

Department of Veterans Affairs
VCOEB (Virtual) Advisory Committee Meeting
August 13, 2020

Committee Members Present:

Lieutenant General (R) John D. Hopper Jr. (Chair)
Philip Mangano (Vice Chair)
Anthony Allman
Joshua Bamberger
Robert Begland
Leticia Colchado
Jennifer Marshall
Dan Rosenfeld
Joseph Sapien
Sarah Serrano
Kristine Stanley
Dennis Tucker
Hamilton B. Underwood
Dr. Mark Wellisch
Benjamin Winter

Committee Members Absent:

Julian Manalo
Jim Perley
Jim Zenner

Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Present:

Dr. Lynda Davis, Chief Veterans Experience Officer
Jim Wartski, Deputy Director VFCE
Eugene W. Skinner Jr., Designated Federal Officer
Chihung Szeto, Alternate Designated Federal Officer
Dr. Steven E. Braverman, M.D., Medical Center Director
Jelessa Burney, ACOMO
Carmen Gamble
Darryl Joseph
Matthew McGahran, Director, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)
Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan
Robert Merchant
Toni Bush Neal
Carrie Pham

Public Present: (Note: the meeting was virtual, open to the public, but attendance could not be taken or confirmed.)

Tyler Monroe (West Los Angeles Veterans Collective)
 Liga Krievans (Concourse Federal Group)
 Colleen Schillmaier (ERPi)
 Maggie Walsh (ERPi)

August 13, 2020

<p>Call to Order, Attendance, Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lt. Gen. (R) John D. Hopper, Chair and Eugene W. Skinner Jr, Designated Federal Officer opened the meeting at 3pm EDT • Mr. Skinner took roll call and announced that there were 11 voting members and that there was a quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ He introduced himself as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and Chi Szeto as the Alternate DFO • Lt. Gen. Hopper thanked and welcomed the committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Led the Pledge of Alliance ○ Reminded everyone to be respectful of time since the agenda was full ○ Opened the floor to Dr. Davis
<p>Veterans Experience Office Update Dr. Lynda Davis, Chief Veterans Experience Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis thanked the Chair, committee members, DFOs, and the public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grateful for feedback from Veterans across VA including the area supported by VISN 22 and VA’s Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) ○ GLA and VISN 22 are working with Veteran populations during COVID-19, expanding telehealth and virtual services • Three new COVID-19 surveys are being distributed for feedback from Veterans who receive VA outpatient services during COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closely monitor outpatient surveys for comments and keywords related to a Veteran who may be in crisis, at-risk, or homeless ○ Those keywords are picked up through an automated word scan and then conveyed to the 24/7 Veteran Crisis Line and Veteran Homeless Crisis Line ○ Working in any way we can to make sure Veterans needs are met in the community • Dr. Davis thanked everyone for their ongoing support for the important mission in LA and to the campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ She said she is there to support their work, along with the Secretary, in any way
<p>GLA COVID-19 Update Steven E. Braverman, M.D., Medical Center Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Braverman thanked the committee and provided an update from the May committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Immediately following the May meeting, the CDC published an article about GLA’s surveillance/containment testing and how the outbreak was controlled in that area ○ One fatality from nursing home in GLA region ○ Implemented strike teams from GLA to provide testing and surveillance to community nursing homes, to include state nursing homes and CalVet but nursing homes in the community that are taking care of Veterans

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very successful in minimizing Veteran fatalities due to COVID-19 in the GLA region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 354 positive Veterans that have been serviced through VA facility (including all nursing homes outbreaks in the area) ▪ 30 deaths total ▪ 81 positive employees ▪ 70 were community acquired ○ Because of protections put in place, both patients and staff are safe when they come to the VA hospital ○ Evaluating current visitation policy, restrictions, and “moving forward” plan to expand face-to-face visits ○ Only 50% of visits are face-to-face, continuing to put protection in place by increasing virtual care, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Even post-pandemic, will probably be at a place where one quarter to one-third of routine visits will be done virtually instead of face-to-face, not to keep Veterans from facility, but as a more convenient option for both parties ○ Starting to reopen elective procedures and surgeries ○ LA is a hot spot but GLA has done a good job of minimizing impact on Veterans through quick and efficient testing/surveillance ● Dr. Braverman opened the floor for questions ● Lt. Gen. Hopper asked Dr. Braverman to give the committee a brief snapshot of the surrounding community (UCLA, Brentwood Campus, etc.) as they are having their classes virtually <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Braverman responded that all the UCLA systems are virtual this semester and there are restrictions in the community, no in-person dining, no gyms, no bars, etc. ○ Masking laws in place, some beaches closed ○ COVID has plateaued but it is 2 ½ times higher than what it was during the peak in April ● No Campus activities that are not aligned with healthcare (no routine visitation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cancelled agreement with soccer team that was using field ● The committee had no other questions and Lt. Gen. Hopper recognized Mr. Matthew McGahran
<p>CTRS Update Mr. Matthew McGahran, Chief, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. McGahran announced two updates: Care Treatment and Rehabilitation Services Update and Outreach on San Vicente Blvd. ● Care Treatment and Rehabilitation Services Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Created in response to pandemic ○ Concern that any homeless Veteran would not get proper medical care during pandemic so two parking lots on campus were made available to homeless Veterans where they can bring their own tent or utilize a donated tent (socially distanced) and receive care services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Space for 50 campsites, 45 Veterans in parking lot (two Veterans have spouses with them in same tent) ▪ “Wrap around” services to meet Veterans where they are including onsite COVID testing before they enter the encampment. If COVID-19 positive, they go to the domiciliary to isolate

- Nurses take vitals; physicians do medical screenings in parking lot and admit Veteran to medical center if needed
- Connect homeless to primary care team including social work staff to assist the Veterans transition into other programs
- As of this week, almost 200 Veterans have gone through program since April
- 140 discharged since April
- 146 have already gone through program
- 45 Veterans currently in the program
- 97 have continued engagement with VA (these are Veterans that were not engaged with VA before) to get to permanent housing in a number of different programs (Project Room Key, where any homeless person can have access to motel rooms, or VA's version, the Emergency Housing Assistance Program)
- 22 Veterans have gone from CTRS to Project Room Key
- 31 have gone into transitional housing with goal of being discharged into permanent housing
- 17 Veterans have gone into A Bridge Home
- 9 Veterans reunited with family
- 5 have been admitted to domiciliary
- 2 have gone straight to permanent housing
- 11 have gone in inpatient care
- CTRS reaches Veterans that have been traditionally hard to reach, these Veterans are on the street needing medical attention
- CTRS addresses the concern of homeless Veterans not getting their needs met, provides an opportunity for Veterans to receive services in low-barrier program
- Outreach on San Vicente Blvd
 - Illegal homeless encampment on San Vicente Boulevard surrounding VA campus which is becoming more permanent
 - Outreach to encampment, 18 Veterans in encampment were encouraged to come to VA
 - Not ready to come in for treatment but outreach and resources will continue to be available
- Dr. Bamberger asked what efforts VA was taking for harm-reduction in substance abuse and what was allowed inside the encampment
 - Mr. McGahran said that substance abuse in the main reason homeless Veterans do not come in for treatment, drugs are not allowed on campus, 24-hour security to monitor Veterans without being intrusive
 - Outside of campus, not as much control over substance abuse
- Dr. Bamberger mentioned the importance of Fentanyl strips because many drugs are laced with Fentanyl
 - Nurses could administer them to help Veterans stay alive until they achieve sobriety
- Mr. Allman asked if there were expansion plans for CTRS since it was mentioned that the program may expand to shelter more Veterans

- Yes, expanding to move current encampment to the great lawn next week, ground has been smoothed, tarps put down and moving portable bathrooms
- Additional storage bins being procured for Veterans to contain their belongings
- Mr. Allman asked if moving to the great lawn would allow for more Veterans and if they would have additional storage
 - Mr. McGahran said yes and that they are discussing getting bigger bins (Veterans currently have one smaller storage bin)
- Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if there was a vision of how you fix this for those Veterans?
 - Visions may be different, Mr. McGahran said his vision may be different than some Veterans but his wish is for all homeless Veterans to get treatment so they can transition into permanent housing
 - For Veterans outside campus, there is no incentive to move, telling VA this is where they want to be
- Lt. Gen. Hopper offered the committee's support to combat Veteran homelessness
 - Mr. McGahran thanked him and told him low-barrier programs like CTRS are important to getting Veterans in permanent housing
- Mr. Bamberger suggested that sobriety is a large barrier preventing homeless Veterans from entering programs such as HUDVASH
 - Mr. McGahran said sobriety is not a requirement to enter HUDVASH or any housing
 - Sobriety is not required for Project Room Key, it is the Veterans own residence or living arrangement
- Mr. Bamberger suggested conducting a survey asking what type of housing the Veterans want may be a good way to find permanent housing for homeless Veterans and help with under-utilized HUDVASH vouchers
- Mr. Mangano asked if people living in transitional housing (A Bridge Home, CTRS, Project Room Key and other temporary housing programs) were visited by HUDVASH Staff
 - Mr. McGahran answered yes except Project Room Key is visited by other housing staff
 - Mr. Mangano said the LA Housing Authority and the county housing authority have HUDVASH vacancies, they are not getting referrals from VA. How does VA fix this? Shouldn't there be a long line of Veterans preparing to go in to HUDVASH housing?
 - Mr. McGahran said there was a processing issue on both VA and county side, HUDVASH is a housing subsidy. There are issues that VA has no control over including the affordable housing problem in LA, rent is usually higher than the voucher, demand for rent is high and vouchers do not always work.
 - Mr. Mangano said VA does not adequately promote the HUDVASH program. He asked if there could be a new focus for HUDVASH staff to move Veterans more quickly into permanent housing. Could the committee work with VA to make HUDVASH vouchers are available?
 - Mr. McGahran said that HUDVASH vouchers were increasing slowly and he understood the frustration. He mentioned that the committee could help with increasing collaboration and efficiency.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mangano said something needs to be updated with regards to HUDVASH vouchers • Ms. Leticia Colchado said there had been discussions about allowing other community entities to support and possibly speed up the process of getting homeless Veterans into permanent housing. She asked if anything had moved forward with that discussion and if it was a staffing issue on the VA side (she had heard that the delay in HUDVASH referrals was a staffing issue). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McGahran said they were meeting with some of the county affiliates soon • Ms. Colchado asked if there were staffing issues that would delay the vouchers • Mr. McGahran said they were not fully staffed, and some staff vacancies would slow down the process • Mr. Hamilton B. Underwood asked how CTRS was marketed. How do Veterans find out about the CTRS program and are pets allowed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McGahran said service animals are allowed • Veterans are referred either off the street, through the outreach team or have received some type of service at the VA (outreach team goes out looking for Veterans in need of services) • Mr. Mangano asked about the chronic staffing deficiencies in VA and suggested outsourcing services to community partners could help fill the gaps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McGahran said vouchers are forwarded to community partners, but the partners have the same processing issues • Dr. Davis said she would provide to the committee information on the staffing at Headquarters and in GLA
<p>Status of Master Plan/EULs on campus Mr. Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan</p> <p>Status of Metro negotiations Mr. Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. McKenrick said he would be presenting on the status of the Master Plan/Enhanced Use Leases (EULs) on campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hearing on Master Plan on July 23, 2020 for EUL concept ○ Talked about under the West LA Leasing Act of 2016, the authority to use EULs (VA has used over 100 EULs to date) ○ Development to come (Building 205 and 208), 122 units, moving forward with, pre-construction work, to be complete mid 2022 ○ Building 207 has 60 units, EUL signed in October, break ground later this year (complete mid 2022) • MacArthur Field has 150 units overall, two phases and 75 units in each <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First phase of construction starts in early 2022 with occupancy in 2023 ○ Phase Two would follow phase one in the 20-24 months that follow ○ Finance is key to keeping timeline, concerns during COVID • Principle Developer hearing for EULs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All comments, slide deck and recorded hearing are online on the West LA's Master Plan website and can be viewed by public • South Campus is where most of the consolidation will be for new medical center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Second phase of design with medical tower, will conclude by end of this year ○ Project will transfer from VA to Army Corps of Engineers, move from design phase into building phase ○ Agency's predictive model was utilized to complete the designed for Phase Two • Kitchen project from north campus for setup for homeless campus on south campus

<p>Wadsworth Chapel Mr. Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan Alan Trinh, NCO 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete in 2022 ○ New research building and ambulatory center ○ Surge program remaining in north campus ● New infrastructure on both north and south campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrades for efficiency, upgrades in services, more IT ○ Upgrading utilities ● Access Agreement negotiations continue ● Wadsworth Chapel renovation project has not been formally announced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VA Contracting Officers working on final arrangements with selectee ○ Expect announcement at end of month for renovation of chapel ● Lt. Gen Hopper asked about the VA appropriation and budget process. Is infrastructure budgeted from the existing VA budget or is it separate? What is the capital maintenance plan? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Braverman stated that some capital projects are larger than VA's budget such as big hospitals or buildings. The original plans for the north and south campuses were that the infrastructure associated with each building would be included with the funding sources associated with those buildings. The challenge is the existing 100+ year infrastructure is not sufficient to do in a piecemeal fashion. For EULs, may not be able to pull from already appropriated funds, some EULs are supposed to be funded by third party sources. VA is trying to figure how they may be able to acquire funding through already appropriated funds that can be used for third-party use. ● Mr. Mangano mentioned he was happy the Wadsworth Chapel is moving forward. He asked when the plan would be complete, and information would be online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. McKenrick said the selectee will be announced soon. Once everything is confirmed, they will establish an execution timeline and begin planning. It will be several years before it is complete. ○ COVID-19 has slowed the funding process ● Mr. Mangano said it was discussed that Wadsworth Chapel be the Center for Moral Injury <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide critical service to Veterans living on campus ● Mr. Anthony Allman asked about the public hearing. The comment period was open for a week. Was there any sense of the numbers or public engagement in terms of comments of VA received? For example, the Master Plan public hearing had over 1,000 comments. How was the public engagement? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. McKenrick said the public comment was open before, during and after the hearing. They advertised the hearing to get engagement (emails, phone calls to Veterans), received letters of support, one Veteran Service Organization was not supportive, wanted a different plan. ○ Will answer all public comment questions, does not have an overall sense, close to 100 comments ○ Expecting data from hearing transferred in approximately a week and a half
<p>A Bridge Home Program Overview Carlos Lopez and Associates Mr. Matthew McGahran, Chief,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. McGahran provided an overview on A Bridge Home, a low barrier housing program in partnership with LA County and Carlos Lopez and Associates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two big structures on campus, cubicle areas, sleeping arrangements and lockers for Veterans ○ Several years project, issues with land itself, took some time to repair some issues

<p>Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50 Veterans in each structure, due to the COVID-19 pandemic social distancing requirements there are only 30 Veterans in each, as of today both structures are near capacity at 59 Veterans occupying both structures ○ No demands on length of sobriety, low-barrier, Veterans are able to move in and out of the program and often do ○ Some Veterans have gone into various programs and some have moved back with families ○ Each Veterans gets their own shelter area with locker ○ Clinical supervisor and case managers on site, number of different programs available to Veterans in A Bridge Home program ○ Outside area to eat, socially distanced and properly ventilated during COVID-19 ● Mr. Mangano expressed his concern for Veterans not moving into more permanent housing from A Bridge Home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. McGahran said that it is mostly Veterans choice, some go into temporary housing, slow processing of voucher is not the only factor are Veterans often do not want to go into permanent housing just yet ○ Veterans are choosing not to go into permanent housing ● Dr. Bamberger said the committee was interested in making some recommendations around HUDVASH and transitional housing, trying to flush out the pathway from homeless into a permanent housing. ● Dr. Bamberger asked if A Bridge Home was doing any routine testing for COVID-19 to mitigate spread. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. McGahran said Veterans are tested as they come in and their length of stay is usually around 30 days ○ If a Veteran test positive, they will stay in the domiciliary in isolation ○ Mr. McGahran said he would check with his nursing staff to see how many frequently they test for COVID-19 ● Dr. Bamberger asked what happens to partners once Veterans decide to remain at A Bridge Home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. McGahran said A Bridge Home does not have the capacity to take partners, but partners are welcome in CTRS
<p>Status of Utility Infrastructure Building 207 West LA Veterans Collective Tyler Monroe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tyler Monroe provided an update on “Phase 0” which includes Building 207 and the model utility trunk line <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Package pending with state Historic Preservation Office ○ Keep original infrastructure but also new design ○ plan checks near complete (Slide 5 on slide deck), sign-offs complete ○ County has waived all plan-check fees for project ○ All financing is committed, will close in 4th quarter of this year ○ Wells-Fargo as lender ○ County has committed 59 VASH vouchers ● Lenders have been more conservative during COVID-19 ● Slide 8 has timeline of project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Closing finances in 4th quarter (October) ○ 4th quarter construction will begin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete construction in 2022 ○ Working with VA to immediately serve Veterans ○ Includes new electrical, natural gas and telecommunication infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete in Summer of 2021 ○ Pre-qualified 15 general contractors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently bidding some of the work ● Mr. Skinner mentioned the briefing deck Mr. Monroe was using was not the briefing deck that was sent ahead. He asked Mr. Monroe to send the briefing deck so the committee could receive the updated deck. Mr. Monroe said he would send it. ● Lt. Gen. Hopper asked, since COVID-19, what is the sense that LA county and the city will be able to maintain their dedication to work the homeless problem? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Monroe said they were very committed to the project as a whole and committed to 207. The funds from LA are from the HHH program and funds from the county are from “No Place Like Home.” Three projects got HHH funds, 205, 208 and this project, 207. ○ Other funding sources out there today but allocated at state level, identifying multiple funding sources
<p>VA Barrington Parking Lots Mr. Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robert McKenrick provided an update on VA Barrington Parking lots, which are in the first year of extension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First performance period and then nine 1-year extensions ○ Unique this year since COVID-19 has shut down some commercial entities ○ Staffing requirements of lease agreement continue to be met, attendant at each lot ○ Business has fallen due to COVID-19, went from about 80,000 receipts per month to 12,000 ○ Amount of revenue is not clearing expenses so no remittance to us at VA, process of renegotiating lease ○ Biggest expense is paying workforce ● Veterans are still working, and businesses are still employing Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parking lot is not full, many businesses in the area are struggling ○ Some planned updates and renovations were completed (access control, striping, fencing) ● Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if Veterans eligible for other programs like the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Several programs, some at state level, where if you laid off employees, you could use the money to bring them back and get a grant ○ The business model that Veterans were locked into kept them from taking advantage of some of those programs but encouraged Veterans to look into other options (loans), Veterans are afraid of how long COVID-19 will last ○ After COVID-19, businesses may pop back up or there still may be vacancies. Changes will need to be made as the parking lot may not come back from COVID-19 ● Mr. McKenrick said that they were able to get some answers to questions asked earlier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VA is testing for COVID-19 at A Bridge Home when Veterans enter and then on a monthly basis. They are also conducting surveillance testing ● Mr. McGahran provided answers to questions about voucher utilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 68% of vouchers that are available are processed through contract staff and VA staff, lowest is 59% and high is 79%, will do deeper dive into data

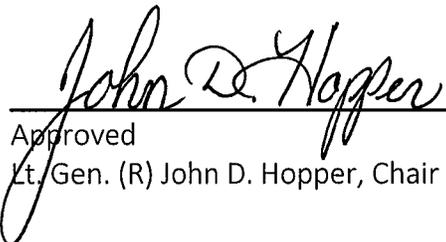
Master Plan Subcommittee recommendation brief discussion and vote

- Anthony Allman, the Master Plan Subcommittee Chair, explained that the Master Plan Subcommittee adapted a recommendation they introduced to full committee regarding communication for Master Plan events in response to public hearing that was held at the end of July:
 - WHEREAS, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopted a comprehensive communications recommendation on April 17, 2019;
 - WHEREAS, Recommendation 3 outlined the use of Granicus' GovDelivery Communication Cloud ("GovDelivery") software to distribute timely notice of all Master Plan public notices and event information to VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) stakeholders;
 - WHEREAS, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concurred with Recommendation 3 on October 10, 2019;
 - WHEREAS, VAGLAHS complied, in part, with Recommendation 3 by creating a "Draft Master Plan" content category in GovDelivery to distribute Master Plan updates to VAGLAHS stakeholders;
 - WHEREAS, the last successful distribution of Draft Master Plan information to VAGLAHS stakeholders via GovDelivery occurred on December 23, 2019;
 - WHEREAS, VA posted a Notice of Public Hearing regarding the July 23, 2020 Principal Developer Supportive Housing for Homeless Veterans Enhanced Use Lease virtual hearing in the Los Angeles Times on June 23, 28 & July 9, 2020;
 - WHEREAS, VAGLAHS posted Notice of Public Hearing details on Facebook and Twitter on June 23, 28 and July 9, 12, 19, 22 and 23;
 - WHEREAS, VAGLAHS failed to utilize GovDelivery to distribute the Notice of Public Hearing opting instead to provide e-mail notice to select stakeholders on July 22, 2020; and
 - WHEREAS, an attempt to notify a select audience of VAGLAHS stakeholders by e-mail a day before the event is not considered good practice;
- NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE Recommended
 - RECOMMENDED, VAGLAHS utilize GovDelivery, an existing and open enrollment platform for receiving e-mail updates with approximately 8,000 subscribers, as the primary method of distributing Master Plan public notices and event details to stakeholders; and
 - RECOMMENDED, GovDelivery e-mail notification to stakeholders regarding Master Plan public notices occur in a timely manner and Master Plan event information occur at least fourteen (14) days prior to the event;
 - IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as of August 13, 2020.
- Master Plan issue for communication and VA did create a new category in GovDelivery for Master Plan
 - If members of public are interested, there is an option to receive email communications from GLA on VA website
 - Most stakeholder receive information via email instead of social media
- Lt. Gen. Hopper said the communication initiative was to increase transparency at VA, transparency is an important concept that must be enforced to engage all stakeholders
- Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for a motion on the floor and Mr. Robert Begland moved for a vote with Mr. Bamberger seconded the motion
 - Mr. Skinner gave rollcall for the votes
 - Lt. Gen. Hopper voted aye
 - Mr. Mangano voted aye

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Allman voted aye ○ Mr. Begland voted aye ○ Dr. Bamberger voted aye ○ Ms. Stanley voted aye ○ Mr. Serrano voted aye ○ Ms. Marshall voted aye ○ Dr. Wellisch voted aye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Skinner announced that there were nine ayes, no abstentions extensions and zero no votes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lt. Gen. Hopper announced that the recommendation passes ● Mr. Allman asked the committee to take a position involving the Enhanced Use Lease and wanted to know if other members think the committee should take an official position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Bamberger said we should take a position on this as it is our prime function, but more information should be given ○ Lt. Gen. Hopper said he agreed and asked DFO if it is possible to plan another Committee meeting ○ EUL hearing and public comment is closed but will post the public hearing record, which will be available at the end of September ○ The committee plans to schedule another meeting in October to discuss EUL ● Lt. Gen. Hopper said that they will work with DFO to schedule a special meeting to consider this recommendation ● Dr. Davis explained the process once VA gets a recommendation. If the committee is looking for a resolution and the Secretary’s agreement with the recommendation, everything needs to be submitted by the end of the Fiscal Year (end of September), the sooner the recommendation is submitted the better the response ● Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if he could write a letter to the Secretary instead of going through formal recommendation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Davis said Lt. Gen. Hopper is welcome to write the Secretary but there are processes for Federal Advisory Committees and authorized by Congress. If the Secretary were to respond, it would not be in the context of the Federal Advisory Committee. Anyone (on the committee or the public) can submit a letter to the Secretary at any time, but it will not be received or reviewed as a part of the committee ○ Mr. Allman confirmed with Mr. McGahran that there is a Congressional check for EULs ○ Ms. Carrie Pham helps manage building 207 said one of many things they must do is wait 45 days after the notification to enter into a EUL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will also send notice to OMB and address comments as well ● Mr. Allman suggested an emergency committee meeting before the end of September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lt. Gen. Hopper agreed with Mr. Allman
<p>Services and Outcomes Subcommittee recommendation brief discussion and vote</p>	<p>Dr. Joshua Bamberger, Subcommittee Chair presented on Services and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Bamberger is looking at services for women who are homeless or on CTRS campus and in process of making some recommendations ● HUDVASH and number of vouchers that are being issued but not used ● How is LA VA staff addressing Veterans that are too sick to live successful in supportive housing but aren’t sick enough to qualify for nursing homes? ● Lt. Gen. Hopper said it is good the committee is bringing attention to the HUDVASH issues
<p>List of Public Comments received</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chi Szeto (Alternate DFO) addressed public comments received

via email to the FAC mailbox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One email with a document that was in google drive ○ Public comments are open until 10pm EST
Wrap up & Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for comments from board members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were no further comments ● Mr. Skinner asked Jim Wartski, Deputy Director VFCE, to make some closing comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Wartski said he appreciated all the work the committee was doing and thanked the administrative staff ○ He also offered to support any needs of the committee and thanked Mr. Skinner ● Mr. Mangano thanked Lt. Gen. Hopper and said he is hoping the HUDVASH vouchers can be utilized to combat Veteran homelessness. The committee will take on the HUDVASH voucher issue and the Public Housing Authority. It is a moral dilemma to have vacant spaces when Veterans remain homeless. ● Lt. Gen. Hopper thanked Mr. Mangano for bringing up the Wadsworth Chapel as a Center for Moral Injury, it is an example of the progress the committee has made ● Lt. Gen. Hopper thanked board members for their time ● Mr. Skinner acknowledged and thanked the support staff taking minutes and the experts on standby ● Lt. Gen. Hopper thanked the committee again. The committee meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm EDT

Approved
Eugene W. Skinner JR, DFO



Approved
Lt. Gen. (R) John D. Hopper, Chair