

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-8(a)

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE July 15, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept the Second Annual Veterans Advisory Commission Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the Second Annual Veterans Advisory Commission Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
2. Thank the Veterans Advisory Commission for their efforts on behalf of the Veterans of Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Existing staff from the Chief Executive Office and Department of Aging and Veterans will continue to provide support to the Veterans Advisory Commission. There is no fiscal impact with acceptance of the Second Annual Veterans Advisory Commission Report.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2014-381

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman De Martini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

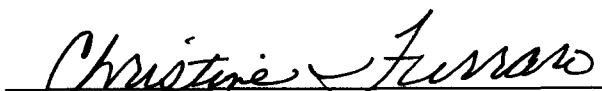
1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

On April 3, 2012 the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors established the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC), comprised of seven members; one from each Supervisorial District and 2 At Large public members with alternating terms. At that time, the Board directed staff to meet with the Commission or its designated representatives to evaluate existing locations currently used by the veteran service organizations, evaluate existing County facility sites that might be suited for dedicated use by veterans, and determine the short-term and long-term facility needs to be used as a guide in searching for an appropriate location.

This report summarizes the Commission’s achievements and activities for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and the Commission’s Strategic Plan, goals and objectives for the upcoming year.

Overview:

Stanislaus County is home to an estimated 27,000 veterans, with further growth anticipated as the general population increases and as veterans return from active duty in recent conflicts. As military activities wind down, many veterans are returning home and dramatically changing the demography of our veteran community. Those returning to civilian life often need help finding employment, accessing education and training programs, obtaining referrals to benefits, as well as assistance in finding appropriate housing, medical and counseling services, and transportation connections.

Stanislaus County is home to over 30 veteran service organizations with membership estimated to be over 7,000 throughout the Stanislaus County region. These veteran services clubs provide social and service referrals to members, support and recognition to our veterans. These services clubs are an essential support system for Stanislaus County veterans, yet many have no regular (or dependable) location in which to meet. Several larger organizations have limited facilities, but none have the resources to provide coordinated services and assemblies at a single site in our County. Some of the current buildings are difficult to access by public transportation and have safety or security concerns, (often limiting use or attendance at these facilities).

Veteran Facility needs have been the focus of local veterans over the past decade. The Veterans Advisory Commission established a priority to evaluate veterans’ facility needs in its first year. To pursue that priority, the Commission created a Facility Committee to create a plan for needed facilities to veteran groups.

Veteran Advisory Commissioners:

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors/ Veterans Advisory Commission is comprised of seven members. One member is appointed from each of the five Supervisorial Districts and nominations are made by each Supervisor and appointed by a majority of the full Board of Supervisors. Two members of the Commission are appointed from the Stanislaus County veteran’s community “At-Large.”

For Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the Commissioners are:

Approval to Accept the Second Annual Veterans Advisory Commission Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

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District #1 – Richard Sylvester
District #2 -- Currently Vacant
District #3 -- Richard Barboza
District #4 -- Richard Edgecomb
District #5 – Richard Gaytan

Members at Large:

Joseph Madden
Douglas Miller

The purpose of the Commission is to represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and County staff on matters pertaining to veterans; hold informal public meetings, and provide the public with information, and receive comments relative to veterans' issues.

The Commission, as part of their strategic planning efforts, developed the following Committee's:

- Education and Job Placement Committee
- Facility Committee
- Outreach Committee
- Transportation Committee

Each committee holds regularly scheduled meetings which are open to the public.

Education and Job Placement Committee:

Chairman: Douglas Miller, At-Large Member

The Goals for the Education and Job Placement Committee for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 are to expand membership to include other Commission members; increase communication to veterans needing education and job placement services, including new veterans returning from recent duty; and working more with the Veterans organizations at Modesto Junior College and CSU Stanislaus

Facilities Committee:

Chairman: Richard Sylvester, District 1

Developing a "one-stop service center" continues to be the main objective of the Veterans Advisory Commission.

On June 18, 2013, the Board of Supervisors approved the Facility Needs Assessment and authorized the Facility Committee to begin identifying and evaluating building options. With County staff assistance, the Committee would develop conceptual costs and timelines for implementation and a funding strategy for implementation.

During this fiscal year, the Facility Committee developed a Four-Part Strategy to plan, develop, and sustain a Veterans Center Facility. Please see this Strategy in Agenda B-8 (b).

Outreach Committee:

Chairman: Richard Gaytan, District 5

The Goals for the Outreach Committee for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 are to increase communications with the veteran community, including the use of social media, the Veterans Advisory Commission website, and radio announcements and other broadcasting events.

Transportation Committee:

Chairman: Joseph Madden, At-Large Member

Goals include developing enhanced communication with the Veterans Administration Clinic of Modesto to coordinate scheduling of medical appointment transportation services, and to create a reliable system for scheduling transportation for veterans.

Strategic Planning:

This past year the VAC held its Second Annual Strategic Planning Meeting on November 18, 2013. Goals that were developed in this meeting are included in the attached annual report.

In conclusion, the Veterans Advisory Commission has made great strides to meet their established Strategic Objectives. During this past year the Commission has enhanced its communication with other veteran service organizations, with the goal of continuing to provide outreach, and developing partnerships that can only assist veterans and their families to better understand what resources and services are available in Stanislaus County.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval to accept the second annual Veteran Advisory Commission Report supports the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community and the Efficient Delivery of Public Services by providing a mechanism to support local veterans in our community in an efficient and effective manner.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff from the Chief Executive Office and Department of Aging and Veterans will provide support to the Veterans Advisory Commission.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Patricia Hill Thomas, Chief Operations Officer. Telephone: (209) 525-6333
Richard Edgecomb, Chairman, Veterans Advisory Commission. Telephone: (209) 558-
7825

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014
BY THE

STANISLAUS COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

JULY 15, 2014



*Richard T. Edgecomb
Chairman, District 4*

*Richard Sylvester, District 1
Tom Truax, District 2
Richard Barboza, District 3
Richard O. Gaytan, District 5
Joseph Madden, At Large
Douglas L. Miller, At Large*

July 15, 2014

Supervisor Jim De Martini, Chairman
Supervisor William O'Brien
Supervisor Vito Chiesa
Supervisor Terry Withrow
Supervisor Dick Monteith

Dear Supervisors,

It is with great honor that we submit the Second Annual Veterans Advisory Commission's Report for Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014 to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. As I reflect on this past year's accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities, our Veteran's Advisory Commission (VAC) continues to focus on how we can best serve/support those who serve our country. My hope is that this report conveys the collective efforts that are occurring with many Veteran Service Organizations and community partners.

The VAC really believes that through collective efforts, consistent communication and collaborative partnerships with other Veteran Service Organizations within Stanislaus County communities, our veterans and their families will be aware of what services and resources are available to them. We'll continue to strengthen our partnerships with these Veteran Service Organizations by providing information and opportunities to work collaboratively with them.

You'll also see in this report our efforts towards the development of a Veterans Center Facility. This goal was developed through a Needs Assessment conducted within our community. A four-part strategy to develop and sustain a Veterans Center Facility is included in this report. We are excited and optimistic that we continue to make progress on this very important project to assist our veterans and their families.

I want to thank the Board of Supervisors, all Veteran Service Organizations, my colleagues on the Veteran Advisory Commission, County staff, and the community at large for all the support provided to the Veteran Advisory Commission.

In closing, I leave you with a quote from General Norman Schwarzkopf, "The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard thing is doing it." I really believe this quote embodies all those who are working to support veterans and their families. We'll continue to do the right thing!

Sincerely,

Richard Edgecomb, Chairman
Veterans Advisory Commission

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Cover Letter from Chairman Richard Edgecomb

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Introduction

The Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission was established by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors on April 3, 2012. The Commission provides the County's veterans a forum to discuss issues important to their health, welfare and well-being, and to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on all matters important to our veterans' community.

Mission

To represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and staff on matters pertaining to all veterans.

The Commission is comprised of seven appointed members: one regular member from each of the five Supervisorial Districts and two members appointed at-large. The at-large members are appointed to annual terms and the five regular members are appointed to alternating two year terms. The Commission elects a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary annually among its membership.

Regular meetings of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the basement Auditorium of the Modesto Main Library, 1500 I Street, in Modesto.

The Commission has established four standing committees to address specific priorities of:

- Education and Job Placement
- Facilities
- Outreach
- Transportation

Stanislaus County is home to an estimated 27,383¹ living veterans and over 35,000 including families and beneficiaries. More than thirty veterans service clubs and organizations serve local veterans, including several Posts of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Korean War Veterans, Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars and many others having a combined membership of well over 7,000 veterans.

A wide variety of services are generally available to veterans in our region, including:

- Health Related Services
 - Housing Services
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Business Assistance
 - Financial Assistance and Planning
 - Family Life
 - Community Support
 - Community Involvement
 - Military Service Support
 - Burial and Cemetery
 - Claims representation
 - Legislative advocacy
 - Social events

A significant challenge in delivering needed services to our veterans continues to be the disparity of service providers over a large geographical region, and between numerous levels of public and private, non-profit organizations. These include 18 federal, state and local agencies; 16 veterans' service club providers; numerous educational institutions and charitable organizations. Hundreds of other businesses and organizations provide programs and benefits for veterans.

The Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission has recognized the need to help veterans understand and obtain the services they need and deserve by helping to provide guidance through the web of providers, assisting veterans in getting to the needed services, and keeping them informed of the changing landscape of benefits available to them.

¹ U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *2011 American Communities Survey, 2012.*

Annual Report

This document presents the *Second Annual Report of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission to the Board of Supervisors for Fiscal Year 2013-2014*.

This Annual Report presents a brief biography of each Commission member and the Commission's strategic plan and goals, achievements, and objectives for the coming year.

Veterans Advisory Commission

The Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission was established by the Board of Supervisors on April 3, 2012 and conducted its first meeting on May 17, 2012.

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors' Veterans Advisory Commission is comprised of seven members, as follows:

- One member is appointed from each of the five Supervisorial Districts. Nominations are made by each Supervisor and appointed by a majority of the full Board of Supervisors. The appointed Commissioners from each District serves for a two-year term. Commissioners from Districts 2, 4, and 5 are appointed in even-numbered years; Commissioners from District 1 and 3 are appointed in odd-numbered years – each beginning on July 1.
- Two members are appointed from the Stanislaus County veterans community "at-large." Each "at large" Commissioner serves for a term of one year, beginning on July 1st.
- The Commissioners elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary each year.

The members of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission are:

Richard T. Edgecomb, District 4, Chairman

Chairman, Veterans Advisory Commission and Executive Committee
Committees: Vice Chairman, Facilities Committee
Member, Outreach Committee
Member, Transportation Committee
Term: Expires June 30, 2016

Mr. Edgecomb is a United States Army veteran. He also served in the California National Guard and is an active member and past District Commander of the American Legion, serving all of Northern California. He was originally appointed to the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission by Supervisor Dick Monteith, District 4, on May 8, 2012. Mr. Edgecomb was elected as the first Chairman of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission and serves tirelessly as an advocate for veterans' interests in Stanislaus County.



Richard D. Sylvester, District 1

Committees: Chairman, Facilities Committee
Term: Expires June 30, 2015

Mr. Sylvester served in the United States Marine Corps and is an active member of the Marine Corp League. He was originally appointed to the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission by Supervisor William O'Brien, District 1, on May 8, 2012. Mr. Sylvester serves as Chairman of the Facilities Committee.



District 2, Vacant

The position of Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commissioner for District 2, serving the south area of Stanislaus County and represented by Supervisor Vito Chiesa is currently vacant.

Richard Barboza, District 3

Committees: Vice Chairman, Transportation Committee
Term: Expires June 30, 2015

Mr. Barboza served as a Corporal in the United States Army in the Korean War. He is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3199, and the Korean War Veterans Association. Mr. Barboza was appointed by Stanislaus County Supervisor Terry Withrow, District 3, on May 8, 2012.



Richard O. Gaytan, District 5

Committees: Chairman, Outreach Committee
Term: Expires June 30, 2016

Mr. Gaytan is a Vietnam Veteran served ten years on active duty with the United States Army and another ten years in the Reserves retired as an E6/Ssg. Mr. Gaytan is owner and operator of the Westside Veterans Outpost in Newman, California, and served as 12th District Commander for AMVETS, Past-Commander for American GI Fourm, Adjutant for Disabled Americans Veterans, Modesto Chapter 26, member of VVA Chapter 391 and VFW Post 7635 was originally appointed by Stanislaus County Supervisor Jim De Martini on May 8, 2012.



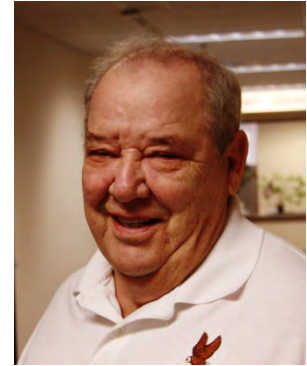
Joseph Madden, Member At Large

Committees: Chairman, Transportation Committee
Vice Chairman, Outreach Committee
Term: Expires June 30, 2015

Mr. Madden served in the United States Air Force for eight years and is currently serving in the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for the past eight years. Mr. Madden is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5059 in Turlock, California. Mr. Madden was appointed by the Stanislaus County Supervisors on May 8, 2012.

The American Red Cross recognized Mr. Joe Madden and his brother, Richard, at their annual Heroes Breakfast on June 11, 2014, for their efforts to transport veterans to medical appointments who require assistance to travel and cannot take advantage of the VA Transportation system

Mr. Madden was also recognized by the Stanislaus Council of Governments with a presentation by Congressman Jeff Denham (R-CA 10th) on March 19, 2014 for his outstanding achievements toward bringing transportation to needy veterans in Stanislaus County.



Douglas L. Miller, Member At Large

Committees: Chairman, Education and Job Placement Committee
Member, Facilities Committee
Term: Expires June 30, 2015

Mr. Miller is a proud veteran of the United States Navy. He also served as Vice Commander of American Legion Post 872. Mr. Miller is the Chairman of the Education and Job Placement Committee, and a member of the Facilities Committee of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission. He was originally appointed by the Stanislaus County Supervisors on May 8, 2012.





Tom Truax

In Memoriam and Grateful Appreciation

The Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commissioner for District 2 was formerly filled by Mr. Tom Truax, a proud eight year veteran of the United States Air Force and honored recipient of 26 metals and ribbons, including the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Metal under President Reagan, for his distinguished service to our country. Mr. Truax passed away on January 14, 2014.

An active member of the Commission, Mr. Truax had been elected as Secretary for the SCVAC. He was also the Vice Chairman of the Education and Job Placement Committee, and a true leader in his support of veterans in Stanislaus County. Mr. Truax was originally appointed by Stanislaus County Supervisor Vito Chiesa, District 2, on May 8, 2012 as a founding Commissioner of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission.



Tom Truax's dedication to his fellow veterans and his service to the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission are a testament to his legacy of outstanding community service in Stanislaus County. Tom will be greatly missed.

County Veteran Services Office (VSO)

Stanislaus County provides services to veterans by offering them, their families, dependents, and survivors, assistance in obtaining federal, state and local benefits through the County's Veteran Service, Office (VSO.) The County VSO is a Division of the Stanislaus County Department of Aging and Veterans Services.

The Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission has been working diligently during the past year, in collaboration with the County Veteran Services Office and other veterans' organizations, to increase awareness about services and programs available to veterans. Thanks to the increased outreach efforts of the Commission, more veterans have been enrolled by

**Stanislaus County
Veteran Services Office
(209) 558-7380
www.veteranservices.info**

Stanislaus County
Department of Aging and Veterans Services
121 Downey Street, Suite 102
Modesto, CA 95354

Margie Palomino, Director

the VSO in the federal Veterans Administration (VA) system and are now receiving benefits and programs they are entitled to. In addition, the County Veteran Services Office has attended numerous outreach events in the community to contact and assist as many veterans as possible. Despite the efforts of both the Commission and the VSO, there are still many veterans, particularly the ones returning from recent wars, who are not aware of all the federal and State benefits available to them.

The current VA service-delivery system has been working on providing more information about the services available for veterans. Even though the VAC and the VSO have done extensive work to connect veterans to all the services they are entitled to, more work needs to be done in this area. A key finding of the Commission's Needs Assessment study conducted last year revealed that

many veterans have had difficulty in knowing where to go for help, or did not know that services and benefits are available to them. The Commission has sought to bring existing veterans' organizations and service providers together to create a more cohesive, coordinated network of services and to ensure veterans of all ages are aware of the various services and benefits available to them. The Commission's work in this area will be an on-going effort.

During this next fiscal year, the Commission and the VSO will work collaboratively to continue with their outreach efforts. They will particularly target the outlying areas of the County where access to services is more limited. It is imperative that veterans who are transitioning back into civilian life receive the assistance and the necessary services and support they need to rebuild their lives. Services such as assistance with education costs, job searches, medical, mental health treatment, and housing are essential to ensuring these veterans adapt to a civilian lifestyle as they return to their communities. Connecting veterans to needed benefits and services is a significant step toward ensuring their success in civilian life.

The Commission and the VSO continue to work to develop the Veterans' Center Facility, a "one stop" location for veterans' services, activities, and referrals. These two groups have been working in collaboration with other organizations to develop this project to bring frequently accessed services together with veterans' social and recreational activities where possible, and to provide referral to services where collocation of programs is not possible. This facility will aid in the communities' efforts to coordinate all the services and benefits for veterans in Stanislaus County. This facility, which will be a "hub" for veterans in our County will not only provide direct services to veterans, but it will also be a "clearing house" for all veterans to obtain information about services, benefits and opportunities to volunteer and give back to their community. In the past year, the Commission and the VSO have worked to create a realistic and sustainable strategy for funding and operating the project, paving the way for the design and acquisition of the facility.

Strategic Plan

The Veterans Advisory Commission conducted its second annual Strategic Planning meeting on November 18, 2013 to:

- **Document Current Priorities**
- **Identify Successful Initiatives from the past year**
- **List new and on-going issues and objectives to be accomplished**

Commission Priorities

1. Develop a Veterans' Center Facility "One Stop Shop" Concept and Plan.
2. Identify and inform veterans of services available to them by publishing information about local veterans' affairs, news, services and social functions through an outreach program.
3. Provide access to transportation to/from veterans' services.
4. Provide education and job placement opportunities for veterans.

Successful Strategies

Veterans' Center Facility. The Commission was successful in the prior year in the development of the Facilities Needs Assessment, and seeks to further develop a strategy to create a sustainable financial model for the creation and on-going operations of a Veterans' Center Facility project.

Communications with veterans has been enhanced to provide feedback to the Commission and to the Board of Supervisors on veterans' issues of concern, and to provide information to veterans about programs and services available to them.

Integration between **Job and Employment Service** opportunities have been presented by the California Employment Development Department, with participation in the Veterans Advisory Commission meetings, and sharing of veteran job programs, events, opportunities, etc.

Advocacy for veterans including amendment of County Parks & Recreation fees, statewide Veterans Identification cards, etc.

Increased **coordination of services and referrals** between multiple programs and services available to veterans and veterans service organizations, including a significant increase in the number of veterans referrals to services at the County's Veteran Services Office.

Provide **access to transportation** by veterans to events and services by securing two accessible, multi-passenger vans and coordinating transportation dispatch with the Veterans Administration Clinic staff.

Established New Goals

Outreach Committee. Several specific objectives were identified to increase outreach among senior and disabled veterans, homeless veterans, new veterans returning from Middle East conflicts and existing veterans service clubs and organizations:

- Use of social media and the creation of a Veterans Commission website;
- Develop a quarterly newsletter;
- Create a Veterans Advisory Commission brochure;
- Use public broadcast (television and radio) outlets for announcement of events and services;
- Develop an outreach presentation and visitation schedule with service clubs, medical and mental health providers.

Facilities Committee. Create a strategy for funding and operating a public/private Veterans' Center Facility project partnership:

- Develop a strategy for increasing public and private investment in a partnership solution to Veterans' needs;
- Create a separate non-profit entity specifically for the purpose of receiving contributions towards support of a Veterans' Center Facility project;
- Develop "The Ask" (a plan, strategy/goals, presentations, and targeted fundraising campaign) for funding contributions and partnerships with the community;
- Developing a sustainable financial strategy to match project expectations with financial sustainability for long-term success.

Education and Job Placement Committee.

- Connect with local college veteran organizations to share information regarding available services and resources, college scholarships, job training and job experience.
- Work with the Outreach Committee to develop a media communication and outreach strategy.

Improve Access to Transportation.

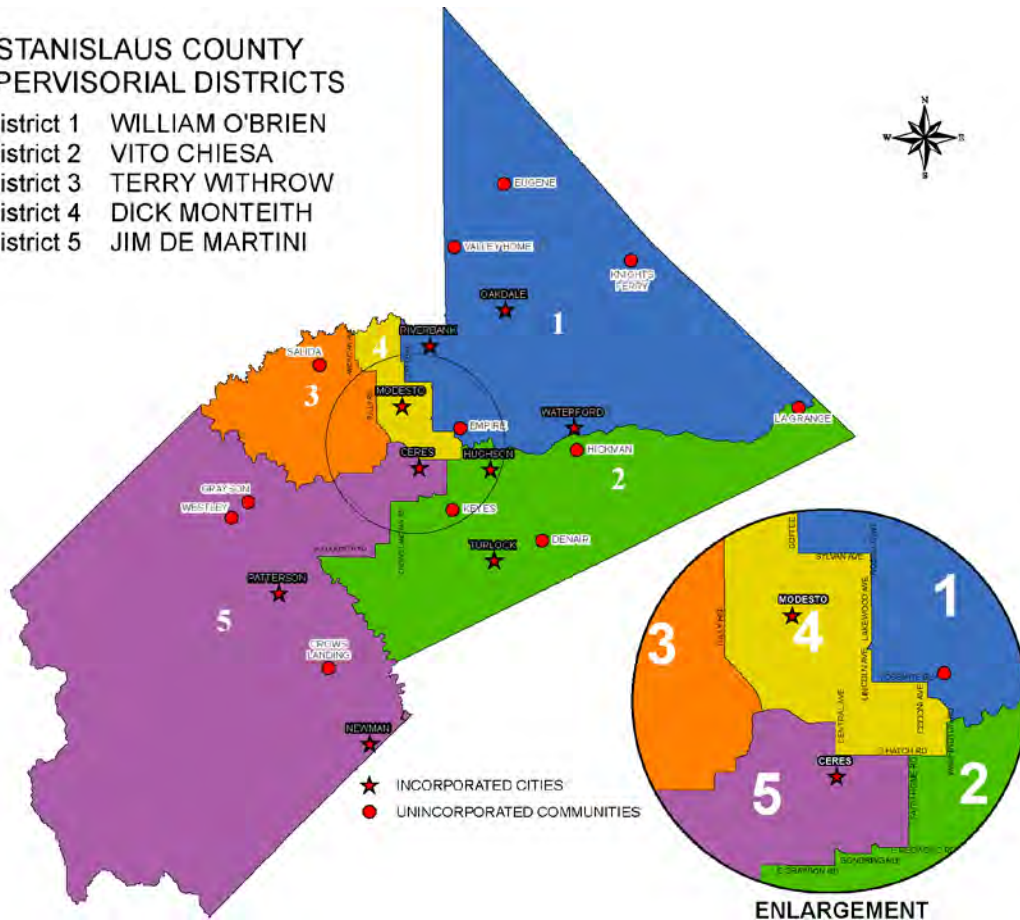
- Develop a volunteer program to recruit drivers and coordinate door-to-door van services for the veteran community.
- Improve communication between the Veterans Advisory Commission and the Veterans Administration.

Contact Your Commissioner

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Chairman Richard T. Edgecomb, District 4 | (209) 521-0093 |
| Richard Sylvester, District 1 | (209) 848-4855 |
| Richard Barboza, District 3 | (209) 529-2295 |
| Richard Gaytan, District 5 | (209) 417-9330 |
| Joseph Madden, Member At Large | (209) 558-7380 |
| Douglas Miller, Member At Large | (209) 558-7380 |

**STANISLAUS COUNTY
 SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS**

- District 1 WILLIAM O'BRIEN
- District 2 VITO CHIESA
- District 3 TERRY WITHROW
- District 4 DICK MONTEITH
- District 5 JIM DE MARTINI



Stanislaus County Veteran Services Office

Department of Aging and Veterans Services (209) 558-7380
 121 Downey Avenue, Suite 102
 Modesto, CA 95354
 Margie Palomino, Director



Education and Job Placement Committee

Job Fairs

The Veterans Advisory Commission participated in a regional job fair and promoted the event to veterans at the Veterans Advisory Commission meetings and to various veterans groups throughout Stanislaus County. Veterans Representatives from the Veteran Services Office joined others in welcoming prospective veteran employees and employers in September, 2013.

*Education and Job
Placement Committee*
Doug Miller, Chairman

Modesto Junior College

Modesto Junior College Veterans Group met with Commissioner Doug Miller to discuss how involvement with the County's veteran service organizations can help them access college scholarships, gain job training and job experience.

California State University, Stanislaus

Commissioner Doug Miller met with the Veterans Association at CSU Stanislaus to invite veterans' participation in Stanislaus County's veteran service groups, and to develop relationships with veteran-friendly employers.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Membership within the Education and Job Placement Committee will be expanded by including other Commissioner members this next year. The

Committee plans to Increase communication to veterans needing education and job placement services, including new veterans returning from recent duty, and working with Modesto Junior College and CSU Stanislaus.

Facilities Committee

Developing a Viable Facilities Strategy

Needs Assessment

A main objective of the Veterans Advisory Commission has been the development of a Veterans' Center Facility to serve as a "one-stop service center" for veterans' access and referral to medical, educational, employment, housing, counseling, social and supportive services in Stanislaus County. The Commission's Facilities Committee developed a survey, needs assessment survey and program for the facility last year, and presented those needs to the Board of Supervisors with the First Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors on June 18, 2013.

Facilities Committee
Richard Sylvester, Chairman

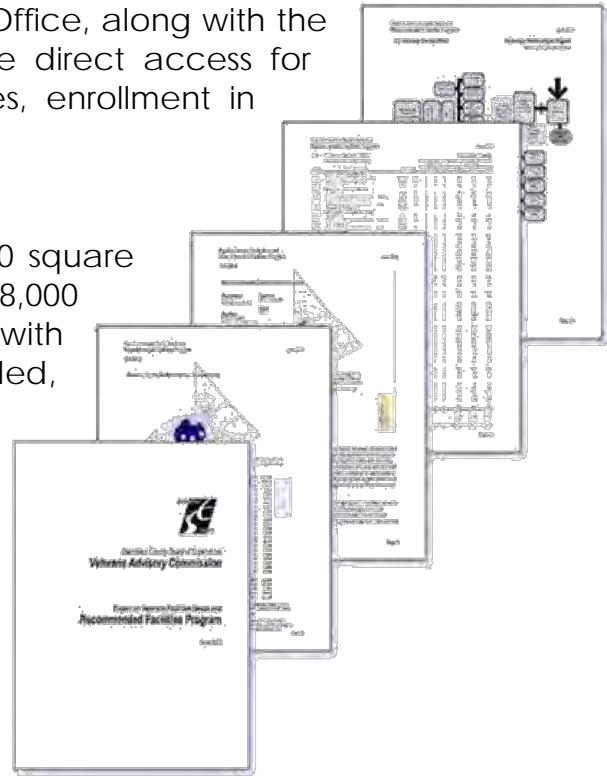
The Needs Assessment considered the current and projected number of veterans in Stanislaus County, the availability of support services to veterans among many organizations and locations and the veterans' ability to access those services. The evaluation concluded that a single point of service, or "one stop shop" for veterans support, services, and referral is needed that would become identifiable as the Veterans' Center Facility.

The One Stop Veterans' Center Facility Needs

- General meeting/assembly space for up to 500 persons (300 seated);
- Shared office space to provide multiple services on a scheduled basis and for use by veterans group business meetings;
- Small conference space for meetings and scheduled activities by service providers (for example, training sessions, flu shot clinics, small seminars, etc.);
- Storage space for several veterans group functions and materials;

- Banquet/food services, including kitchen and clean up for assembly hall events and event rental uses;
- Activity/day room for daytime activities and support, including TV lounge, computer access and informal conversation space;
- Lobby and display archive securely connect the various functions of the building that may operate on different schedules;
- Stanislaus County Veteran Services Office, along with the Area Agency on Aging, to provide direct access for veterans seeking referral to services, enrollment in programs, and VSO assistance.
- Outdoor patio and display.

A total programmed area of up to 23,000 square feet of Veterans Hall, and approximately 8,000 square feet of Veteran Services Office (with the Area Agency on Aging office) is needed, depending on the building configuration. Approximately 26,000 square feet of interior, enclosed space is assumed in the business plan.



The Facilities Committee recommended several important goals:

- Create a permanent Veterans Center Facility to meet long-term needs that is fiscally sustainable.
- Establish broad support including participation and investment in the Veterans' Center.
- Seek financial support from public and private partners.
- Create a sustainable financial model for long-term success.
- Co-Locate the County's Aging and Veterans offices, and other offices as appropriate, to provide services and funding to the Veterans' Center project.
- Get broad stakeholder participation and support, including all veterans' organizations in Stanislaus County.
- Leverage funding from all available sources

Four-Part Strategy to Achieve Goals:

- I. Create a Non-Profit Entity to Accept Contributions
- II. Seek Other Fund Raising and Grant Opportunities

- III. Create a Sustainable Financial Model
- IV. Request Proposals to Provide a Veterans' Center

I. Create a Non-Profit Entity to Accept Contributions

- Specifically to support the Veterans' Center Project
- Create partnerships with all veterans service organizations, including accepting contributions
- Obtain professional assistance to establish a non-profit entity
- Establish membership in a governing Board and Bylaws
- Must be separate from County Government

II. Seek Other Fund Raising and Grant Opportunities

- Seek professional Grant Writer assistance.
- County could issue a "Request For Qualifications" for professional Grant Writer assistance
- Grant Writer would develop a fund-raising strategy, including "The Ask", for contributions from potential donors.

III. Create a Sustainable Financial Model

- Ensure long-term financial success by identifying all funding required initially and for operation of the Veterans' Center Facility.
- Secure sources of funds to meet long-term needs.
- Scale the facility plan to meet funding reality.

IV. Request Proposals to Provide the Veterans' Center

- Consider creative partnership and donation opportunities.
- Consider potential tax incentives for donors.
- Find creative opportunities to partner with property owners and other vendors.
- Seek proposals from property owners.
- Long-term lease of existing commercial properties to be renovated into the Veterans' Center Facility.
- Property and improvement contributions.
- Possible "lease to own" arrangement.
- Consider both short-term and long-term offers as fund raising efforts continue – with the goal of a permanent Veterans' Center solution.

Recommendation of the Veterans Advisory Commission

The Veterans' Center Project strategy was presented by the Facilities Committee to the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission on April 28, 2014, and was adopted at their May 19, 2014 meeting. The strategy is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Annual Report.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

The Veterans Facilities Committee established several goals:

1. Establish strong partnerships for services and in funding the development of the Veterans' Center facility project.
2. Complete the fund raising strategy, including "The Ask", and a campaign to raise funds and community support for the Veterans' Center Facility project.
3. Develop a sustainable financial model for the development and operation of the Veteran's Center project.
4. Finalize the Veterans' Center Facility location.



Outreach Committee



Brochure

The Outreach Committee developed a tri-fold brochure to convey information about the resources available to veterans throughout Stanislaus County and Northern California. The brochure highlights information that is useful for veterans and their families seeking health, educational, employment, and other assistance by providing contacts for services. The brochure also lists contacts for the Stanislaus County Veteran Services Office and local Veterans support groups.

Newsletter

The Outreach Committee initiated a quarterly newsletter to provide information about veterans services and events available to local veterans and their families. The newsletter provides information about legislative matters, Veterans Advisory Commission activities, and local service club events and other general interest stories.



Speakers

The Outreach Committee invites representatives of various veterans service organizations to speak at the Veterans Advisory Commission meetings. In Fiscal Year 2013-2014, presentations were made by numerous organizations, including:

- Department of Veterans Affairs (New Modesto Clinic)
- State of California Employment Development Department
- Congressman Jeff Denham's office
- Catholic Charities
- Geneva Presbyterian Church
- Stanislaus County Veteran Services Office
- Stanislaus County Mental Health Advisory Board-Veterans Subcommittee
- Visually Impaired Persons Support (VIPS)
- Modesto Vet Center

Outreach Committee
Richard Gaytan, Chairman

Website

The Commission is in the process of creating a website for up-to-date access to information. The website will include Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission meeting agendas, minutes, meeting and committee announcements, current veterans events, and links to various veterans services and resources.

Media

The Veterans Advisory Commission issues notices to local print media about upcoming meetings and events.

Speaking Events

Veterans Advisory Commission members have attended and spoken at a number of service club meetings and veterans' groups about the important role of the Commission in helping to coordinate services for veterans. Speaking engagements have included Rotary Club, American Legion, G. I. Forum, and local public access television station interviews.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Increase communication with the veterans community to increase their awareness of services, programs and support available, and to report feedback from the community to the Board of Supervisors and the public. Specific measures are envisioned to target senior and disabled veterans, homeless veterans and new veterans returning from the Middle East conflicts are recommended.

Outreach goals also include invitations to veterans organizations and service clubs for speaking engagements, presentations to the Veterans Advisory Commission events and at service organization events.

Annual goals include use of social media, the Veterans Advisory Commission website and other outlets, the quarterly newsletter, brochures, radio announcements and other public broadcasting events.

Transportation Committee

Door-to-Door Van Service

The Veterans Advisory Commission was successful in securing the use of two seven passenger vans from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs dedicated to provide transportation for eligible homebound veterans to medical appointments within Stanislaus County and throughout Northern California for appointments. Seven volunteer drivers are certified by the VA. One hundred thirty-six (136) trips have been provided since July 2013:



- Thirty (30) to the VA Palo Alto Health Care System/Palo Alto Hospital;
- One (1) to Stanford University Hospital;
- Sixty seven (67) to the VA Livermore Hospital;
- Thirty five (35) to medical services in the Modesto region; and
- One each to Merced, Sacramento, and Travis AFB in Fairfield.

These services are filling a critical need by providing assisted transportation to homebound veterans who otherwise could not make the necessary transportation connections or arrangements to get to and from appointments

Service is currently coordinated by the VA Clinic staff; however, the Transportation Committee has been working to establish a dedicated telephone line at the VA Clinic in Modesto for veterans to make transportation arrangements. This should be in place during the Summer of 2014.

Volunteer Based Services

Volunteer drivers are always needed, and the Transportation Committee created flyers to help seek additional volunteer assistance and to announce availability of the door-to-door van services to the veteran community.

*Make a difference for a Homebound Veteran
Be a volunteer!*

VA PAHCS VA HEALTH CARE | Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

You can make a difference for homebound Veterans by volunteering for any of the positions listed below. You can volunteer as little as one day a week.
We will work around your schedule!

Volunteer Driver



Assist Veterans by picking them up at their home and driving them to their medical appointments in the Veteran Vans.

- Training will be provided
- Valid California Drivers License and clean DMV report required
- Physical and background check paid for by the VA

Escort

Assist Veterans from their home into the van, medical appointment and back into their home.

- Orientation will be provided
- Background check and lab work paid for by the VA



Scheduling Desk



Assist with scheduling rides and drivers for the Veterans to their medical appointments in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

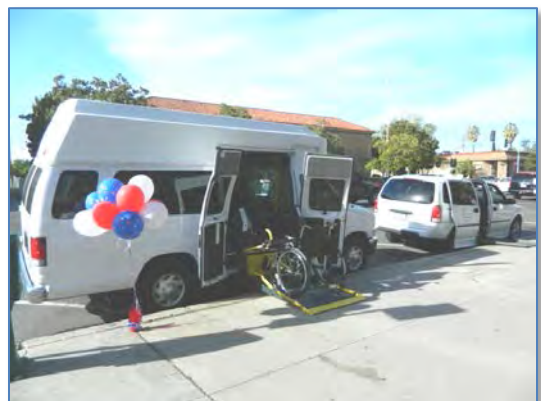
- Orientation and Training will be provided
- Background check and lab work paid for by the VA

**If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please call
Jammu Owens at (925) 449-6448 or email: Jammu.Owens@va.gov**

Volunteers provide critical services as drivers, providing assistance and escorting veterans to and from appointments and in transit, and in receiving calls and scheduling trips.

The Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission recognizes and appreciates the support, coordination and assistance of the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA's Palo Alto Health Care System, and especially the staff of the VA's Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Modesto. The VA staff have been instrumental in securing use of vehicles, training and certifying volunteers and providing essential coordination of patient needs and the volunteers.

**Transportation
Committee**
Joe Madden, Chairman



Recognition

Commissioner Joe Madden, Chairman of the Transportation Committee of the Veterans Advisory Board, was recognized by StanCOG and Congressman Jeff Denham for his efforts to secure the vans, engage and train volunteers and to coordinate scheduling services with the VA Clinics in Modesto and Palo Alto. A ceremony was conducted on March 19, 2014 on the Stanislaus County Courthouse Lawn Park to celebrate the success of the transportation program collaboration.

The American Red Cross recognized Mr. Madden and his brother, Richard, at their annual Heroes Breakfast on June 11, 2014, for their efforts to transport veterans to medical appointments who are too fragile to travel using VA Transportation to medical appointments.



Goals for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Goals include developing enhanced communication with the Veterans Administration Clinic in Modesto to coordinate scheduling of medical appointment transportation services, and to create a reliable system for scheduling transportation services for veterans.

An ongoing goal is to further develop the volunteer driver and assistance program in the next year.

EXHIBIT 1

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

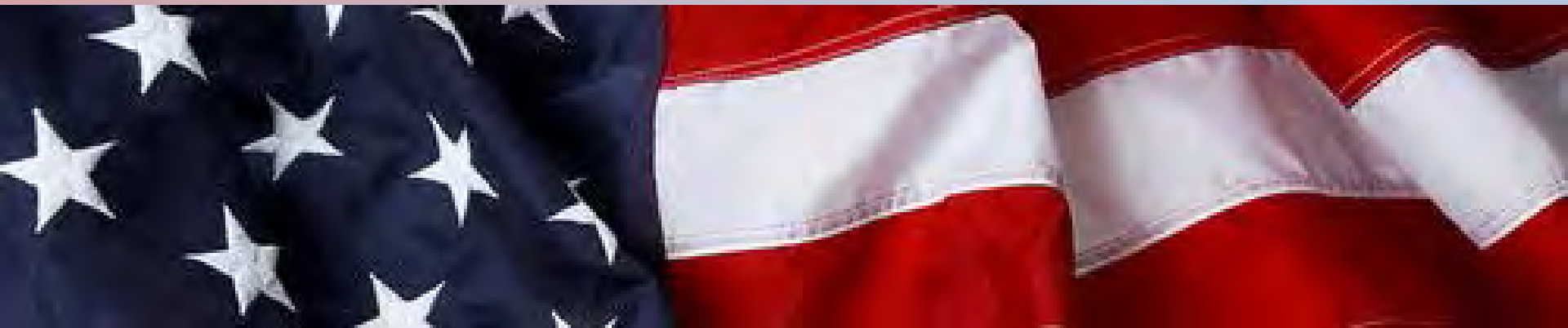
**FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT
VETERAN CENTER FACILITY PROJECT**

APRIL 28, 2014

Veteran's Advisory Commission
Facilities Committee Report

April 28, 2014

Veteran Center Facility Project

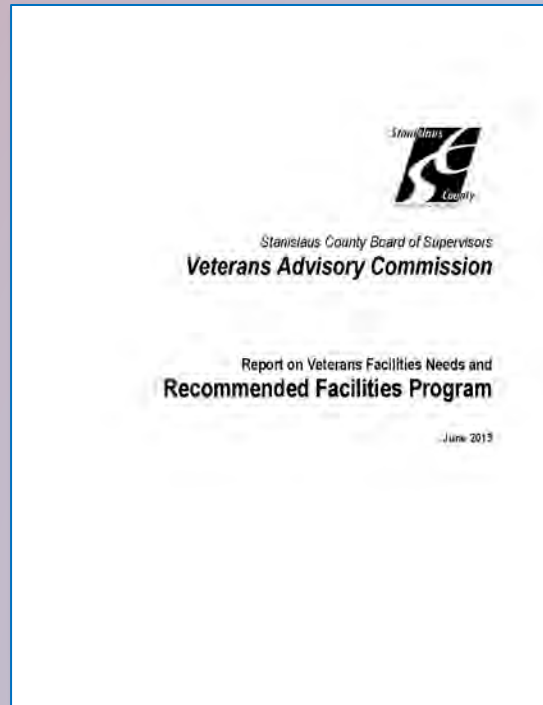


Preliminary Report to the Veterans Advisory Commission on Strategy and Progress Toward Creating a Veterans Center Facility

**The Veterans Advisory Commission Will Consider
Approval of This Strategy and Approach for a New
Veterans Center Facility at the May 19, 2014 meeting.**

Background

- **Report on Veterans Facilities Needs and Recommended Facilities Program was adopted by the Veterans Advisory Commission and Accepted by the Board of Supervisors on June 18, 2013**



Background

- **The Needs Assessment Includes:**
 - **Projected Number and Location of Veterans in Stanislaus County** – including Projected Growth.
 - **Availability of Support Services Among Many Organizations and Locations in the Region:** Federal, State, Local Services.
 - Federal, State, Local Services
 - Health, Employment, Housing, Training, Education, Financial, Family Assistance, Transportation and many others.
 - **Need for a Consolidated “One Stop” Location for Coordination of Services and Assistance.**

Background

- **The Facility Plan Includes:**
 - **General Meeting Space** – An Assembly Hall for up to 500 persons seated, or for up to 300 persons at tables.
 - **Shared Office Space** – to Provide Multiple Services on a Scheduled Basis and for Use by Veterans Groups Business Meetings.
 - **Small Conference Space** – Multipurpose Space for Small Meetings and Scheduled Activities by Service Providers.
 - **Storage Space** – Secure Storage for Veterans Group Functions and Materials
 - **Banquet/Food Services** – Kitchen and Clean Up for Assembly Hall Events and Event Rental Use.

Background

- **The Facility Plan Includes:**
 - **Activity/Day Room** – A Day-Use Lounge and Activity space for conversation, computer workstation, television and social interaction between veterans.
 - **Lobby and Archive Display** – A Vestibule between the Entrance, Office Spaces, Activity/Day Room and Assembly Hall.
 - **Veterans Service Office** – County Area Agency on Aging and Veterans Service Office (and other related services.)
 - **Outdoor Patio and Display** – Indoor/Outdoor Use; Possible Static Display of Military Artifacts.

Background

- **The Facility Plan Includes:**
 - **Total Programmed Area** of up to 23,000 sq. ft. of Veterans Hall and approximately 8,000 sq. ft. of Veterans Service Office, contingent upon building configuration.
 - Assumes approximately 26,000 sq. ft. of interior, enclosed space.

Facility Goals

- **Create a Permanent Veterans Center Facility to Meet Long-Term Needs that is Fiscally Sustainable**
- **Establish Broad Support including Participation and Investment in the Veterans Center**
- **Seek Financial Support from Public & Private Partners**
 - County
 - Cities
 - State
 - Federal
 - Veteran's Organizations
 - Private Contributions
 - Grant Opportunities
 - Property Owners
- **Create a Sustainable Financial Model for Long Term Success**
- **Co-Locate the County's Aging and Veterans Offices**

Facility Goals

- **Broad Stakeholder Participation and Support**
 - All Veteran's Organizations in County
 - Stanislaus County
 - Aging & Veterans Services Community Services Agency
 - Alliance Worknet Behavioral Health & Recovery Services
 - ...and others for facilities and services*
 - Other Local Government Entities
 - Cities of Modesto, Ceres, Turlock, Oakdale, Riverbank...*and others!*
 - Opportunities to serve the entire County: Central and West County
 - State, Federal, Local and Other Veteran support
 - U. S. Veterans Affairs Cal Vet
 - Modesto Junior College Employment Development / Training
 - Cal State Stanislaus Medical / Housing / Finance

Facility Goals

- **Leverage Funding From All Available Sources**
 - County Lease Costs Can be Re-Directed to New Facility
 - Seek Financial Support of Other Local Cities, State and Federal Government
 - Create a Non-Profit Organization to Accept Contributions Specifically for the Veterans Center Project
 - Seek Financial Participation of All County Veterans Organizations
 - Seek Other Grants from Foundations and Public Sources
 - Develop a Strategy to Call for Private Contributions

Commission's Facility Committee is Developing a Recommended Four Part Veterans Facility Strategy

- I. Create a Non-Profit Entity to Accept Contributions**
- II. Seek Other Fund Raising and Grant Opportunities**
- III. Create a Sustainable Financial Model**
- IV. Request Proposals to Provide a Veterans Center**

Facility Strategy

- I. Create a Broad Based and New Non-Profit Entity to support the Veterans Services Facility**
 - Specifically to Support the Veterans Center Project
 - Create Partnerships with all Veterans Service Organizations, including Accepting Contributions
 - Obtain Professional Assistance to Establish a Non-Profit Entity
 - Establish Membership in a Governing Board and Bylaws
 - Must be Separate from County Government

Facility Strategy

II. Seek Other Fund Raising and Grant Opportunities

- Seek Professional Grant Writer Assistance
- County Could Issue a “Request For Qualifications” for Professional Grant Writer Assistance
- Grant Writer Would Develop a Fund-Raising Strategy, including “The Ask” for Contributions from Potential Donors

Facility Strategy

III. Create a Sustainable Financial Model

- Ensure Long-Term Financial Success by Identifying All Funding Required Initially and for Operation of the Veterans Center
- Secure Sources of Funds to Meet Long Term Needs
- Scale the Facility Plan to Meet Funding Reality

Facility Strategy

IV. Request Proposals to Provide Veterans Center

- Consider Creative Partnership and Donation Opportunities
- Consider Potential Tax Incentives for Donors
- Find Creative Opportunities to Partner with Property Owners or Other Vendors
- Seek Proposals from Property Owners
- Long Term Lease of existing Commercial Properties to be renovated into the Veterans Services Facility
- Property and Improvement Contributions
- Possible “Lease to Own” Arrangement
- Consider both Short Term and Long Term Offers as Fund Raising Efforts Continue – with the Goal of a Permanent Veterans Center Solution

Next Steps

- **Veterans Advisory Commission:**
 - In May, 2014 Consider Adopting This Facility Strategy and Recommending its Adoption by the Board of Supervisors
 - Create a “Working Group” including Other Veterans Service Organizations and Community Individuals to Assist with the Planning and Development of a Non-Profit Entity
 - Get Professional Assistance to Establish a Non-Profit Entity

Next Steps

- **Stanislaus County:**
 - Seek Board of Supervisors' Approval to Issue a Request for Qualifications for a Grant Writer
 - Continue to Seek Support of Other Government Agencies
 - Assist in the Development of a Sustainable Financial Model

Preliminary Schedule

- Spring /
 - Obtain Non-Profit Entity Professional Assistance
- Early Summer
 - Annual Report to Board of Supervisors
 - Seek Professional Grant Writer Services
 - Enlist Support of Other Veteran Organizations
- Mid Summer
 - Establish Veterans Center Non-Profit Entity
 - Grant Writer Develops “The Ask” for Contributions
- Fall
 - Establish Sustainable Financial Model for Facility
- Winter
 - Review Financial Plan and Facility Plan
 - Issue Request For Proposals for Facility

Questions and Comments

Contact:

Facilities Committee Members:

Richard D. Sylvester

Chairman, Facilities Committee
Veterans Advisory Commissioner, District 1

Richard T. Edgecomb

Facilities Committee Member
Veterans Advisory Commissioner, District 4

Douglas L. Miller

Facilities Committee Member
Veterans Advisory Commissioner, At-Large



STANISLAUS COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

APPROVAL OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE STANISLAUS COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION:

- A) APPROVAL TO ACCEPT THE SECOND ANNUAL VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014
- B) APPROVAL TO INITIATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDED VETERANS FACILITY STRATEGY AND RELATED ACTIONS

JULY 15, 2014

STANISLAUS COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

RICHARD T. EDGECOMB
DISTRICT 4
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD T. EDGECOMB, DISTRICT 4, CHAIRMAN

RICHARD D. SYLVESTER, DISTRICT 1

Vacant, DISTRICT 2

RICHARD BARBOZA, DISTRICT 3

RICHARD O. GAYTAN, DISTRICT 5

JOSEPH MADDEN, MEMBER AT-LARGE

DOUGLAS L. MILLER, MEMBER AT-LARGE

The Veterans Advisory Commission was established by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors on April 3, 2012.

The Commission's Mission:

"To represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and staff on matters pertaining to all veterans."

The Veterans Advisory Commission conducted a second annual Strategic Planning Session on November 18, 2013 to:

- Document Current Priorities
- Identify Successful Initiatives from the past year.
- List new and on-going issues and objectives to be accomplished.

The Commission established four priorities:

1. Develop a Veteran's Center Facility "One Stop Shop" Plan.
2. Create an outreach program.
3. Provide access to transportation to/from various veteran's services.
4. Provide education and job placement opportunities for veterans.

2013-2014 Accomplishments

Education and Job Placement Committee

1. Participated in regional job fairs and promoted the events to veterans.
2. Meetings with Modesto Junior College and CSU Stanislaus veteran's groups to increase awareness of veteran's activities, services and resources.

2013-2014 Accomplishments Facilities Committee

1. Established goals and objectives:
 - Create a permanent Veterans Center Facility.
 - Establish stakeholder support, participation and investment.
 - Seek funding partnerships.
 - Create a sustainable financial model for long-term success.
 - Seek a Facility solution that is affordable.

2013-2014 Accomplishments Facilities Committee

2. Adopted a strategy for successful development of a Veteran's Center Facility **in four steps:**
 - a) Create a Non-Profit Entity to Accept Contributions
 - b) Seek Other Fund Raising and Grant Opportunities
 - c) Create a Sustainable Financial Model
 - d) Request Proposals to Provide the Veteran's Center Project

The Veterans Center Facility Strategy will be discussed in detail in the next presentation today

2013-2014 Accomplishments

Outreach Committee

1. Increase communications with the veteran community, including use of social media, a website, print and broadcast media.

STANISLAUS COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

2013-2014 Accomplishments Outreach Committee

Brochure

Employment Assistance:
KVO Modesto (209) 576-6110

- Job Searches
- Resume Assistance
- Employment Benefits

Education:
CJ. DM (909) 442-4354
300022@calstate.edu

- Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) (909) 442-4354
- VA Vocational Rehab Program (309) 693-6367
- Chapter 31 (309) 693-6367
- Modesto Junior College VetRep (209) 576-6110
- CSU Stanislaus VetRep (209) 605-0051
- CIVA Students Fee Waiver Program (209) 605-0051

Health Services:

- VA Modesto Clinic (209) 576-6230
- Vet Center Modesto (209) 576-6230 (Granting Services)
- VAMC Palo Alto, Ca. (408) 463-0000 (609) 423-4337
- VAMC Merid Park Detach/ Recovery Program (909) 607-6754 (909) 737-2909
- VA Suicide Hot Line (1.800) 273-8283
- Homeless Veterans Reentry/Relief Program (408) (609) 699-6254
- Medically Indigent Assistance (MIA Program) (209) (209) 576-2828

Services Available to Veterans:

- VADP Regional Office, Modesto (209) 423-6230
- VA Pension Center, Palo Alto (650) 861-6300
- VA Debt Center, St. Paul, Minn. (800) 667-0161
- VA Insurance Center, SGA / VADK Dept. (209) 607-6949
- Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (209) 607-6949
- Special Issues in Agent or Agent's Office (209) 742-8037
- VA Education Issues (209) 742-8037

California Department of Veterans Affairs:

- CIVA Veterans Retirement Homes (909) 626-0000
- Cal Vet Home Loans (909) 626-0000
- CIVA Student Fee Waiver Programs (209) 605-0051
- VA Certificate of Eligibility (209) 605-0051

Newsletter

**Stanislaus County
Veterans Advisory Commission**

**Welcome to the First Edition of the
Veterans Advisory Commission's Newsletter**

On April 3, 2012, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors established the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC), comprised of seven members, one from each Supervisorial District and 2 at large public members with attending terms.

The Commission has focused their efforts in four strategic areas:

- Define facility purpose/needs within Stanislaus County and implement a strategy to address those needs.
- Identify and partner with existing education and job placement programs.
- Develop and implement an outreach strategy.
- Increase access for veterans to transportation.

For more information to get involved in one of the four Committee meetings, please contact Jim Greer, Veterans Services Officer at (209) 558-7380.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Veterans Advisory Commission** meets 4th Monday of the month, at 5:30 p.m. in the Modesto Library Boardroom/Community Rooms
- **Facility Committee** meets 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 11:00 a.m., 10th Street Place, Modesto.
- **Education Committee** meets on various days/times. Contact Douglas Miller for more information.
- **Transportation Committee** meets 4th Monday of the month, 11:00 a.m., 121 Downey Avenue, Suite 102, Modesto.
- **Outreach Committee** meets 4th Monday of the month, 11:00 a.m., 102 Downey Avenue, Suite 102, Modesto.

Contact Information

- District #1 - Richard Sylvester (209) 848-4855
- District #2 - Vacant
- District #3 - Richard Barbara (209) 128-2295
- District #4 - Richard Edgecombs (209) 521-0093
- District #5 - Richard Gaylor (209) 862-3755
- Member at Large - Joseph Maddox (209) 651-4935
- Member at Large - Douglas Miller (209) 655-2965

Stanislaus Council of Governments recognizes Volunteer Veteran Transportation Service

On Wednesday, March 17, Commissioner Jew Madden was recognized by the Stanislaus Council of Governments for his efforts in acquiring two vans that are used to take homebound aging veterans to Bay Area medical appointments.

For five years, Joe, a 75 year old veteran, and his brother Richard, have used their own car and gas to take veterans to the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Livermore and Palo Alto. These homebound veterans are generally too frail to withstand the okay trips provided by Stanislaus County and the VA outpatient clinic in Modesto, but not sick enough for very costly ambulance rides.

A year ago, a joint effort of local and federal agencies provided donations of the two vans with the VA covering the cost of fuel and repairs.

The newly named Stanislaus Veterans Medical Transport Program provides door-to-door service for those needing extra care throughout the County, approximately 80 veterans are eligible for the special transport service.

"We wanted to pay tribute to the individual who saw a critical need in our community and did something about it," Stan COG Director Carlos Varazo said at the ceremony.

We agree, Great job Joe!

Page 1

2013-2014 Accomplishments Transportation Committee

1. Provide transportation to home bound veterans requiring assistance to medical appointments.
2. Coordinate transportation scheduling with the Modesto VA Clinic and create a reliable system for transportation scheduling.



2013-2014 Accomplishments Transportation Committee

136 trips have been provided for veterans to/from appointments since July, 2013:

- VA Livermore Hospital: 67 trips
- VA Palo Alto Hospital: 30 trips
- Modesto Area Facilities: 35 trips
- Other destinations: 4 trips

Stanford, Sacramento, Travis AFB, Merced

2013-2014 Accomplishments Transportation Committee

Completely volunteer-based services



***Make a difference for a Homebound Veteran
Be a volunteer!***

VA PAHCS VA Defeating
HEALTH CARE EXCELLENCE
Palo Alto Health Care System at the 21st Century

You can make a difference for homebound Veterans by volunteering for any of the positions listed below. You can volunteer as little as one day a week.

We will work around your schedule!

Volunteer Driver



Assist Veterans by picking them up at their home and driving them to their medical appointments in the Veteran Vans.

- Training will be provided
- Valid California Drivers License and clean DMV report required
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Escort

Assist Veterans from their home into the van, medical appointment and back into their home.

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Scheduling Desk



Assist with scheduling rides and drivers for the Veterans to their medical appointments in the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

- Orientation and Training will be provided
- Background check and lab work paid for by the VA

**If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please call
Jammu Owens at (925) 449-6448 or email: Jammu.Owens@va.gov**

2013-2014 Accomplishments Transportation Committee

Recognition

- *StanCOG*
- *Congressman Jeff Denham*
- *American Red Cross*



The Veteran's Commission is making a difference!

Monthly meetings of the Veterans Advisory Commission are held on the ***fourth Monday of each month:***

Modesto Main Library
1500 I Street, Modesto
Auditorium (Basement Level)

5:30 p.m.

Monthly meetings of each Committee are also held.

For Further Information:

Contact the Stanislaus County Veteran Services Office:

(209) 558-7380

121 Downey Avenue, Suite 104
Modesto, CA 95354

<http://www.veteranservices.info/>

Recommendations

1. Accept the Second Annual Veterans Advisory Commission Report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.
2. Thank the Veterans Advisory Commission for their efforts on behalf of the Veterans of Stanislaus County.

