

<u>Questions/Discussion</u>	
None	
However, SVC Chairman Taylor noted on behalf of the commission he thanked Mr. Liezert for the report; and mostly for the outstanding medical care that VISN 4 provides for our PA veteran; which is reflected in the high rating VISN 4 receives for its care. (second highest in the nation)	
Committee Reports	
VSO Grant Committee	Mr. Matthew Hollenbeck
Mr. Hollenbeck stated his report was VSO Grant Committee members are in the process of preparing/finalizing their grants for submission	
<u>Questions/Discussion</u>	
None	
RETX Committee	Mr. David Eisele
No Report	
<u>Questions/Discussion</u>	
None.	
Legislative Committee	Mr. Charles Jackson
Mr. Jackson stated that the legislation committee had developed a new approach to legislative goals in a draft memo which was to be distributed to the members, but the chairman and vice-chairman put it on hold until it was determined what the new administration may want; therefore no official report.	
<u>Questions/Discussions</u>	
None.	
Pensions/Relief/Grave Marking/State Military Cemetery Committee	Mr. Larry Googins
No Report	
<u>Questions/Discussions</u>	
None	
Women Veterans Committee	Ms. Lisa Kaye
No Report	
<u>Questions/Discussions</u>	
None.	
Veteran Health Committee	Mr. Mark Baylis
No Report	
<u>Questions/Discussions</u>	
None	
Governance Committee	Mr. Michael Booker
Mr. Brooker briefed: I am excited to report on the progress that the Governance Committee has made in our work to date. Before I start, however, I'd like to thank, on the record, fellow Committee member Rich Hudzinski and DMVA Advisor Rick Hamp for their efforts in this process. Their insights, hard work, and support have been invaluable.	

While this morning we will discuss our deliverables, I wanted to begin by going back to our May 2022 Appointment Memorandum to restate that the purpose of the Committee was “to establish a set of operating instructions for meetings, committee procedures and responsibilities, reporting, and general administrative matters regarding the commission.”

In our work, the Committee utilized the April 2019 Bylaws as a starting point for review and our intent was to produce a new document that would be approved by the Commission and the DMVA. We also wanted to create a document that would serve as a general introduction to how the commission operates, its powers and responsibilities, and its limitations. This document is the Operating Procedures (OP’s) which will serve as a primer so to speak. We plan to have the OPs to the Commission for review during the next meeting in February.

Taking the approach of small bites rather than a full meal, our hope is that today we will receive your questions/comments/suggestions during our discussion on the DRAFT Bylaws, so that any changes/improvements can be incorporated into both documents.

I wanted to thank OGC Pettis for the comments and changes suggested by DMVA which the Committee received yesterday to the DRAFT Bylaws, especially in Article V pertaining to conflict of interest, code of ethics, and the oath of office.

Mr. Chairman, I request we open the floor to thoughtful discussion from the commission and look forward to their input.

Questions/Discussion

SVC Chairman Taylor asked the Governance Committee members and the SVC members if they had read the Bylaws that were distributed and prepared to vote on them. This prompted a discussion between Mr. Brooker, Mr. Hudzinski, and the Chairman. After listening to Mr. Brooker and Mr. Hudzinski’s request to allow more time for the members to digest the Bylaws and submit edits and/or amendments. The chairman agreed and it was decided to hold a final review of the Bylaws at the February 3, 2023, meeting and hold the vote at the April 14, 2023, meeting.

Mr. Brady asked if there were previous minutes approved. He was informed there were not.

PA War Veterans Council Update

Mr. Bernard McDonald

No Report

Questions/Discussions

None.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Nicholas Taylor

No action taken

Discussion

Chairman Taylor asked if there was a status update since the last meeting on the presentation of Chapter 5 Title 43.

Director Mutschler said the recommendations made during the presentation were well received at CCAP and we should expect a formal comment in the next 90 days or so.

New Business

Chairman Nicholas Taylor

Mr. Charles Jackson said that at the PWVCA meeting (held on January 5, 2023) Mr. Nate Silcox asked if the PWVCA was going to request DMVA to increase the line item for DAV vans. He then asked DMVA what their position is on that matter.

Chairman Taylor said he had formed an SVC Transportation Committee to address that issue and put forward a recommendation.

EDS Marc Ferraro reported that the budget was closed, and no new requests are allowed per downtown. However, he said DMVA will still be able to submit PRRs. He informed the members that the budget for 2023-2024 will have monies for 6 new VSOs and will be in subsequent budgets until all requested 17 VSOs are hired.

Mr. Jackson then said Mr. Silcox’s suggestion was in the form of a planning for vans.

Mr. David Gui thanked the members for their support to provide vans for the DAV operation. He said many of the vans are well aged and some are no longer road worthy.

Mr. Silcox said that PWVCA member Mr. Robert Gray had asked him about grant money for vans and how to proceed. Mr. Silcox said he informed Mr. Gray to ‘dust off’ their letter and resubmit it to the SVC.

No formal action taken or suggested.

Good of the Order

Mr. Brady: Are the members required to attend the inauguration?

Mr. Ferraro: No, but it wouldn’t be a bad idea to attend if you can.

Chairman Taylor complimented AMVETS and their president SVC member Mr. Bernard MacDonald for providing a first-class honor guard at an associate of the Chairman’s funeral.

Items for Next Meeting

Action: Discussion on the Bylaw changes before the formal vote at the April 14, 2023, meeting

Closing Remarks

Chairman Nicholas Taylor

None

Next Meeting

Friday, April 14, 2023, 10:00 AM
Forum: Arrowheads Community Center, FIG

The minutes of this meeting are respectfully submitted by:

BG (PA) Maureen Weigl
Deputy Adjutant General
Veterans Affairs



STATE VETERANS COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2023



DMVA MILITARY UPDATE

CURRENT MOBILIZATIONS & TOTAL DEPLOYMENTS



PAARNG Current Deployments						
MDATE	MSAD	UNIT	OPN	PAX	MISSION	Projected Return Date
01 JUN 22	01 JUN 22	1955 CCD	OSS	2	T10, 12302	11 MAR 23
02 JUN 22	04 JUN 22	252 QM	OSS	202	T10, 12304B	29 MAR 23
28 JUN 22	03 JUL 22	192FFT	APO	7	T10, 12304B	24 APR 23
08 OCT 22	10 OCT 22	28 ID HQ	OSS	545	T10, 12302	04 AUG 23
07 OCT 22	10 OCT 22	55 MEB	SWB	100	T10, 12302	03 AUG 23
ARNG Soldiers at MOB/DEMOB Sites				13	Various Missions	Various based on tour
Various Individual MOB Soldiers				1	Various Missions	Various based on tour
Total PAARNG Deployed: 870						

PAANG Current Deployments		
Unit	Opn	Pax
193 SOW	OFS-OIR-OSS, Other	8/1
111 ATKW	IPR (HS), OFS-OIR-OSS, TS	36/6/40
171 ARW	Alert Status (HS), OFS-OIR-OSS	37
Total PAANG Deployed		128

Total PANG Deployed 806

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PIRO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Priorities – • State Priorities – ID Co-Sponsorship Memos • CODEL House in Session- 3 January • Senate- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB126-Vet benefit payment exclusion from income for Commonwealth Programs - Senate-First Consideration 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BVH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEVC Qtrly Advisory Council Meeting (12Jan) • SWVC Qtrly Advisory Council Meeting (18Jan) • HVH Qtrly Advisory Council Meeting (19Jan)
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key Leader Engagements/Synchronization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regs Workshop Facilitation, January 13 • Inauguration Day, January 17 • ACP Construction, January 19 • Monthly Budget Meeting , January 25 • GAC-VS Meeting, February 2 • PA WDB Interagency Working Group Meeting, February 2 • <i>Unscheduled appts:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Meeting w/Director of Courtyard of Honor-Randy McKillop</i> • <i>Respond to new administration meeting within next 90 days</i> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Issues/Concerns/Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Responding to issues, concerns, and initiatives of new administration for the next 90 days</i> • Rescheduling of Hidden Heroes Day that was postponed in 2022, no new date yet. • Discussion of SBO 126- RETX, qualifications and etc. • Expectations from incoming Governor and dealing with legislators, press, etc. • Gubernatorial Inauguration (17Jan) Shapiro-Davis Administration

[SCO 124](#)

Monitor

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[Mastriano, Doug\(R\)](#)

Exempts disabled veterans' benefit payment from income calculations of any commonwealth program or benefit.

Companions:

[SB 126](#)

Mastriano, Doug

(Co-sponsor
Memo)

1-17-23 S Set on the Senate Calendar

Track Name(s):

OVA - PIRO

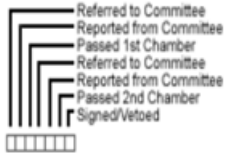
Bill History:

01-09-23 S Introduced as a bill - see SB 126

Bill Status Report

01-04-2023 - 13:50:03

A - Action in the date range R - Link to Related Information () - Priority



OVA - SVH

HCO 55 Tomlinson, Kathleen(R) Establishes the Family Care Act, a statewide Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, which requires up to two weeks of paid sick leave if an eligible employee is quarantined or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Monitor
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Track Name(s): OVA - SVH

Bill History: 12-01-22 H Filed

HCO 357 Kenyatta, Malcolm(D) Provides emergency relief to those who previously received support through the General Assistance program.

Monitor
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Track Name(s): OVA - SVH

Bill History: 12-13-22 H Filed

SCO 274 Mastriano, Doug(R) Establishes the Veterans Home Advisory Board within the Office of Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs.

Monitor
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Track Name(s): OVA - SVH

Bill History: 12-06-22 S Filed

Total Bills: 3

PVH Current Licensure Status



SVH	Regulatory Agency	Survey Reason/Type	Survey Date(s)	Status/comments
DVVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	04/26/22 - 04/29/22	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	05/10/22	Cleared
	VA	Recognition Survey	12/14/22 - 12/16/22	Deficiency-Free
	VA	Annual Recertification (next due Dec 23)	06/07/22 - 06/10/22	CAP accepted, full certification
GMVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	10/11/22 - 10/14/22	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	10/18/22	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaints, Follow-Ups	09/22/22	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	08/17/22	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	02/07/22 - 02/10/22	CAP accepted, full certification
HVH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	08/22/22 - 08/26/22	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaints	11/29/22	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	08/30/22 - 08/31/22	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	08/16/22 - 08/17/22	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	06/06/22 - 06/10/22	CAP accepted, certification pending
PSSH	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	05/17/22 - 05/20/22	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	05/24/22	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	09/21/21 - 09/22/21	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification	01/31/22 - 02/04/22	CAP accepted, full certification
SEVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	08/23/22 - 08/26/22	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Event	12/14/22	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	08/30/22	Cleared
	DHS	Annual Recertification	09/07/22	Deficiency-Free
	VA	Annual Recertification	01/31/22 - 02/04/22	CAP accepted, full certification
SWVC	DOH Nursing	Annual Recertification	07/11/22 - 07/15/22	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint	12/23/22	Cleared
	DOH Nursing	Abbreviated - Complaint, Incident	08/18/22	Cleared
	DOH Life Safety	Annual Recertification	07/20/22 - 07/21/22	Cleared
	VA	Annual Recertification (next due May 23)	08/02/22 - 08/05/22	CAP accepted, full certification

Each DMVA Pennsylvania Veterans' Home is currently licensed by the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Human Services and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. HVH, PSSH and SEVC have a Personal Care program.

Last updated: 1-17-2023

BUREAU OF VETERANS' HOMES



Resident COVID-19 Update

Residents		01	02	03	04	05	06	07	09	10
Home	Data Date	# of Residents with S/S of COVID-19	# of Residents Currently Positive in Facility	# of Residents Waiting Test Results	# of Residents in Hospital for COVID-19 Reasons	# of Total Residents Tested	General Resident Population Testing, Enter round # and S-Started C-Complete	# of Residents Positive for COVID-19 Cumulative	# of Residents Recovered	# of Residents That Expired with a Positive COVID-19 Status.
DVVH	1/18/2023	0	0	0	0	7985	56-S	169	145	22
GMVC	1/18/2023	0	0	0	0	14455	108-C	213	180	33
HVH	1/18/2023	0	5	0	0	20520	111-C	361	282	32
PSSH	1/18/2023	0	0	0	0	14709	194-C	210	170	22
SEVC	1/18/2023	1	0	1	0	17282	149-C	202	143	46
SWVC	1/18/2023	0	0	0	0	19154	55-C	173	165	8
Total:		1	5	1	0	94105		1328	1085	163

As of 18 Jan 2023

> community > commonwealth

> country

BUREAU OF VETERANS' HOMES



Staff COVID-19 Update

Staff		01	02	03	04	06	07
Home	Data Date	# of Staff Currently Out for COVID-19 Reasons	# of Staff Currently Positive	# of Staff Waiting Test Results	# of Total Staff Tested	# of Staff Tested Positive for COVID-19 Cumulative	# of Staff Returned to Work Cumulative
DV VH	12/14/2022	1	1	0	13765	230	270
GM VC	12/14/2022	0	0	0	25545	237	227
HV H	12/14/2022	19	13	4	59631	682	2221
PSSH	12/14/2022	2	2	0	28254	296	599
SEVC	12/14/2022	0	0	0	24720	360	606
SWVC	12/14/2022	0	0	0	33207	294	523
Total:		22	16	4	185122	2099	4446

As of 18 Jan 2023

> community > commonwealth

> country

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Vaccinations (All Homes)

ResidentsBy Home	Vaccinations - Residents					
		Census	Fully Vaccinated	% Fully Vaccinated	Partially Vaccinated	Not Vaccinated
DVVH	Residents	129	126	98%	0	0
GMVC	Residents	130	130	100%	0	0
HVH	Residents	239	223	93%	2	16
PSSH	Residents	130	129	99%	0	1
SEVC	Residents	191	189	99%	0	2
SWVC	Residents	130	127	98%	1	2
Total		949	924	97%	3	21

Pennsylvania Veterans Homes COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 links for information related to the Veterans Homes and skilled nursing facilities.

- <https://www.dmva.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/LTCF-Data.aspx>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Guidance/SNF-Guidance.aspx>
- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19MpLoPxayE1MDwQJJYCZxISN64V4FJSJPGzfvVBb5Mw/edit#gid=1511961664>

Bureau Activities



- We serve over 700,000 veterans and approximately 18,000 members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. We are here for them, their families, and the nearly 2,500 active and over 10,000 reserve component military members and families that call PA home. **We are a community of over 2 million Pennsylvanians strong.**
- **Top issues facing our veterans' community** across the commonwealth are Homelessness, Transportation, Employment, Mental Wellness, and veterans benefit awareness.
- Since **PA VETConnect** launched, we have made more than 16,500 connections with federal, state, and local government officials, non-profit organizations, and community leaders to build relationships and enhance our network capabilities with over 1,900 resources.
- **PACT Act** - Veterans can visit www.va.gov/PACT to get the latest information and updates or connect with a Veteran Service Officer for assistance. Since the PACT was enacted, the federal VA has seen an increase of over **175,000 claims nationwide**.
- **Veterans Trust Fund (VTF)**- Since the grant program began in 2013, a total of \$6,700,590 has been awarded to organizations that serve PA veterans to include \$1.4 million last year. 2023-24 Applications are under review. More information may be found at www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans and then click on Grants.
- **2023-24 Grants to Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Programs** – Notice of Grant Announcement and Guidelines published on 15 Nov 22. Applications are under review. More information may be found at www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans and then click on Grants.
- **Title 43 Regulatory Update Project** – We conducted a regulatory review of the application and adjudication procedures for our state veterans' benefits programs codified in 43 Pa. Code. The review follows a detailed process governed by the Regulatory Review Act and overseen by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. Members from the SVC have been included on the associated working groups. Regulatory review package is in the staffing process.
- **Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services** – met on November 2, 2022. The Governor attended for a year-end review. More information to include past meeting minutes and presentations may be found at www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans and then click on Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services. The next meeting will be February 1, 2023.

OVA / VSO Grant Program Summary



FY 21 - 22 Claims, Compensation and Pension Summary	
Monthly Content Count	Monthly Content Gross Amount Value
113,516	\$192,008,135.00
Year to Date Content Count	Year to Date Content Gross Amount Value
563,581	\$948,769,201.00

Note: Data is derived from monthly Federal Veterans Affairs reports. Content Count is the number the of recipients receiving VA compensation and pension. Content Gross is the dollar amount associated with compensation and pension payments.

Reintegration and Outreach Events Overview



Outreach Statistics					
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Year to Date
Outreach Events Supported	61	42			103
Mobile Outreach Van Events	13	4			17
Veteran Interactions	1,196	775			1,971
Claim referrals to County Directors and Service Organizations	452	237			689
Claim referrals to other state, county and local organizations assisting Veterans	225	194			419
Health Care Enrollment Referrals	162	71			233
Number of Veterans Registry Cards distributed	119	136			255
County Directors Office Attended	32	12			44
Legislative attended events	32	16			48

As of 31 December 2022

> community > commonwealth > country

VETERANS' TRUST FUND



	Receipts	Expenditures
Transfers to VTF	\$1,700,000.00	
HOV License Plate	\$54,686.00	
PA Monuments License Plate	\$0.00	
HOV Motorcycle License Plate Sales	\$3,479.00	
Honoring our Women Veterans License Plate	\$1,650.00	
Donations, Contributions, Gifts	\$229,059.85	
VTF Check Off	\$13,486,551.18	
VTF Online Donations	\$6,498.00	
SECA Donations	\$16,581.95	
County Juror Donations	\$63,900.38	
Interest	\$210,352.87	
Veterans Service Organizations		\$700,000.00
PennDOT		\$776,000.00
Veteran Programs Training		\$8,700.00
Veterans Assistance and Veterans Temporary Assistance (VTA)		\$5,781,058.66
County Director and VSO Grants (2021)		\$1,346,860.15
County Director and VSO Grants (2020)		\$782,833.48
County Director and VSO Grants (2019)		\$800,000.00
County Director and VSO Grants (2018)		\$780,137.46
County Director and VSO Grants (2017)		\$763,749.14
County Director and VSO Grants (2016)		\$641,329.75
County Director and VSO Grants (2015)		\$502,126.03
County Director and VSO Grants (2014)		\$472,473.67
County Director and VSO Grants (2013)		\$442,020.00
		\$6,531,529.68
Working Balance	\$1,975,470.89	

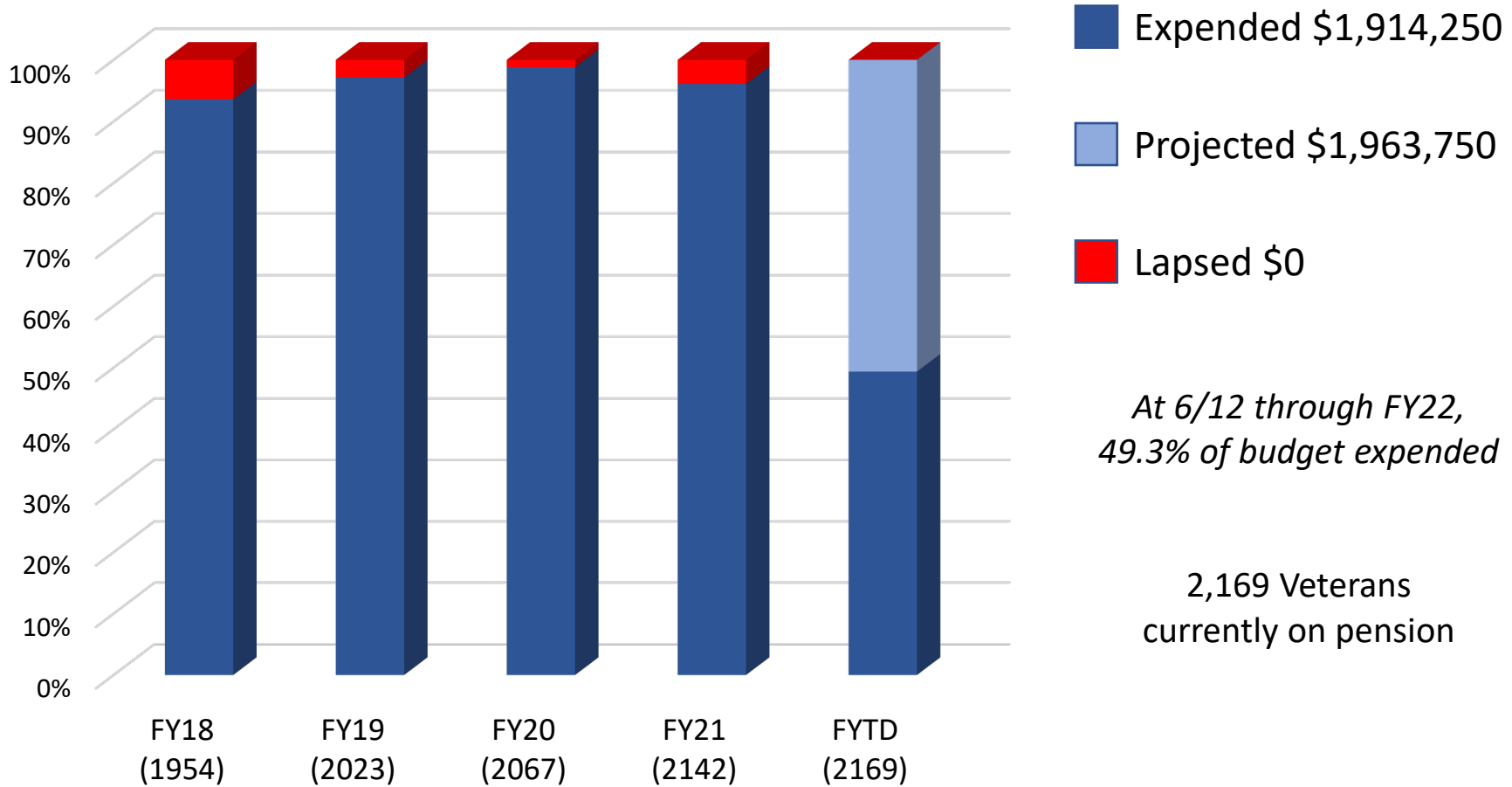
As of 11 January 2022

> community > commonwealth > country

AMPUTEE & PARALYZED VETERANS' PENSION



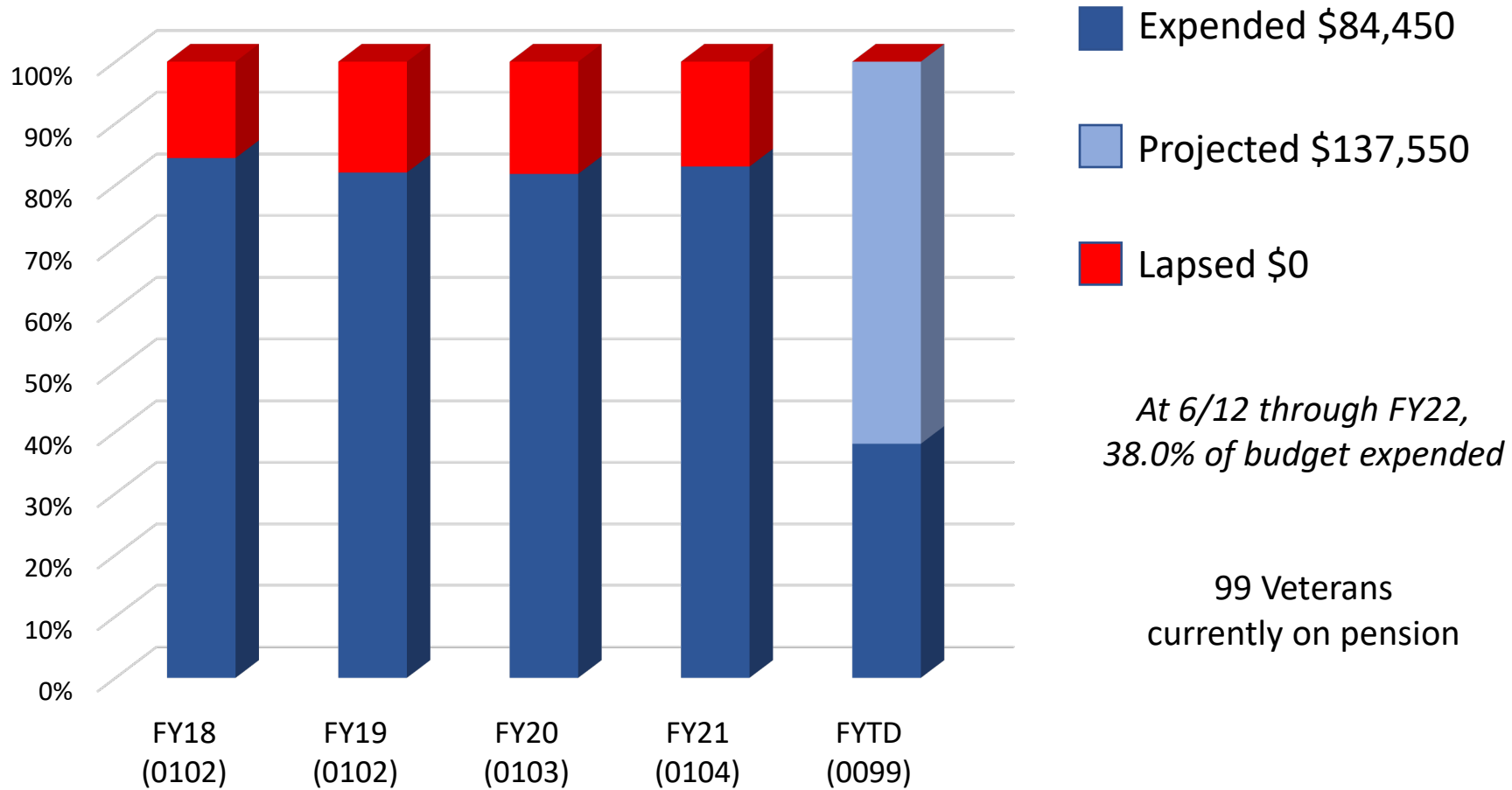
\$3,878,000



BLIND VETERANS' PENSION



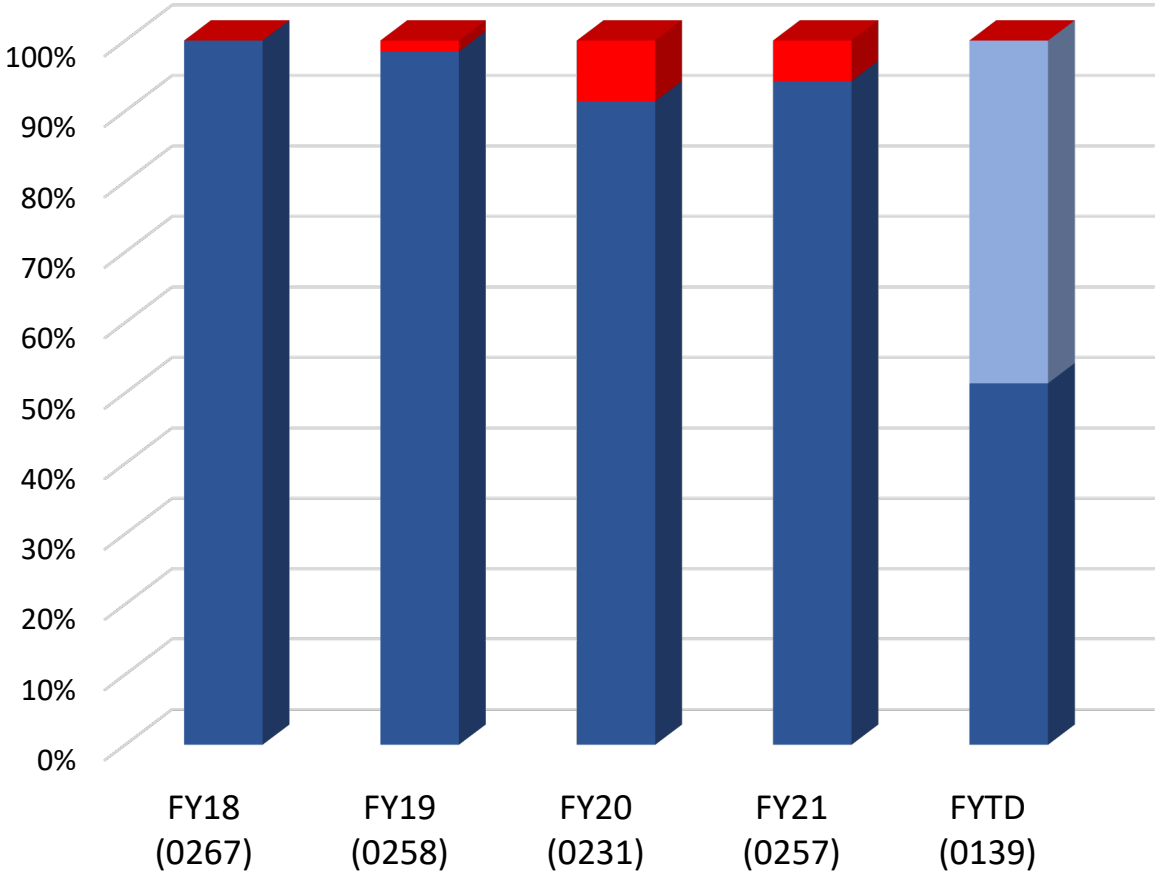
\$222,000



EDUCATIONAL GRATUITY



\$135,000



Expended \$69,353

Projected \$65,647

Lapsed \$0

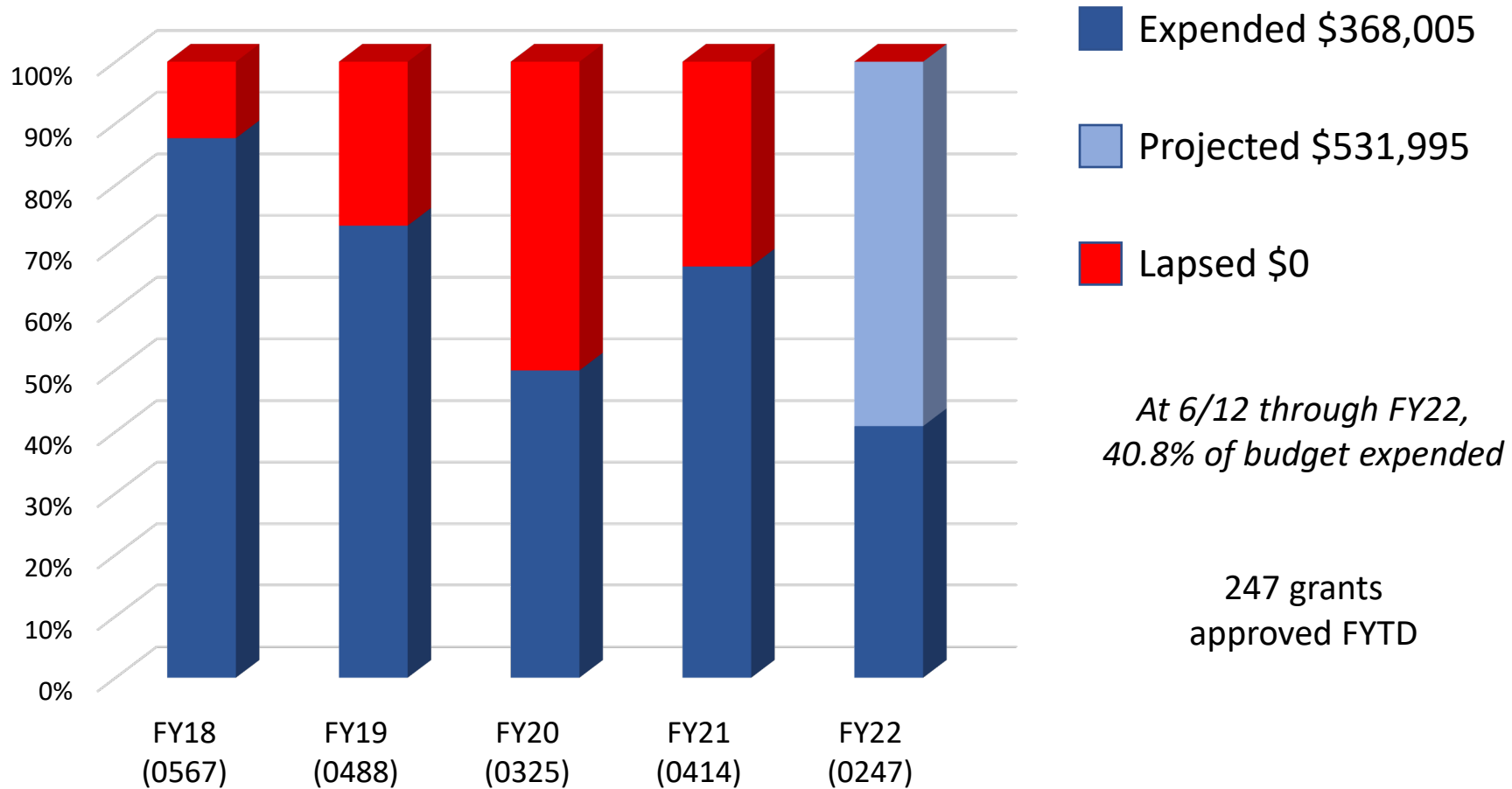
*At 6/12 through FY22,
51.4% of budget expended*

139 students
currently on gratuity

VETERANS' TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE



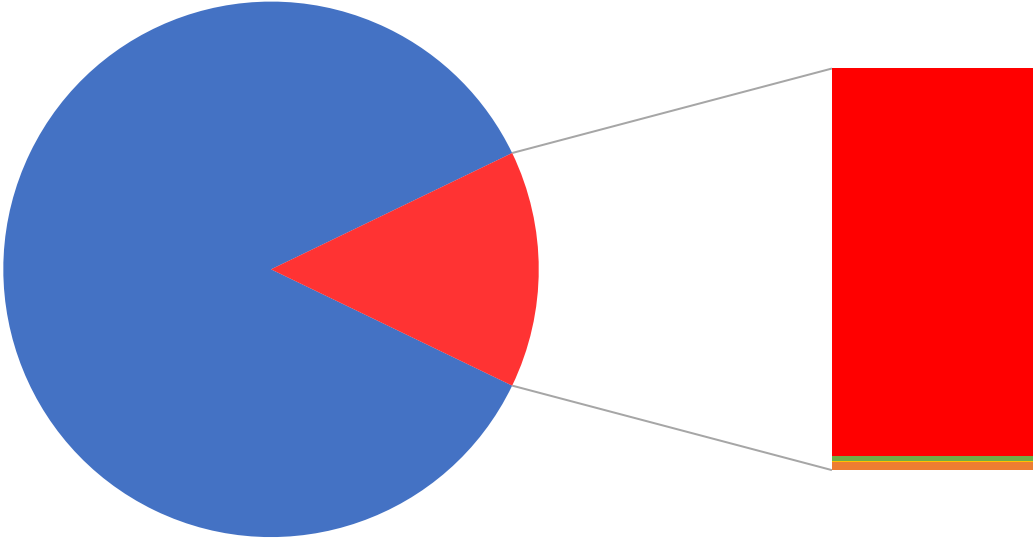
\$900,000



MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Total All Contributions FY2005-22 \$2,174,250.77



- Personal Income Tax Donations
- Personal/Corp/Org Donations
- Cash Donations
- Online Donations
- Other Dept of Revenue Transfers

Total Grants FYTD 2022

(\$ 38,000.00)

Total Grants FY 2005-22

(\$ 934,821.86)

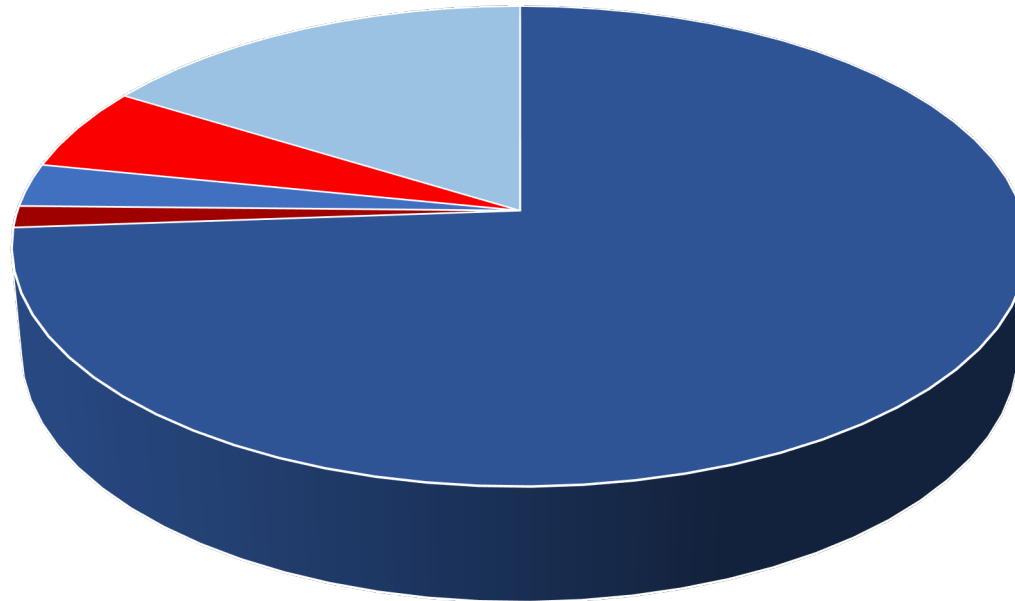
MFRAP Account Balance

\$ 1,234,828.91

DISABLED VETERANS' REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION



551 Total Adjudications
from 17 Dec 2022 to 24 Jan 2023



- 407 Approved (74%)
- 08 Denied: Financial Need
- 16 Denied: Ineligible*
- 31 Removed: No Response
- 89 Removed: Eligibility Change

*** 16 Applications Ineligible by Reason**

- 5 – Veteran did not have a total or 100% permanent disability during lifetime.
- 9 – Veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.
- 2 – Veteran has future exam, therefore not rated as total or 100% permanent

DISABLED VETERANS' REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION



As of 24 Jan 2023

[> community](#) [> commonwealth](#) [> country](#)

VISN 4 Access – Fiscal Year 2023 Wait Times



Clinics FY23 thru Jan. 10	Number of Appointments	Average Wait
Mental Health	86,234	5.1
Primary Care	141,855	5.1
Specialty Care	243,144	10.2
Other	178,775	6.0
ALL	650,008	7.3

FY23 data updated 1/11/2023 with appointment info as of 1/10/2023.

VISN 4 Access – Current Average Wait Times



VISN 4 Facility	Primary Care	
	New Patients	Returning Patients
James E. Van Zandt VAMC	14	2
Abie Abraham HCC	22	2
Coatesville VAMC	20	6
Erie VAMC	24	4
Lebanon VAMC	17	5
Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC	25	7
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (University Drive)	32	18
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System (H.J. Heinz)	33	17
Wilkes-Barre VAMC	18	3
Wilmington VAMC	15	9

FY23 data updated 1/11/2023 with wait times as of 1/10/2023 for the last 30 days.

www.accesstocare.va.gov

February 2023 Update

> community > commonwealth > country

Improvements to the Access to Care website

Average wait times for all VHA medical centers and clinics are now calculated to include additional steps in the appointment process that had not been captured in the past.

- For **new patient** appointments, average wait time is calculated from the earliest time a request for care is consistently recorded in the scheduling system to the date the appointment is completed – or the date it is scheduled to occur if not yet completed.
- For **established patient** appointments, average wait times are measured from the date agreed upon between a Veteran and provider for future care and ends on the date care is received, or the date that care is scheduled to occur if it has not yet occurred.

The upgraded calculation makes the website more reflective of the complete process of requesting and receiving care. Averages are representative of general performance and may not represent individual experience. Average wait times are never used to determine eligibility for community care.

VISN 4 Care in the Community



	Care in the Community Consults (Scheduled and Completed)	Non-VA Unique Patients*
FY 18	87,704	62,425
FY 19	101,068	70,376
FY 20	153,506	87,040
FY 21	155,823	85,443
FY 22	167,806	90,585
FY 23 (as of 1/10/23)	47,692	45,041

*Number of unique enrolled Veterans who receive community care at VA expense

FY23 data updated 1/11/2023 with consult info as of 1/10/2023.

NEXT MEETING



**Friday April 14 , 2023
at 10:00AM**

**Arrowheads Community Club
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003**

VISIT www.dmva.pa.gov/veterans/commissionsandcouncils FOR SVC INFO



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Healthcare–VISN 4

VISN 4 Update

February 3, 2023

Leadership Update

Dr. Kaneen Allen, who most recently served as the acting Assistant Director at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center, has been appointed Associate Director at the VA Pittsburgh Health Care System effective November 20, 2022.

Nick Haller, VISN 4 Rehabilitation and Extended Care Clinical Lead, is temporarily detailed to the position of Associate Director, Patient Care Services, Erie VA Medical Center, effective January 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023.

Carl Parrish, Chief Financial Officer at the James E. Van Zandt VAMC, Altoona, Pa. is currently detailed to the position of Acting Associate Director at Altoona. The detail was effective starting October 23, 2022.

Patient Experience Update

Survey of Healthcare Experiences of Patients (SHEP)

Each month, Survey of Healthcare Experiences of Patients (SHEP) surveys for Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH), Specialty Care, and Inpatient care are distributed randomly to a sampling of Veterans who have had either an ambulatory visit or hospital discharge the prior month. For outpatient visits, Veterans may receive a survey either via mail or email while those who have had inpatient stays receive their surveys via mail only. In addition, Community Care SHEP Surveys are sent to a sampling of Veterans receiving care in the community through VA. The sample is rolling 3 months based on claims for care received each month.

The intent of these SHEP surveys is for Veterans to have an opportunity to evaluate the care they receive, both by VA and by community providers, and for VA staff to be able to trend and compare the feedback over time. The data collected is used by medical center and VISN staff in making changes and enhancements to improve patient experience and the quality of care for Veterans.

I am pleased to report that VISN 4 ended fiscal year 2022 ranking first in VA health care for Overall Rating of Provider in the Primary Care setting through the SHEP PCMH Survey. Cumulatively, 78.8% of Veterans in VISN 4 who completed the PCMH Survey gave their providers a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 being the worst possible score and 10 being the best. Among the contributing factors for this positive response from VISN 4 Veterans is their above average satisfaction with the coordination of their care, including 73.1% of Veterans responding that their important medical history is always known by their provider.

Trust Scores

Nationally, VA's trust score over the last 90 days was just over 90%. In VISN 4, our trust score over the last 90 days was 93% which is the second highest VISN in the nation. In addition, 73.8% of comments made over the last 90 days were compliments, higher than any other VISN. The top compliment themes were quality of care, interactions with staff, cleanliness of facility, satisfaction with specialty care, and courtesy of healthcare providers.

COMPACT ACT of 2020

Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

VA has submitted an interim final rule to the federal register to establish this authority under section 201 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act of 2020. The final policy, which takes effect on Jan. 17, will allow VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or

non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.

- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergency suicide care.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

PACT Act Update

VA began [processing all PACT Act claims](#) on January 1, and we have passed the [one million point](#) in the number of toxic exposure screenings.

This is one of the largest expansions of Veteran eligibility for health care in VA's history and the outreach efforts will be the most significant ever engaged in by VA. [Toxic exposure screening](#) for enrolled Veterans began November 8.

I encourage everyone to check out and share the VA paid advertising [PACT Act](#) video that is currently running on broadcast channels, as well as Hulu and Roku streaming channels. A link is included in the read ahead.

Flu and COVID 19 Update

The current flu season started early and brought the highest early season hospitalizations in over a decade. As flu rises back to pre-COVID-19 levels, COVID-19 continues to spread. Older people, those who are immunocompromised, and those who

have preexisting conditions are especially at risk. Vaccinations remain the best way for us to move through COVID-19 and the current flu season safely, prevent serious illness, and reduce hospitalizations across the country.

VHA is offering updated COVID-19 boosters to individuals who have completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series.

Booster Doses: As of January 4th, more than 2.3 million Veterans have received an initial COVID-19 booster dose. That represents about 55% of the more than 4.3 million Veterans we have a record of being fully vaccinated. Over 473,000 Veterans have received an additional booster dose, and over 736,000 have received a bivalent dose.

The updated bivalent booster protects against both the original virus that causes COVID-19 as well as the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.

Receiving an updated booster will give additional protection against severe illness and death from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines are no cost to the recipient. VA also provides free COVID-19 testing to eligible Veterans.

If you haven't yet had your COVID-19 vaccine primary series, you should do it now.

It is safe to get both a flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine at the same visit.

Getting a flu shot protects you, your family, and your community. And if needed, you can safely get vaccinated for COVID at the same time you get a flu shot – one visit, two vaccines.

Eligible Veterans can get a no-cost flu shot from a nearby VA clinic or within their community. To find a flu shot near you visit our [VA locator](#).

Electronic Health Record (EHR) Program Update

VA has [delayed upcoming deployments](#) of the Oracle Cerner electronic health record (EHR) until June 2023 to address challenges with the system and make sure it is functioning optimally for Veterans and for VA health care personnel.

Before restarting deployments at other VA medical centers, VA will continue to work closely with Oracle Cerner to resolve issues with the system's performance — especially those that may have patient safety implications — to maximize usability for VA health

care providers and ensure our nation's Veterans are served by an effective records system to support their health care.

During this "assess & address" period, we will correct outstanding issues — especially those that may have patient safety implications — before restarting deployments at other VA medical centers.

Modernizing VA's electronic health record is much more than a routine software implementation. It is a fundamental change in how business and health care work processes are performed within VA. It presents us with opportunities to transform the way we deliver health care, and to standardize that delivery across the enterprise to achieve improvements in patient safety and efficiency in health care delivery.

VA remains committed to getting the new EHR right for Veterans and aims ultimately to serve as a model for transformative health care innovation by using the same health record system as DOD and the U.S. Coast Guard and improving the exchange of Veteran medical information with participating community care providers.

VA Health Connect and Clinical Contact Center

In 2022, VISN 4 completed full implementation of VA Health Connect and the modernization of our clinical contact center. We increased the hours of operation for Tele Urgent Care and added evening, weekend, and holiday hours for the scheduling & administration team and pharmacy services. As a result, our call volume increased 60% over the past year, providing nearly 500,000 Veterans (call volume) with enhanced access to care.

Caregiver Support Update

VA [expanded](#) its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to eligible family members and Veterans of all eras on October 1, 2022 and received over 34,600 applications as of January 4, 2023. Over 32,600 PCAFC applications have been reviewed and advanced to the next stages of application processing, clinical review, or received final disposition.

Previously, PCAFC was only available to eligible Veterans who served on or after Sept. 11, 2001. This expansion opens the program to eligible Veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before Sept. 11, 2001.

VA is committed to supporting Veterans and their family caregivers by listening to concerns raised and working diligently to address them as we continue to ensure

Veterans and their caregivers get the support they need and deserve. VA continues to review all aspects of PCAFC to identify opportunities to improve the experience of Veterans and caregivers.

Moving forward into 2023, VA is proud to lead the country in providing a program that offers unmatched services and support to caregivers of Veterans to enable them to achieve their optimal level of independence and well-being. As we look to the year ahead, VA seeks to build upon its CSP program with an emphasis of the "Year of the Caregiver," in which VA seeks to continue implementing and improving support and services for caregivers of Veterans, including mental health care and respite. The program will utilize feedback from Veterans, caregivers, and our many stakeholders to continue enhancing and advancing the program while striving to set the standard on caregiving in the health care industry.

The Caregiver Health & Wellbeing Coaching will soon be offered at every facility across VISN 4, to provide a personal guide who will work with caregivers to develop a personalized health plan based on the caregivers values, needs and goals.

Summary of Current Applications (Exempt)

Count	No Activity	Review Process Started	Review App Received	New Apps Pending
16633	15968	618	47	217

Summary of Activity from 12/17/2022 to 01/24/2023

Apps Created: 436	
New	290
Review:	146
Apps Approved: 407	
New	234
Review	173
Apps Denied (Need):	8
Apps Denied (Ineligible):	16
Apps Removed (No Response):	31
Apps Removed (Eligibility Change):	89

Summary of Ineligible Reason

Reason	Count
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not have a total and/or 100% permanent disability during their lifetime.	5
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has determined that the veteran did not serve during a period of war or armed conflict.	9
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs stated that you have a future exam, therefore, your disability has not been rated as total or 100% permanent.	2

Summary of Activity from 12/17/2022 to 01/24/2023

APPLICATIONS APPROVED	407
New	234
Review	173

APPLICATIONS DENIED	144
Financial Need	8
Ineligible	16
No Response	31
Change of Eligibility	89

OVER INCOME	33
New	17
Review	16

8%
7%
9%

APPLICATIONS CREATED	436
TOTAL ADJUDICATED	551

PENNSYLVANIA STATE VETERANS' COMMISSION BYLAWS

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ARTICLE I: Introduction

Section 1.1. DEFINITION OF BYLAWS. These bylaws constitute the additional rules not addressed in Subchapter A of Chapter 17 of Title 51 of Pennsylvania’s Consolidated Statutes the State Veterans’ Commission for its regulation and management.

Section 1.2. PURPOSES AND POWERS. This commission will have the purposes and powers as set forth in 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 1703 and 1704.

ARTICLE II: Membership

Section 2.1. COMPOSITION. The composition of the commission is per 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(b).

Section 2.2. TERMS. There are no limits on number of terms served. The term length of an appointment is established by 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(b).

Section 2.3. RESIDENCY AND CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT. A commissioner must legally reside within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and be a citizen of the United States.

Section 2.4. RESIGNATION. Any commissioner may resign at any time. Such resignation shall be provided in writing to the chair, who will notify the Adjutant General in order to notify the Governor.

Section 2.5. REMOVAL. A commissioner may be removed by the assigning veterans service organization or appointing authority.

Section 2.6. VACANCY. Any vacancy occurring during the term of a commissioner shall be filled for the unexpired term by the appointment of a successor in the same manner as the predecessor. For commissioners at-large, see also 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(f).

Section 2.7. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. Pursuant to 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(d), commissioners shall serve without compensation. They shall be reimbursed for approved, out-of-pocket expenses deemed necessary and reasonable as a result of official business of the commission, to include duties outside of regularly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE III: Officers

Section 3.1. GENERAL. In accordance with 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(c), the officers of the commission shall consist of a chair, a vice-chair, and a non-voting executive secretary.

Section 3.2. CHAIR. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the commission and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of chair.

Section 3.3. VICE-CHAIR. The vice-chair shall perform the duties of the chair in the event of the latter's inability to act because of absence or other reason and shall perform other duties delegated by the chair.

Section 3.4. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for all administrative and logistical tasks related to the commission.

Section 3.5. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICER POSITION. Any appointed commissioner, excluding the Adjutant General, is eligible to become the chair or vice-chair.

ARTICLE IV: Meetings

Section 4.1. MEETINGS. In accordance with 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(e), the commission shall meet upon the call of the chair or the Adjutant General. If the chair elects to call a meeting, he or she shall query the Executive Secretary to ensure that there is adequate space and resources to hold the meeting. The Executive Secretary shall send a written notice to each member at least fourteen (14) days in advance of a meeting via e-mail or other means of communication deemed reasonably likely to reach the intended recipient. Such a notice shall contain the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting. Commissioners unable to attend shall notify the Executive Secretary and chair in advance of the meeting, when at all possible, in order to be excused.

Section 4.2. MEETING CANCELLATION. The Adjutant General or the chair may cancel meetings for good cause.

Section 4.3. RECUSAL AND ABSTENTION. A commissioner shall recuse himself or herself from any matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest. A member may abstain from voting by being present during the vote, but not casting a ballot.

Section 4.4. WRITTEN VOTE BY PROXY. If notice is given of a vote to be taken at a commission meeting and a commissioner is unable to participate, the commissioner may either submit his or her vote in writing to the Executive Secretary prior to the meeting or may authorize a proxy.

Section 4.5. OPEN MEETINGS. All actions and deliberations of the commission shall take place at a meeting open to the public, unless permitted otherwise by the 65 Pa.C.S. § 706 (Sunshine Act) or other applicable law.

Section 4.6. RULES OF ORDER. Except to the extent otherwise provided by law or by these bylaws, the rules of order for meetings of the commission and committees thereof shall follow as

closely as practicable those prescribed for small assemblies or similar small bodies in the most recently published revision of Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 4.7. MEETING MINUTES. Meeting minutes shall be prepared as required by 65 Pa.C.S. § 706 (Sunshine Act) or other applicable law. They will contain all substantive motions and resolutions (votes) of the commission.

Section 4.8. USE OF TELECONFERENCE. The commission authorizes the use of visual-audio teleconferences for Commission meetings, when appropriate. All other rules, such as quorums, notification, the business to be transacted, and minutes of the business transacted, shall apply

ARTICLE V: Committees

Section 5.1. CREATION OF COMMITTEES. Committees will be established to address the needs of the commission. In so doing, the commissioners may establish by resolution one or more standing or special committees. Any committee will continue to exist only at the pleasure of the commissioners.

Section 5.2. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. Committee members will be selected and assigned as needed by the commissioners. These members may be commissioners and non-commissioners.

Section 5.3. COMMITTEE CHAIRS. The chair of each committee will be a sitting commissioner. As soon as possible after the election of officers, the commissioners will appoint the committee chairs.

Section 5.4. TERMS. Committee members will continue in their role until relieved.

ARTICLE VI: Operations

Section 6.1. CODE OF CONDUCT. While not required to sign the form, a commissioner will read and abide by the Governor's Code of Conduct (Executive Order 1980-18 Amended) as a civil officer appointee.

Section 6.2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST. All commissioners and committee members have a duty to disclose potential conflicts of interest to the chairman and the Adjutant General. Any commissioner or committee member who fails to disclose a potential conflict is subject to suspension and or removal as a commissioner. See also Section 6.1

Section 6.3. OATH OF OFFICE. A commissioner will assume his/her duties at the first available meeting of the commission following his election or appointment as a commissioner and after being sworn in. A commissioner, as an appointed civil officer, shall not perform any power or duty without first taking the oath of office. The Oath of Office will be administered by the Adjutant General or his designee. The Oath of Office is:

I (state first and last name) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

Section 6.4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT. The department provides administrative and logistical support to the commission. The Executive Secretary serves the commission to coordinate that support. See Section 3.4.

Section 6.5. BUDGETING. The commission will propose a budget for the conduct of its operations for inclusion in the department's annual executive budget submission. This will be done in consultation with and with the assistance of the Executive Secretary. The approved funds allocated for the commission's purposes shall be used solely as determined by its members and as approved by the Executive Secretary, acting on behalf of the department.

ARTICLE VII: Amendments

Section 7.1. MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS. Recommendations for changes will be submitted by written motion to the commission and require a vote of two thirds (2/3) of its voting commissioners for approval. The vote will normally occur at the succeeding, regular commission meeting. At least three work weeks' notice (15 working days) shall be given prior to the date of voting. The changes approved by the commissioners will then be submitted to the Adjutant General, acting on the behalf of the Governor, for final review and approval.

Section 7.2. ADOPTION OF BYLAWS. Adopted by the commissioners by resolution on (Date) and approved by the Adjutant General on (Date).