

MINUTES

STATE VETERANS COUNCIL SEMI-SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

Concord, New Hampshire

July 29, 2009 GCOD Conference Room 3:00 p.m.

Meeting opened at 3:00

1. Productivity Update

- a. As of 06/30/09 there were just over 43 million dollars in recoveries in this fiscal year. In FY 07 the agency had a 42 million dollar and in FY 08 a 43 million dollar recovery rate.
- b. Since the last meeting in January 2009, we did not gain a huge number of clients. However, that number does remain steady. Our number of clients currently stands at 5899. We are continuing to purge old files and are therefore finding some clients who have passed that we still might maintain on the books. The number is small but we continue the purge to ensure our numbers remain accurate.
- c. Additionally, the agency tracked inquiries since the January meeting and in the past year's time there have been 6311 inquiries. That is not a significant increase.
- d. There was discussion of a possible schedule change due to the health problems encountered by one of the agency Service Officers. Members approved possible schedule change and implementation if necessary.

2. Budget Status

- a. FY 2009 Budget ended. There were no shortfalls and no lapses.
- b. The agency re-evaluated travel arrangements and came up with a plan to decrease mileage of Service Officers and yet still be able to carry out our mission to assist NH veterans and their families. It has been determined this plan alleviate a shortage in FY09. The agency is still dedicated to conserving as many

resources as possible without lowering our quality of service. FY 10 Budget remains on track otherwise with no foreseeable problems anticipated.

3. Legislative Changes / Updates

a. A spreadsheet was given to all SVC members to show the outcome of legislative matters pertaining to NH veterans. Despite numerous attempts, there were no changes to the current veterans property tax statutes.

b. The outcomes of SB 327 (The Commission to Study Veterans Employment) and SB 35 (The Commission to Study PTSD/TBI) were discussed as well as introduction of SB 35 (The Commission to Study a Veterans Legal Assistance Project.)

4. Procedural Changes (progress)

a. NH FIRST / ERP

1. Implementation is in full swing and the agency is ready.

2. FY10/11 budget implementation was the first process initiated into the new system.

3. Three agency personnel were scheduled for, and completed, training on this program in May 2009.

5. SVC Attendances

a. Members discussed the success of the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinator conference hosted by the agency in June. It was a huge success and all Association members were impressed.

6. The New Donation Fund

a. Set-up and Maintenance Procedures have been coordinated.

b. The Council members and Director discussed a concern that approval for expenditures (by the Council) could not be accomplished at only semi-annual meetings. The Chairman then made a motion to allow Council members to approve written requests for expenditures by a 2/3 vote via mail

or e-mail procedure. The vote was seconded by General Jacobsmeyer and approved unanimously.

c. As there were also concerns about use, acceptance, and solicitation (none should be allowed) for the fund, Mr. Bernard then made a motion that would require development of written guidelines for the donation fund use and acceptance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leidner and approved unanimously. Written guidance will be forthcoming.

d. There was also discussion and agreement that 2 Council members, and 2 agency personnel (the Director and Service Officer) be allowed Power of Attorney to have access to the funds again, only with approval by 2/3 of the Council members.

8. At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Leidner made a motion to accept previous meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bernard and minutes were accepted by unanimous vote. Mr. Bernard made a motion at 3:45 to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leidner and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed,

Mary Morin, Director
New Hampshire State Veterans Council