

Veterans Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The Webex virtual meeting of the Orange County Disability Advisory Board (DAB) was called to order at 4:11p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2021. Veterans Subcommittee Chairperson Joe Waczewski opened with roll call. In attendance were Chairperson Joe Waczewski, Disability Advisory Board Chair, Sandra Algarin and DAB board members Karolyn Campbell and Jen Vargas. Also present were Orange County Citizen Resource and Outreach Division's, ADA Program Manager, Nicola Norton and Alnita Whitt, Senior Veterans Counselor.

A quorum was not established.

Purpose Overview

Waczewski stated the purpose of the sub-committee; "to discuss issues related to veterans with disabilities in the community, report findings and make recommendations to the Disability Advisory Board."

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Presentation – VA News and Updates

Alnita Whitt from Veterans Services gave an update on changes within the VA and updates on the vaccine criteria for veterans. She reported that all veterans enrolled in the VA health care system can get the vaccine. She also reported that the VA has extended the Housing Moratorium to June 30th and debt relief for student loans, forbearance, foreclosures and evictions is available through September 30th.

After the update from Whitt questions and discussions ensued about spouses of veterans being able to get the vaccine in which Whitt responded "no." She was also asked how many veterans were vaccinated thus far and she stated "over a million." Campbell asked if there were long-term facilities for veterans and Whitt stated there were facilities, but the individual has to be at least 70% service connected in order to qualify.

Actions to Vote in or Discuss

- A. Minutes from the September 14, 2020 & November 9th 2020 Veterans Subcommittee meeting were tabled for next meeting since there was no quorum.

Old Business

No old business.

New business

No new business.

Meeting Adjournment

Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second by Vargas. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m. The next Disability Advisory Board Veterans Ad-hoc Subcommittee meeting will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 2100 E. Michigan Street, 2nd Floor ABC Conference Room and if any changes, notification will be given. Members of the public can request information by emailing Nicola.norton@ocfl.net .