



# Veteran Assistance Commission of Will County

Kristina McNichol – Superintendent  
Glenwood Center 2400 Glenwood Ave. Ste 110 Joliet, IL 60432  
Ph: (815)740-8389 Fax: (815)740-4329



## 14 Sept 2021 VAC Executive Meeting 7:00 AM

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's recent disaster proclamation, the number of COVID-19 cases in Will County and the CDC guidelines regarding COVID-19, the President of the Veterans Assistance Commission has determined that in-person meetings are not practical nor prudent. Therefore, all meetings for the Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County shall be held via video and/or audio until further notice.*

*The public is invited to comment or pose a questions by email at [vacwc@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:vacwc@willcountyillinois.com). At the For Good of the Commission/Public Comments portion of the meeting, the emails will be read into the record. Please email [vacwc@willcountyillinois.com](mailto:vacwc@willcountyillinois.com) for a link to attend the meeting via ZOOM.*

- I. Call to Order: President Picciolo
  - A. Pledge of Allegiance
  - B. Opening Prayer: Member Mlynek
- II. Roll Call of Attendees: ~~Secretary Williams~~ Superintendent McNichol

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

- III. Introduction of Guests and/or First Time Attendees: Garland Mays, Community Coordinator, Will County Executive; Christopher Hill, ALNC; Julie Sander, VAC, USF Intern; Nick Reiher, The Farmers Weekly Review
- IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting (10 Aug @ 7:00 AM)
  - A. Motion: Koch; Second Horne; All in Favor. Motion Pass
- V. Superintendents Report:
  - A. Award Log: Currently
    - a) Superintendent McNichol reports \$86.5M cumulative awards since 2015. 143 new veterans added to VAC database in Aug 2021.
  - B. Project 165 Report
    - a) 40 Veterans Housed



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1. 33/40 Housed (82%)
  - b) Superintendent McNichol reported P165 funding has now closed. Moved remaining funds to VAC budget. Pending
- C. Project 150
  - a) NEW ESG-CV Funding from County (Emergency Shelter)
    1. Entry into program will be following guidelines of new HUD/VASH
    2. Discussion:

VAC Staff Tawrel stated normal emergency shelters are full and still operating under lower capacity than pre-COVID19. There is no emergency shelter option for single women. When eviction moratorium is up, those evicted, OR lease not extended will have nowhere to go.

Will County lacks affordable or sustainable units.

Member Blue: Why is housing not being built with funding available. Monee has property they are looking to develop.

Guest Garland Mays: Reviewed that building a multi-family complex is not the same as building a home. COVID-19, though not an excuse, did cause a supply shortage and then a cost increase. Furthermore, building a multi-family unit requires development developers and possibly a needs and infrastructure study to be completed. All take time.

Superintendent McNichol echoed what Mr. Mays said.

President Picciolo: There are more homeless on the streets right now, and he knows there will be more. Communities need to find a solution. Eviction Moratorium deadline will cause an influx of homeless, and there is no plan in place right now. That is why VAC ESG funding was needed. VAC has a plan.

## VI. New Business

- A. VAC intro: Garland Mays, Community Coordinator, Will County Executive
  - a) Mr. Mays thanked VAC Board for in-depth discussion on needs in the community. The County Executive Office is working on strategic plans to meet the needs.
  - b) Mr. Mays discussed lack of public transportation in Will CO. County Exec. Team is currently working on revitalizing that program. A press release will be soon.
  - c) Mr. Mays is very aware of housing shortage. He also sits on Housing Authority of Joliet Commission. At HAJ last application process, there were 42 units available; HAJ received over 600 applications.
    1. Further discussion on needs in community.



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- B. Hidden Heroes Program, Elizabeth Dole Foundation
  - a) WCB Member Coleman & Freeman participated in Veteran resource discussion at NACo (National Association of County Officials) in Washington, D.C. inquiring on how to get Will County nationally recognized by Elizabeth Dole Foundation.
    - 1. Superintendent McNichol emailed the foundation and received guidance on steps needed.
    - 2. WCB Coleman & Freeman presenting at WCB Legislative Committee @ 9AM today (9/14/2021) to start the process. Goal is to be recognized before 11/11/2021. More to follow next month.
  
- VII. Old Business
  - A. 1300 Copperfield (New Building)
    - a) At Capital Improvement Committee, WCB members questioned the usefulness of the purchase of the building as a whole. Some WCB members state they would not have voted for the purchase if all parties on the original plan were not going to move to 1300 Copperfield.
      - 1. Some WCB members introduced the idea of selling the property.
      - 2. Will County Executive Bertino-Tarrant advocated for winterizing the building and a continued discussion.
      - 3. Superintendent McNichol will continue to attend WCB Committee meetings and report back to VAC Board.
  - B. DCEO Grant
    - a) DCEO Appropriated funding grant modification was approved in Springfield.
    - b) VAC will receive DCEO funding directly into VAC budget. This should help with spending & reporting timeline. Discussion.
  
- VIII. For Good of the Commission/Public Comment
  - A. Every Tuesday – VAC at Orland Park Vet Center
  - B. 9/16 (Third Thursday) VAC @ Peotone American Legion
  - C. IACVAC 9/20-9/24, Peoria, IL
  - D. 10/23/2021 12-3PM Peotone American Legion
    - a) Lunch & Learn Veteran Spouses, Moms, Caregivers: You know your vet best.
  
- IX. Motion to Adjourn: Member Blue; Seconded Member Mlynek; All in favor. Meeting adjourned @ 0815.

**VAC Executive Committee Meeting**



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**10/12/2021 @ 7AM**



**VIA Zoom**