



COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mandy Coates, Director
Bill Blanchard, Chairperson
Larry Hingtgen, Secretary

JoAnne Downes
Chad Gerdes
Jacob Korbakes

Formal Meeting Minutes
Health and Human Services Building
855 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA 52240
Conference Room 203 B
March 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, Chad Gerdes, JoAnne Downes, Larry Hingtgen via phone, and Mandy Coates.
Guests: Ryan Maas - Johnson County Attorney's Office

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. Motion by Gerdes, second by Hingtgen to approve the February minutes
2. Motion by Downes, second by Gerdes to approve the February vouchers
3. Phillip Foster presented to the Commission from Guitars 4 Vets; The healing power of music in the hands of heroes
4. Budget is at 49% spent for the year. Federal claim revenue for Johnson County in February was \$3,437,484.00. Coates informed Commission regarding a meeting with IT regarding a potential county-wide client system. It was a no go from Veteran Services due to Iowa Code and HIPAA and PII concerns for our Veteran clients. KCRG has called requesting interviews regarding the Iran conflict, Coates has declined. Coates informed Commission regarding upcoming trainings in April, May and June to maintain accreditation. Coates informed Commission that Medicare and Social Security will need to be taken out of their payment in April going forward and to bring identification for the I-9 and bank account information to next meeting. Coates informed Commission of Higher-Level Review Training, Josh providing outreach at IVETS and Coates was interviewed by KCJJ radio regarding services.
5. Coates briefed Commission regarding SF2466 passing the Senate
6. Commissioner terms are up for Gerdes and Blanchard. Gerdes does not intend to request to stay on, Blanchard has requested to renew his appointment.
7. Coates informed Commission regarding VA rating proposals including audits to future DBQ's from paid for nexus providers to stop fraud and claim sharks
8. Coates went over new agenda item of reports from commissioners and attorney assisted on explaining wording to keep compliant with open meeting laws.
9. Next meeting is scheduled for April 21st, 2026

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:55

Recorded by Mandy Coates

These minutes will be presented to the Secretary for approval during our April 2026 meeting.

4/21/2026
Date:

Signature on File
Secretary or Alternate