



## 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  
April 21, 2026

Meeting called to order at 17:00 by Blanchard

Present: Bill Blanchard, Chad Gerdes, JoAnne Downes, and Mandy Coates.  
Guests: Nathan Peters- Johnson County Attorney's Office

Unless noted, all actions were taken unanimously

1. HR did not present themselves to complete the 1-9 or bank account acquirement information from the commissioners per their requirement of future payments.
2. Motion by Gerdes, second by Downes to approve the March minutes
3. Motion by Downes, second by Gerdes to approve the March vouchers
4. Budget is at 56% unutilized. Coates informed commission regarding attendance for strategic planning meetings, Veteran feedback and presented the Quarterly Auditor Report. Coates informed Commission regarding trainings attended including, Ethics for Service Officers, Reasonable Suspicion, and Josh's attendance at the IDVA Spring Training. Coates and Brown provided outreach at the Solon Nursing Home, Brew with a Crew, Walden Place, IVETS fundraiser, Met with Troy Raymer, (ICVHA Homeless outreach Coordinator), Vocational Rehab Specialists, Inside out Community Reentry Presentation, Light the Way Dementia Training, Met with Justing Heart, (ICVHA Public Affairs Officer, ICFW Iowa City Airport Jet Meeting, and IVETS Table Outreach.
5. Compensation Study and Pay Grade discussion was tabled due to not having the information requested from HR and not all Commissioner's in attendance.
6. Coates briefed Commission regarding SF2466 and the amendment that went to appropriations and is still alive.
7. Veterans Educational Assistance Program reimbursement program was presented
8. Iowa Code Chapter 35 and 35B discussion was tabled due to not all commissioners in attendance
9. HUDVASH and SSFV regulations and eligibility was presented
10. Next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2026

Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 17:30

Recorded by Mandy Coates

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

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Date:

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Secretary or Alternate