



Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent
 Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432
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13 July 2021 Executive Meeting 7:00 AM

VAC Will County Board Members will be attending meetings remotely and in person. The general public is strongly encouraged to do the same. If a member of the public would like to attend the meeting virtually, please send an email to vacwc@willcountyillinois.com and a link will be provided.

- I. Call to Order: President Picciolo @ 909AM
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Opening Prayer: Chaplain Singler
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: Superintendent McNichol

| VAC Commission | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
| Jack Picciolo | President | Present |
| Nicholas Barry | Vice President | Present |
| Denise Williams | Secretary | Absent |
| Amanda Koch | Sgt-At-Arms | Present |
| Jim Singler | Chaplain | Present |
| Tom Mlynek | Member | Present |
| Janet Blue | Member | Present |
| Steve Benicke | Member | Present |
| Vic Martinka | Past Chairman | Absent |
| John Kestle | Past Chairman | Present |
| John York | Past Chairman | Absent |
| Wayne Horne | Past Chairman | Present |

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: Gilberto Goyco, USMC Retired; Jennifer Roach, Plainfield AL Auxillary; Brandi Mullins, VAC Outreach Services; Nick Reiher, Farmers Weekly Review; Carol Cheney, Will CO States Atty Office; Ken Grey, Army Veteran & Chief Deputy Attorney Will County Assistant States Attorney; Will County States Attorney James Glasgow.

President Picciolo requested motion to allow States Attorney James Glasgow to speak to the body; All agreed.

States Attorney James Glasgow briefed the VAC Board & Guests in attendance about the passing of Illinois House Bill 282: Allows a superintendent of a Veterans' Assistance Commission to ask a State's Attorney to render an opinion, free of charge.

SA Glasgow commented how the VAC and SAO have a great working relationship and the passing of this bill will allow for further exchange of resources, at the request of the VAC, that will ultimately assist veterans.

SA Glasgow provided an overview of accessing Will County Veteran Treatment Court.

SA Glasgow also spoke about the importance of supporting veterans that suffer from PTSD and his passion for service dogs for veterans.

SA Glasgow and States Attorney team left meeting at 730AM.

- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (8 June @ 7:00 AM)
 - A. Motion: Member Janet Blue; Second, Member Tom Mlynek; All in Favor. Motion Passes
- V. Superintendents Report:

- A. Staff back to 5 days
 - a) Superintendent McNichol reported that ALL staff is scheduled to be in office 5 days a week, eliminating assigned work from home one day a week.
 - B. Award/VSO Productivity; Erik Papineau Reports:
 - a) VSO Award log is still hovering just above \$83M VA benefits assisted with by Will County VSOs.
 - b) NPRC is still suffering a backlog from COVID-19 Pandemic, causing delay on adjudication of VA benefit applications
 - C. Project165 (VAC Hotel) Report Valerie Tawrel:
 - a) 85% of veterans from VAC hotel project have permanent housing units now
 - 1. Nationally, the success rate is 41% - VAC project doubles that.
 - b) Average age of veterans in Project 165 Hotel: 54
 - 1. 45% of guests 60+ years old
 - 2. Youngest: 31 y/o Female; Oldest: 73 y/o Male
 - c) ALL veterans in Project 165 Hotel project received services from VAC Peer Support Specialist, Joe Martin
- VI. New Business
- A. ESG Award Letter (attached)
 - a) Intro of Brandi Mullins: Started on 7/1/2021 & will be working with Val Tawrel & Joe Martin. Brandi will perform street outreach in Will County to ensure any/all homeless veterans are entered into Continuum of Care HMIS system
 - B. DCEO Award Letter - VAC Appropriated funding from DCEO GENERAL FUND
 - a) New building up-date
 - 1. Lease was to end in Nov 2021 – Six Month extension
 - a. DCEO Appropriated funding is being used for construction of gym space. VAC was unaware of appropriation until AFTER announcement.
 - b) Ideas moving forward
 - 1. If/when appropriated again, DCEO funding can be used for: Gym FOB, Salaries, any programmatic expenses associated with gym space
 - C. Senator Duckworth Office – Member Janet Blue
 - a) Senator Duckworth’s office requests list of questions prior to next meeting. Please send to KMcNichol
- VII. Old Business
- A. Letter of Intent & Letter of Rejection Smith Family YMCA (attached)
 - a) Discussion & Review of letters
 - B. CARES Funding Update:
 - a) Finance Committee approved remaining P165 funds to transfer to VAC budget 7/6/2021
- VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment
- A. Nick Reiher announced partnership through VAC. Requested any post events be sent his way to get in Farmers Weekly Review.
 - B. Veterans Day Ceremony 2021
 - a) Setting up meeting with Chief Judge Kennedy to get discuss Court House on 11/11/21
 - C. VAC Outreach Opportunities:
 - a) Allen Force Desert Storm Run – G. Wiza attending
- IX. Motion to Adjourn: Past President Wayne Horne; Second, Past President Kestle. All in Favor.
Adjourned @ 0815

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting
08/10/2021 @ 7AM**

In Person:

2400 Glenwood Ave STE 110 Joliet IL 60435

OR

VIA Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88276899609>