



COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mandy Coates, Director

JoAnne Downes

Bill Blanchard, Chairperson

Chad Gerdes

Larry Hingtgen, Secretary

Ines Beltre

Formal Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, Larry Hingtgen, Chad Gerdes, Ines Beltre, Joanne Downes, and Mandy Coates.

Guests: Josua Brown, Nathan Peters, and Rod Sullivan

Unless Notes, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Presentation by Nathan Peters, Johnson County Attorney's Office, regarding open meeting laws and Iowa Code pertaining to the Veterans Affairs Commission and staff
2. Motion by Gerdes, second by Hingtgen to approve the February minutes
3. Motion by Downes, second by Beltre to approve the February vouchers
4. Department is at 41% Spent. Federal VA Compensation Revenue for Johnson County for February was \$2,918,487.00. Brown has military orders from April through August. Discussed IDVA Ben Dales visitation. Discussed increase of claims from Federal VA workers and calls from Veterans and spouses concerned about potential benefit and healthcare cuts. Director informed the Commission that they reached out to Public Affairs at the ICVHA, and they stated that they could not comment on the situation. Director informed commission regarding influx of Veterans from other counties and states requesting assistance. Veterans Appreciation Event on April 5th at Big Grove. Outreach was provided to Coffee and Camaraderie at the Veterans Liberty Center, and the Director gave a presentation to the VA Recovery in Acton Group
5. The timekeeping process for Director and CVSO was presented to commission
6. Next meeting is scheduled for April 22nd at 5 p.m. due to Spring School happening at the same time as our normally scheduled meeting
7. Commission provided thoughts about what they would like to see at the Commission meetings. Continuing the office report from the Director, training on single subjects with a presenter occasionally, hold meetings outside the HHS building that are accessible. Reach out to the Commission for support or assistance with outreach

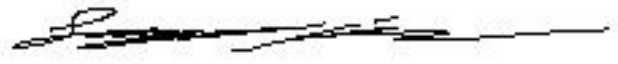
Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:50

Recorded by Mandy Coates

These minutes will be presented to the Secretary for approval during our April 2025 meeting.

4/22/2025

Date:



Secretary or Alternate