Department of Veterans Affairs
19th Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (VCOEB)
Federal Advisory Committee (FAC)

DATE: 15 February 2023

VCOEB Board Members Present
Lt GEN (Ret). John Hopper Jr. (Chair)
Philip Mangano (Vice Chair)
Anthony Allman
Dr. Joshua Bamberger
Christine Barre
Robert Begland
Keith Boylan
Aimee Bravo (virtual)
Stephanie Cohen (virtual)
Jennifer Marshall (virtual)
Jim Perley
Joseph Sapien
Kristine Stanley (virtual)
Dennis Tucker (virtual)
Hamilton Underwood (virtual)
Shawn VanDiver
Dr. Mark Wellisch
Jim Zenner

VCOEB Board Members Absent
Heidi Marston
Larry Vasquez

VA Employees and Staff Present
Tanya Bradsher
John Boerstler
Dr. Keith Harris
Jennifer Purdy
Dr. Steven Braverman
John Kuhn
Alan Trinh
Eugene Skinner (DFO)
Jeffery Moragne
Chihung Szeto
Joe Friddle
Janet Elder
Cyndee Costello (Contractor)
Nathalie Chaves (Contractor)
Scott Hathaway
Rika Brown
Michael Fisher
Chris Beaubien
Angell Bolden-Green
Dennis Sutran Jr.
Roberto Marshall
Kristin Grotecloss
Robert Davenport
Sally Hammitt
Jill Albanese
Andrew Strain
Janet Turner
Jennifer Amos
Jeff Tennon
Yanira Gomez
Jerald Proper
Michael Lessand

Darryl Darden	Jorge Peniez
David Ignacio	Claudio Diaz

Public Attendees

Jarell Green	Aaron Criswell (virtual presenter)
David E.	Joe Cowan (virtual presenter)
John Oppenhiem	Nicole Jean (virtual presenter)
Dan Ortiz	William Dahlen
Mark Hanna	Tyler Moore
Ray Heche	Deavin Sessom
Francisco Juarez	Alfred Areyan
Lawrence Loughlin	Rob Reynolds
Preston Scott	Austin Harvill
Dan Ortiz	David Echavarria

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance	**Lt GEN (Ret). John D. Hopper Jr., Chair; Mr. Eugene Skinner Jr. Designated Federal Officer (DFO); alternate DFO is Chihung Szeto.** DFO welcomed members and turned the meeting over to Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper. Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 101	**Mr. Jeffrey Moragne, Director, Advisory Committee Management Office.**
	
	• Mr. Moragne introduced himself and explained that the Advisory Committee Management Office (ACMO) overseas the VA's portfolio of 26 FACs which cover health, research, benefits, and underserved Veterans.
	• Provide some "Rules of the Road" from the FACA, VA policy and to provide some Best Practices.
	• Reviewed some history:
	  ○ FACA was created in 1972c,
	  ○ 8,000 FACs were decreased to 1,000,
	  ○ 50 years later there are approximately 1,000 FACs,
	  ○ FACA provides instruction on:
	  ▪ How to establish a FAC?
	  ▪ How to manage a FAC?
	  ▪ How to terminate a FAC?
	  ▪ A FAC, a statutory or discretionary can be terminated.
	• The FAC body of work must produce results. It must affect the Veteran constituency that it was designed to serve.
	• There are some new FACs:
	  ○ Tribal and Indian Affairs,
	  ○ They are currently standing up the Department of Veterans Affairs U.S. Outlying Territories and Freely Associated States FAC.
	• FACs recently terminated:
	  ○ Genomic Medicine Program FAC after 13-years,
	  ○ Fraud, Waste and Abuse FAC.
	• **What is the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)?**

	The Federal Advisory Committee Act is a federal statute that governs the establishment, termination, and management of Federal Advisory Committees (FAC). Enacted to promote openness and transparency and accountability to regulate the number and duration of FAC.
	• **When does FACA apply?**
	FACA applies to all groups with at least one non-Federal employee established or utilized by an agency to obtain advice or recommendations, unless an exception applies.
	• **What are Federal Advisory Committee requirements?**
	  ○ Signed/filed Charter – the charter is signed every other year by the sitting Secretary,
	  ○ Designated Federal Officer (DFO),
	  ○ Public meetings with agenda announced in Federal Register 15 days in advance of the meeting and an opportunity for public to speak or submit written comments,
	  ○ Balanced membership:
	  ▪ What skill sets do they have?
	  ▪ What experience do they have?
	  ▪ What demographics does the committee have to reflect to serve the Veteran constituency?
	  ○ Records maintained and available for public inspection (minutes, presentations, etc.).
	• **What constitutes a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting?**
	  ○ A published Federal Register Notice of Meeting.
	  ▪ Open, Closed or Partially Closed.
	  ○ A Designated Federal Officer (DFO).
	  ○ A FACA Committee that:
	  ▪ Meets in-person, virtual or through tele- and videoconference.
	  ▪ Provides advice or recommendations.
	  ○ A <u>quorum</u> unless otherwise established in the Committee's charter or legislation.
	  ▪ Majority (more than one half) of the committee's authorized membership including ex-officio members (i.e., 50% plus one).
	  ▪ Exception is sub-committees because they do not report to the Secretary of VA (SECVA) or the Veterans Experience Office (VEO). The sub-committee reports to the parent committee.
	  ▪ Sub-committees can also have non-parent committee members.
	  ○ An approved agenda.
	• **What constitutes a "closed" meeting?**
	FAC meetings may also be closed in whole or in part under limited circumstances, such as when discussing trade secrets, personal information, and criminal matters.
	Per FACA, there are three common exemptions to "close" a meeting:
	  ○ Discussion of classified information,

	○ Reviews of proprietary data submitted in support of Federal grant applications (i.e., research committee), ○ Deliberations involving considerations of personal privacy (i.e., Veterans' PII, VA Medical Center tours, etc.), ○ Office of General Counsel (OGC) must concur on the meeting closure. **Can FACs ever meet privately?** Yes. According to the FACA Final Rule, FACs can conduct two types of work without a public meeting: **1) Preparatory work.** a. Two or more Committee or Subcommittee members gather to solely gather information, conduct research, analyze relevant issues, facts in preparation for a FAC meeting or to draft papers for deliberation by FAC; and b. Since this isn't a FAC meeting, a submission to the Federal Register is not required. **2) Administrative work.** Two or more Committee members gather to discuss administrative matters of the FAC. • **What are "Administrative" Calls?** During an administrative call, the Committee members are allowed to discuss the following: ○ Conduct FACA 101 sessions with Jeffrey Moragne (15 to 20 minutes), ○ Conduct Ethics Training session: ▪ Using Ethics Training slides (30 to 45 minutes), ▪ Ensure members take the VA OGC Ethics Training for Special Government Employees located at: https://www.va.gov/OGC/docs/SGE/10.html ○ Provide / Obtain the SGE Self-Certification Statements from members, ○ Review, discuss, complete Financial Disclosures form 450s, if applicable, ○ Vendorize Committee member in VA systems, if needed ○ Discuss research (i.e., what to include on the agenda, SMEs, topics), ○ Finalize meeting agenda, ○ Finalize travel plans, ○ Finalize meeting logistics (i.e., date, location, number of days). However, since this is not a regular FAC meeting they are not allowed to engage in discussing any reports or recommendations. **Can Committee Members testify/speak on Federal Advisory Committee matters?** **PERMISSIBLE** • If asked to testify, you may speak about FAC matters only in your personal capacity.

	• Your testimony should clarify that you are providing your opinion and are not speaking on behalf of VA or the FAC. • As a courtesy, we appreciate you informing the FAC's DFO if you are going to testify. **<u>MISCONDUCT</u>** • Federal Advisory Committee members do not have authority to testify on behalf of the Committee and do not speak for VA. • Since you are acting in your personal capacity if you testify or speak, VA cannot not reimburse you for expenses or pay a stipend. **VA Federal Advisory Committee Best Practices** • **Master Your Committee Calendar:** plan 18 months of committee meetings in advance during the next meeting or an administrative call. • **Know your role:** understand the Committee's Charter and guidance located in the VA Committee Members Handbook. • **Subcommittees:** formally establish these groups in accordance with the VA guidance to do the heavy lifting on research and assist with drafting recommendations. • **Meeting Mechanics:** dedicate meeting time to discuss individual presentations and how they connect to the Committee's advice/recommendations. • **Cross Committee Collaboration:** use your Subcommittee to engage other FACs. • **SMART Template:** use the template to achieve better results use this service for data and information searches. • **Subject MVA Library Services:** atter Experts: recommend stakeholders for the Committee to engage. • **Annual Field Visits:** do field visits and Capitol Hill meetings to better understand Veterans, Caregivers, Survivors, Stakeholders and VA Employees challenges. • **FACA and Ethics questions:** ask your Designated Federal Officer for guidance. Mr. Begland asked does our recommendation get advanced to the SECVA or is it a summary of the recommendation? Mr. Moragne's responded that the recommendation the board submits is sent to the SECVA. Mr. Begland comment/question – wanted to make sure, whether it is Office of General Counsel (OGC) or Office of Asset Management (OAM) making a response to the recommendation, that the original recommendation from the board is provided to the SECVA.

	Mr. Moragne's response – the institutional responses from OCG or OAM are compiled and included but the original recommendation stands.
Opening Remarks Committee Chair, Introduce VA Leadership	**Lt GEN (Ret) John D. Hooper Jr., Chair; Mr. Eugene Skinner Jr. Designated Federal Officer (DFO)** DFO – Administrative announcements: • Masks will be worn since this is a public facing meeting. • Photo op when the Chief arrives. • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper will provide remarks after photo op. DFO Skinner welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated the rules of engagement. **<u>Rules of engagement</u>:** • To the greatest extent possible please hold all questions until the presentations are complete. • The Chair will ask for questions and/or comments throughout the meeting. • Turn your name card vertical to signify to the Chair your desire to provide comment or ask a question. • Allow DFO/VCOEB Chair to yield the floor to you prior to speaking. • These sessions are being recorded and we have those who will be taking notes and documenting action items so please identify yourself prior to speaking. • Allow the DFO support team to provide a microphone to you prior to speaking (we have a WebEx link to the alternate facility). • Public comments today will be in-person, for those that would like to provide public comments via WebEx that capability will also be available. • This meeting is being recorded. ACMO requires hybrid meetings so these meetings will be held in-person as well as via Webex. DFO provided a list of six individuals that had registered to provide a public comment. He also provided instruction on how to register for those that would like to provide a public comment today but had not previously signed up to do so. DFO turned the meeting over to Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper. Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper – Thanked everyone for attending. • Approximately one week away from the ribbon cutting ceremony for building 207. • Introductions: ○ Chief of Staff (COS) for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Chief Bradsher,

	○ Mr. John Boerstler, Chief Veterans Experience Officer and the VCOEB Executive Sponsor, ○ Dr. Keith Harris, Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Veteran Homelessness in Greater Los Angeles (GLA) ○ Mr. Michael Fisher, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 22 Director ○ Ms. Jennifer Purdy, Executive Director of the Veterans Experience Office ○ Ms. Jill Albanese, Director of Clinical Operations, VHA's Homeless Programs Office ○ Mr. Larry Reinkemeier, Officer of the Inspector General ○ Mr. Robert Davenport, Chief Counsel Real Properties Office of the General Counsel ○ Ms. Angell Bolden-Green, Office of Congressional Liaison ○ Dr. Steve Braverman, Greater Los Angeles (GLA) Medical Center Director ○ Mr. Phillip Mangano, Vice Chair VCOEB
VA Leadership Remarks	**Ms. Tanya Bradsher, VA Chief of Staff** • Walk through CTRS and was amazed at the transition over the last couple of years. To see the difference between having the tents outside to having the tiny homes set up with high quality trailers where residents have showers. Very grateful to the GLA team for making this happen. • 20 interviews scheduled tomorrow for residents of CTRS to go into building 207. They have seen consistent movement, very rewarding. • She will attend the ribbon cutting for 207 • In the next couple of months hope to have buildings 205 and 208 up and running. • Still working through the AMI challenge. ○ The Secretary is still tracking they had a meeting with Mayor Bass. ○ Letter sent to the Governor's office to try to get AMI waived so 100% disable veterans can be housed. ○ No resolution yet, but they continue to push this issue. • They were able to secure the funding for CTRS to continue beyond the COVID National Emergency end date of May 11th. • Appreciates the boards dedication to homeless Veterans.
Opening Remarks Executive Sponsor	**Mr. John Boerstler, Chief Veterans Experience Officer** • What the VEO office does daily is they think about how they can improve the customer and employee experience at the VA. • Encouraged others to complete the VA surveys they receive and participate in their design research for improvement. • Partners in the room:

	○ Veterans Experience Action Center (VEAC) in partnership with CALVET the conduit for the VEACs in Los Angeles. ▪ Partners in getting the word out to Veterans regarding VHA, VBA and NCA services in that 3-day enrollment sprint they have once a year. • The stewardship of this committee is also part of the VEO responsibilities. Asked for assistance in: ▪ Recruiting new members ▪ Thinking about to further collaborate with the community. • Possibly doing these meetings to be held in other major cities, in metropolitan areas, that have large Veteran populations that have been as successful as Los Angeles in placing homeless Veterans. Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper – Thanked Mr. Boerstler and second that comment on finding alternate locations.
Opening Remarks Special Advisor	**Dr. Keith Harris, Senior Advisor to the Secretary** • Toured some projects in the San Francisco area that had embedded services he was impressed and learned a lot that could be applied here in GLA. • AMI piece many challenges at the Local, State and Federal. ○ Building 207, a request has been submitted to raise half of their units from 30% AMI cap to 60% AMI cap it requires approval of the city, multiple offices in the city, county, the California Debt Allocation Committee, and the Tax Credit Committee ○ They did get approval from the county and both state offices they are waiting for the approval from the city. ▪ It has made it out of the mayor's office it then goes to the Housing Homeless Committee presumable on March 1st. ▪ It requires a city council resolution as the last step. • They do not solve all the challenges when building project-based housing, when they solve income, there are layers of eligibility requirements such as: ○ age (e.g., 62 or older), ○ mental illness, ○ chronic homelessness. When these are layered together, the entire pool of Veterans goes down to 3% of the Veterans that they know of in GLA from their data. So, there will continue to be challenges they will need to work on. • Conversations at the state with CALVET in either raising the AMI cap or redefining income to exclude disability pay. Pursuing this at the federal level as well. • Opportunity for solutions under HUD doing or under the Treasury and IRS.

- Results of the VAs permanent housing efforts over the last year:
    - Locally the number was less than half of the local Point-In-Time (PIT) counts,
    - Nationally that number exceeded the last PIT count.
        - 40,000 Veterans permanently housed with a PIT count in the mid-30s.
    - The PIT count is a snapshot of a single point in time.
    - Over the course of the full year, they see 2 to 3 times that number of homeless Veterans entering the system.
        - If 40,000 of those Veterans are housed there is still another 20-25% they estimate have self-resolved to get themselves housed without ever entering the VA homeless services system.
        - An additional number of Veterans receive housing services outside of the VA system and outside of the data collection entirely.

- COS Bradsher said it was announced during the State of the Union address, that Vets will qualify for low-income housing, if they are below 30% AMI, they qualify for section 8 housing. They can quality for this without being homeless.
    - To qualify through HUD-VASH the Veteran must be homeless.
    - Now, they will be able to house Veterans with a 30% or lower AMI in section 8 housing or they can stay in place if the landlord will take the voucher.

Mr. VanDiver ask is that contingent on HUD changing their rules or is it a done deal? Does the disability pay still count?

COS Bradsher responded that it is a done deal. Their disability pay still counts. If a Veteran that's 20% disabled and the rent goes up to a point where he or she can no longer afford to stay in place, if the current landlord does not accept the voucher, then they will qualify for section 8 housing.

Mr. Boylan asked his staff to do a vacancy report around the territory, expanding on the existing facilities in Los Angeles:

- overall vacancy rate for the VHHP units is 11%,
- among the 0-30% AMI units it is 6%,
- target has been 40%,
- 70% of the units statewide have been the 0-30% AMI range,
- proponent of taking the compensation out of the means test, or for housing,
- need to address the 100% service-connected disability and the impact on eligibility,
- challenges with units going to 60% AMI regarding available services.

	• Mr. Perley said for Veterans at 30% and below they qualify for a voucher, but does that mean they get one or they can apply for one? • COS Bradsher's response: They have the ability to apply for section 8 housing. • Mr. Perley said are budgetary restrictions on tenant-based vouchers and the ability to qualify for is very different from getting a voucher. • COS Bradsher said White House did indicate they could dedicate funding through HUD not VA.

Opening Remarks GLA Leadership	**Dr. Steven E. Braverman, Medical Center Director VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System**
	
	• Dr. Braverman introduced Sally Hammitt, Chief of Social Work and Acting Chief of CERS replacing Deborah Carter.
	  ○ Ms. Carter's accomplishments were:
	  ▪ reorganization of the CERS team so it would be more agile,
	  ▪ increase the outreach,
	  ▪ increase the ability to directly interact and provide services with their Veterans.
	• Thanked Matthew McGharan for all his work. He is taking a position as the Assistant Chief of the VA in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
	• John remains as the Acting Deputy Director.
	• Will hear from Alan Trinh – The master plan is now fully funded through 2036 for the VA requirements.
	• Funding has been a challenge, so this is good news.
	
	• COS Bradsher thanked the dedication of this team.
	
	Dr. Braverman:
	• Large majority of the Veteran and employee population are vaccinated.
	• They have good treatments and do not have many Veterans hospitalized with COVID.
	  ○ One 95-year-old Veteran passed away from COVID,
	  ○ Today, they have four inpatients:
	  ▪ two with COVID,
	  ▪ two in the hospital because of COVID.
	• A few nursing home outbreaks and psychiatry outbreaks but because they have negative pressure areas in those units and proper treatment this did not involve wide hospitalizations.
	• They are in a medium range – social distancing not an issue, masking is still required in patient care areas.
	• Hospital full 119 med surge beds 129 inpatient they expanded to accommodate the surge.
	• 50 Veterans who are inpatients in the community.

	• SUPULVEDA Ambulatory Care Center –stats for the vocational program showed it has the second highest number of graduates who have gone on to get jobs among all VAs.
	• PACT Act – screening 90,000 Veterans in town and doing outreach to capture those that are not currently enrolled in the VA. Partnered with VBA and have an engagement in March in Bakersfield trying to attract college and post 9/11 Veterans to ensure they know what they are entitled to.
	• Jim Zenner, Director of Military Veterans Affairs for the county, put in a county resolution which requires the GLA VAMC is "at the table" when addressing Veterans homelessness in the county and other issues for VA.
	
	• Mr. Zenner said addressing the 3% in 207 mentioned earlier by Dr. Harris, with the resolution Dr. Braverman mentioned they can explore those issues and provide recommendations back to the board.
	
	• Dr. Bamberger comment/question: Promote that housing is healthcare and something that VHA should embrace from rent to services.
	  ○ COVID over the 3 years 15 people experiencing homelessness in San Francisco who died from COVID.
	  ○ They were able to house many people experiencing homelessness in hotels. Housing was probably the answer that successfully prevented the death of 200-300 people. Having a way for the hospital to have access to housing as a treatment is the way to go.
	  ○ The healthcare system needs to own housing at all levels (transitional, permanent, etc.).
	
	• Mr. Mangano said he has seen a lot of momentum and appreciates the COS and Braverman efforts and changes which have made a difference and has increases the moral of Veterans and the members of the VCOEB.
	  ○ Still work to do on sufficient referrals to 207 and other efforts in the community.
	  ○ Importance to hear about the efforts of the VA to be consumer centric.
	  ○ Propose that in one of their upcoming meetings Mr. Boerstler to present on the consumer orientation that he and his team bring to the work that the VCOEB is doing.
	  ○ Need to resolve the continuing issue around the HUD VASH vouchers that are unused while there are still Veterans experiencing homelessness.
	
	  • COS Bradsher stated the VCOEB plays a large role and crystalizes what they needed to do and in what direction to go. She thanked them as well.
	  • Mr. Begland asked what is the total funding committed? How will we see it reflected?

	○ Mr. Trinh said funding is $361 million they are navigating through the VHA financial process. ○ Mr. Begland said that was the news he's heard in 4-years an incredible accomplishment. This is the perfect illustration of how collaboratively the board can work with VA's leadership and how the leadership has recognized the challenge and opportunity for the redevelopment of this campus. • Braverman recognize the accomplishments of the GLA team. They are getting a third of the $975 million, as they talk about other opportunities and how they can support other ways of doing this. • COS Bradsher said Mike Fisher announced his retirement after 29 years with the VA. As Network Director, GLA VAMC has been successful due to his support. • Mr. Fisher thanked COS. As Network Director one of his goals was sustainability of homeless housing at GLA. He acknowledges that because of the involvement and stewardship of the Secretary and COS as well as Dr. Braverman and his teams hard work he felt confident that they will get there and so he could retire with a good conscience. Lt. GEN (Ret). Hopper: Introduced Mr. Davenport.

Office of General Counsel (OGC) Update on Naming Guidance	**Mr. Robert Davenport, Chief Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Ms. Kristin Grotecloss, Office of General Counsel**
	
	• Mr. Davenport introduced Ms. Kristin Grotecloss who does a lot of work for the WLA property project and has been instrumental in helping them guide through this issue of naming rights.
	
	• Mr. Davenport discussed the process for naming rights in the Department of Veterans Affairs.
	
	○ Can the master developer use naming rights as a means to raise funds in order to support the development of the property?
	○ Legal Framework
	  ○ 38 USC Section 531 – Requirements relating to naming of Department Property.
	○ Naming Limitation – Except as expressly provided by law or as authorized under subsection (b), a facility, structure, or real property of the Department, and a major portion (such as a wing or floor) of any such facility, structure, or real property, may be named only for the geographic area in which the facility, structure, or real property is locate.
	  ○ VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) Interpretation of 38 USC
	  ▪ § 531.
	  ○ Congress established the naming limitations detailed in 38 USC § 531 UNDER THE Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998, P.L. 105-368, in response to ambiguity in the VA Secretary's

	authority to name VA property and the role of Congress in the process.
	  ○ Considering the history of the West L.A. Campus and level of Congressional oversight, OGC recommends a broad reading of 38 USC §531.
	• VA OGC interprets 38 USC § 531 as:
	  ○ Applying to all facilities, structures, or major portions of such property located on VA real property, including facilities or structures constructed by lessees on VA real property.
	  ○ Not applying to any VA facility structure, real property, or major portions of any such property named prior to 1998 under the Veteran Programs Enhancement Act.
	• On an annual basis the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees, established committee rules and criteria of the naming of facilities.
	  ○ In 2021, the 117 Congress set forth the criteria what the committees will use as criteria in nominating facility names.
	  ○ The individual facility must be named for a deceased individual.
	  ○ A Veteran who was instrumental in the construction of the facility, or
	  ○ Who performed military service of a very distinguishing character, (e.g., Medal of Honor recipient).
	  ○ A member of Congress with a direct association with the facility.
	  ○ A high-ranking member of the Department of Veterans Affairs or Department of Defense.
	  ○ Someone who as determined by the Veteran Affairs Committee chair to have performed outstanding service for Veterans.
	  ○ Naming rights is a product of Congress. They preserved the prerogative of naming facilities to themselves.
	  ○ Once the name is determined for a particular VA facility:
	  ▪ that name is then coordinated with the Veteran Service Organizations in that local area,
	  ▪ and then the Congressional delegation for that state,
	  ▪ the entire Congressional delegation must agree that the name is appropriate for that facility.
	  ▪ The statute is clear as it applies to the naming of all VA facility structures and major portions, (includes wings and floors of buildings), of property located on VA real property. The EUL facilities are located on real property of the Department therefore, the naming conventions and requirements under 38 USC § 531 apply.
	• Next Steps
	  ○ Ensure the uniform application of 38 USC § 531

	▪ Any naming of facilities, structures, real property, or major portions of any such property should be in compliance with 38 USC § 531. ▪ VA has notified UCLA and Brentwood Schools that the future naming of any facilities, structures, real property, or major portions of such property must comply with 38 USC § 531 and will require VA approval. ○ How to address existing named facilities? ▪ VA is evaluating how to address previously named facilities and structures on the West L.A. Campus. • UCLA Leasehold: ○ Jackie Robinson Stadium – completed in 1981, ○ Jack and Rhodine Gifford Hitting Facility – completed in 2009, ○ Branca Family Field – completed in 2021. • Brentwood School ○ Caruso-Watt Aquatic Facility – completed in 2008. • Moving forward the VA is working to establish a policy specific to facility to ensure that there is a level of consistency, and any future guidance will be consistent with this interpretation of USC 38 § 531. • Mr. VanDiver asked does this law apply to the whole facility? Does VA have any input on that? ○ Mr. Davenport responded yes, it would go through Congress and VA could have input, but it would still go through the Congressional authorization process. • Mr. Begland comment/question: The committee recommended to the Secretary that the campus revert back to its 1887 name, the Pacific Branch for Disabled American Volunteers, it was the name Congress had used in the past. Can this be done since it had been approved by Congress in the past? ○ Mr. Davenport's responded it would require congressional authorization the Secretary would not have the independent ability to rename the campus • COS Bradsher said the Jennifer Moreno Medical Center in San Diego needed to go through the congressional process for the renaming of that facility. • Mr. Begland said that made sense, there is a process in place and it's Congress' prerogative. ○ Mr. Davenport said on an annual basis they go through this process and in 2021 this statue was updated. • Mr. Begland asked have UCLA and Brentwood School been informed that naming steps post 1998 is not in compliance with federal law?

	○ Mr. Davenport's responded yes, and the VA is working on developing more assistant guidance, so those types of situations do not take place again. • COS Bradsher said they are also dealing with a lawsuit and recommendations received from the VCOEB are part of these litigations which is why they may not be able to comment on these items. • Mr. Zenner comment/question: Is it possible that the Jackie Robinson stadium may be renamed? ○ Mr. Davenport: That was named prior to the statue so it predated the statue. ○ Mr. VanDiver: If we go into this discussion again it should be opened to community input from Veterans in the area. ○ Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper thanked Mr. Davenport.
Public Comments	**DFO discussed the Rules of Engagement for Public Comments.** Deavin Sessom: "My question is how come people with 100% can't get housing from the VA? That's what I want to know. I don't think it's fair, you guys judge us for what we make. That shouldn't be a problem because we're Veterans no matter what…I never asked to be homeless, I never asked to be none of this stuff. I'm going through a lot of emotional problems right now with what happened to me. Um, but I want to know why you guys will hold the budget on 207, 205, 208 that's for Veterans and I'm a Veteran. But I can't get in there because I make too much money. I've been told that the last 3 years. I'm tired of this, I'm tired of this, you're going to have 50 beds over there, empty rooms. For what? Wait for another one to come in. Come on, let's get housing for the people whose here. I can't live on the outside, I need to get closer to the hospital. I'm not in very good health, you know I'm 66 years old and um, I'm sorry I make money, I'm sorry the VA rated me at 100%, I'm sorry for that. But you know what I'm not sorry for is being a Veteran. You know first and foremost, I'm for everybody here who is a Veteran. I'll get out there, I'll advocate, I'll work with them but, you know what, when I've gotta tell them 'No, you can't because you make too much money', I don't want to do that, because it shouldn't be about how much money he makes, it should be what are you doing about his problem. You know, it thanks to the Army, I became a damn drug addict, Okay, for what happened to me. Thanks to that, you know, I blame the Army, I never did drugs until I went in the Army. You mean, I'm sorry thinks happened the way they did, I don't begrudge it, but you know what, when you get, excuse my French ladies, when you get raped by your drill sergeants you know, I never asked for that then, I went into the service as a man and came out a woman, I couldn't defend myself. Now, I'm being judged because I make too much money. That's crazy, I don't understand that. Why are we judging anybody? Why don't we treat a Veteran as a Veteran? Treat them equal no matter what. You can't judge him because he makes more money. He's out there trying to get the money. It took me 38 years to get what I got, and now they want me to give some of it away so I can get a project-based program. I don't want to be in a project based, I want to be here, this is my home. I hope you guys do something about it, dude."

	Francisco Juarez: "Good afternoon, my name is Francisco Juarez, and I am an advocate for the HGBS coalition, these comments are for the record, the federal record. You folks are trying to formalize this disingenuousness. Last time you had us sequestered in another room because you were going to talk about the 450,000 sq ft wall and you arrested one of our outspoken advocates. The master plan you are working from is based upon an old settlement-settlement, that's proven, even the attorney that was party to it admits to it. Each one of you, know the merit of our challenge of this harmful polity that you're implementing but for some reason it appears you're all bought. The bottom line is, that you're gutting the deed restricted land use mandates that were permanently established in the deeds, not only for initial 300 acres but for the beachfront property in Santa Monica that was part of the vision, but you make no mention of in your plans. There's no Bruce's Beach precedent that falls into that. These deeds are still in force, the Hall of Records in Norwalk, you go out there and get the purple stamp on it. Those deeds are still enforced, and that based on what you're doing, is a crime. What is more criminal, is what's been happening to Veterans as you've been trying to implement, you're plan. What you're going to wind up doing is building a lot of buildings that are not for Veterans that are for UCLA and this and that, this land was not established for that. We told you that over and over again, we've asked you to engage us, and you refuse to do anything. Talk with us about the evidence we've unmasked, tell us where we are wrong, but you won't do it and until you do it, you're committing a crime. Thank you." John Oppenheim: "Thank you for having me here. Yesterday was my 82nd birthday and by all rights I should be in my backyard in Long Beach reading a book, I just can't ignore what is going on with my fellow Veterans who live in Century Villages at Cabrillo supportive housing, two of them are with me today. They've asked me to speak for them to relate their anger and outbreak both are seniors and one of them is a Purple Heart recipient for Vietnam. My goal today is to raise awareness and an alarm to someone in this room or at least in this audience with authority and a curious mind to believe what I say and make you angry enough to challenge us in person and spend time listening to those being served. Perfect quick statistic, about 60% of all Veterans in the United States are over 60 years of age an aging population, it's also a great myth that getting homeless Veterans off the streets and into supportive housing with wrap-around services piece…Are they getting the supportive services they need? I'm here to say an emphatic 'No', at least not CVC where I've been involved as a volunteer since 2014. In any 24-hour period, 350-400 Veterans live in permanent housing, and I can attest they are not receiving the care and support they need. In the years I've been a volunteer U.S. Vets Long Beach has gone through four executive directors. Their turnover rate is high and currently the lack of executive director and an onsite behavioral health director. Their staffing for seniors is new and they lack institutional knowledge this translates into underserved Veterans. Almost all of whom suffer from PTSD and senior issues. Many are lonely and isolated and stay in their rooms. One visitor I was showing around likened it to a ghetto. I've been in rooms that are just squalor, a lot of stress and anger that has spilled into a couple of murders, stabbings, and fights. Prostitution and drug use are prevalent among the residents. I'm sure U.S. Vets would challenge me on that statement. They would

	use their metrics to say, 'this isn't true, we have enough staff'. Bodies and jobs do not necessarily translate to good care. These Veterans are people, not numbers. There's a couple of examples; first of all, the closest grocery store is four miles away in downtown Long Beach and U.S. Vets owns a convenience store in Century Village, where finding fresh good is a joke. They have senior Veterans in walkers and wheelchairs that are expected to take a bus to the grocery store and come back with their supplies while U.S. Vets owns five vans, those are not for these Veterans. Food is another one, there is a dining hall that serves Veterans and other programs that allows anyone to purchase a meal, the cost is $12. All permanent supportive housing residents are expected to cook their own meals. Last September, U.S. Vets permanent supportive housing contract with the L.A. foodbank to provide food weekly, now a lot of donated food is out of date some is downright rancid. Again, U.S. Vets will deny this but residents with me today will testify I'm telling the truth. Another example is the lack of outreach by the VA, there is a CBOC on campus, but they don't do outreach, it was a build it and they with come model. In addition, the Century Villages Cabrillo model is being used to create a similar, but larger village here in West L.A. Both Century and U.S. Vets are taking the lead on this effort. Promises are being made and having something in place to ensure those promises are being met is critical. Today, I want to challenge the VA to take a new leadership role in the community and become an agent for change, you need to hold all agencies accountable and create teams that volunteer and staff outreach workers and peers to serve their community and also advocate for our senior Veterans who gave so much. I encourage you to come and hear for yourselves. Thank you." Alfred Areyan: "Good afternoon, thank you for the opportunity to be here. We speak on behalf of our fallen heroes and Gold Star mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters who have lost their lives to suicide, and mental health issues. The number is out of control. Homeless Veterans need your help, as you know it's been over three months since the master plan public meeting. We were all invited, but for some reason we were corralled in the corner over here while you all hung out together and enjoyed lunch together as we are all concerned about the issues of our Veterans. In saying that, um, I believe you violated our right by not allowing us to be a part of you beautiful people that we're all supposed to be working together but for some unknown reason, that day, that time we got robbed from being a part of our team effort to see results on this land that I consider our Veterans land that was donated in 1888. In saying that, uh, that, um, it's been four bills that Ted Lieu has passed in the 117 Congress session. I want to bring to your attention the bills that Congressman Ted Lieu submitted in or around seven months total for these four bills to be passed. In 2016, we submitted HR 5936, which was to remove all nonprofits for profits from our land and it was supposed to be removed by the court. The ninth court circuit submitted another bill introduced on 02022021, which is HR 711, the West L.A. Improvement Act 2021 on 5/18/2021 passage, that bill was passed in 106 days for all that to be submitted and passed. I don't know if it was passed by Congress, but it was passed. In the amendment by adding at the end, the following new sentence, 'notwithstanding section 8162 B two of such title, the term of such an enhancement use lease at the campus' and then, yet, 'it may not exceed 99 years'

	that was all in 106 days. Now, the PACT Act that John Tester, Schumer and McConnell on June 16th, 2022 the house passed an amendment 5051 § 704, 706, the house on March 2022 HR 711 passed 5/18/2021 PACT Act passed 3/2022 and saying that they added in that PACT Act a 99 year lease again on that bill in itself, which was the PACT Act it should have been for exposure to chemicals, but yet they added that 99 year lease to go ahead and add it on to the lease that was submitted in HR 711. You're saying that the total of both of them bills was passed in 10 months. Your big money donors, Brentwood School, let your legislative fraud die, John Tester, you overzealously attack with enhanced use lease giveaways. With so many of these we pay nearly $300 million a year to car for those who bore the battle I call out legislative frauds, taxpayers against disabled Veterans lives, dollars general welfare for the very broad state. Indeed, we are here to pass mandates generally caring for disabled Veterans prepared to bear the true cost of that long overdue caring. In saying that, we have an issue, we have a transitional housing issue that was basically over 135 years we have not seen much of an improvement in transitional housing in 2017 we have over 5,000 Veterans thriving on that land. Somewhere in 1972/73 when Brentwood and UCLA came into, the picture for some unknown reason things start falling apart and we must acknowledge the massive mess we have on that land. Negligence in transitional housing, a lot of talk, no action, no results, we're finally starting to see some progress in transitional housing, but we still got a big mess because there's a lot of things that are happening on this land that we need to look into you as our representatives should hold these people accountable for these illegal leases that are out here on this land. And these people are taking advantage of massive amount of misappropriation of funds and it's time that we look into this, and we need your help to help us to investigate the FOIA requests speaks for itself. We don't have to say, we didn't write it you wrote it, and we need to hold people accountable. Thank you." Lawrence Loughlin: "Good afternoon. My name is Lawrence Frances Loughlin. I'm an 87-year-old Veteran I am an Army retiree from the South Side of Chicago. I've been around the block a few times; the last time I spoke here I mentioned the beach front property that was also deeded for the benefit of Veterans but was claimed by the city of Santa Monica. I asked Dr. Braverman to take action to protect this property for the benefit of Veterans. Did he? No, it is up to the members of NHDVS coalition to fight for our Veterans land. They met with attorneys for the city of Santa Monica and of course, the city of Santa Monica is fighting to keep the property and income derived from it. So, I ask Dr. Braverman again, please take the necessary steps to secure the beachfront property for us Veterans. The NHDVS coalition will be happy to assist you. The beachfront property issue points out that to bifurcate the responsibility of medical care and land use. Dr. Braverman, presumably, has expertise in the field of medicine but what does he know about land use? I propose a Director of Land Use be established, a man or woman who will protect the Veterans use of the beachfront property so the guarantors wishes will be finally realized. Likewise, a land use czar will finally protect all 916 acres deeded in 1888 to be a national home for disabled Veteran soldiers the words on the deed. The West L.A VA land is unique back in 1888 families came together and deeded the land to the U.S. government to be a

	home for Veterans and the beachfront property to be a getaway from the home. Those are my words, as far as a getaway. So, how is it that the VA land now is only some 300 acres and occupied by Brentwood School, two UCLA baseball fields and an oil company, and more encroachments are on the drawing board. I can only speculate, incompetence, corruption, and skullduggery. Whoever heard of giving a 99-year leases for fixing up buildings that were left to fall into disrepair? The list is long, but one thing is constant, our Veterans are on the short end of the stick. The land was deeded only for the benefit of Veterans and no one else. I call for a congressional investigation to right all the wrongs and to set up a land use czar, who will evict Brentwood School, UCLA, and the oil company and run the place as the land granters intended. I wanted to give a shout out to my NHDVS coalition colleagues; Francisco Juarez, Ryan Thompson, who was unjustly arrested at one of these meetings, Robert Reynolds, Diego Garcia, and many more male and female Veteran supporters. We are truly a band of brothers and sisters." Rob Reynolds: "Some of the things that I really want to see happening around the property is, um, beds not going unused. Domiciliary continually has empty beds there is a continual waitlist of over a month for Veterans to get in there and they're always saying staffing issues, the same with CTRS, nearly 30 empty tiny homes, those things were going for $10,000 a piece, that's $300,000 of equipment sitting there not being used while Veterans get turned away. That should not happen. The VA should be the model, like the Secretary said, to ending Veteran homelessness, that's what should be happening, we should be setting a model for Los Angeles. When the mayor is declaring a state of emergency, there should not be any empty beds or any empty tiny homes, that needs to be fixed. That cannot happen, it should not happen. And when it comes to the housing, we need to get the, um, people coming down, like the HUD stand down event. Coming down and making sure, you know, these guys are getting all their paperwork together that there's follow through happening. So, I don't see that happening right at the moment. And I know there's stand down events where people get vouchers in the same day so I don't know why that can't be brought down to CTRS to help get these Veterans all their paperwork completed and get them into the housing. There's a lot of barriers and a lot of hoops that they have to jump through and get into this and I watch a lot of them, and they get really frustrated. And also, you know, again, you hear a lot of people talking about the land use, that is a big problem. And when the housing is continually delayed with things like a UCLA baseball stadium can go up with no problem. That is an issue. I also think, with the naming of the property, and then earlier we were talking about keeping it consistent with the history, the Pacific Branch Soldiers Home, I think that's really important to make sure the property's name is accurate because that's what it is, a soldier's home. And you really got to start doing things, you know, working with Veterans and making sure people are aware of projects that are going on in the property. For instance, the Purple Line Metro Train, the artist that was chosen. I mean, they guy had derogatory pictures, you had naked female Veterans, stuff about pornography in his artwork and that's something that we've been trying to deal with things like that shouldn't happen. There should be people watching what's going on in the property and there could be more engagement within the Veteran community. That was really eye opening

	to me, I couldn't even believe that, when we found out about the artist that was chosen to paint the mural on the train. And that's one of the things we're working with, we're trying to work with Metro about, is when people get off the train, they should see a 144' mural that depicts the 135-year history of this property. Veterans from every war, Veterans from every conflict since the Civil War have lived here and that's really important, that we keep up with what it is. The lands been taken advantage of and misappropriated for far too long and it's time that it gets fixed. I do see progress and people working together better than they have before and open dialogue communication, um, I wish we would see more from Congress and what I mean by that is Congressman Ted Lieu's office, the last three or four years since I've been here, I've never once seen him come down and have a Town Hall for anything. In fact, what he does is he avoids the Veterans and avoids answering any questions about legislation. He is one of the reasons why Brentwood School and UCLA are here. The UCLA baseball stadium was found to be illegal in court and then Ted Lieu can in and wrote into law allowing them to have a baseball field lease. What does that say about Ted Lieu and where his goals are and what he's actually looking to do? Is he here to help Veterans or just here to help illegal leases and people who can donate to his campaign or help him politically? Anyway, um, so, if everyone can continue working together, get some of these things fixed also the AMI. The AMI is a big one, you hear Devin talking about that, there are Veterans that are being told they've made too much money to get into housing, I think a lot of it comes with their 100% disability and also their service connection. So, the last VCOEB we were sure that was going to be taken care of, so, if we can get that fixed before the housing opens, that would be great. Thank you." Preston Scott: "Thank you. My name is Preston Scott…I'm 65 years old and I suffer from Military Sexual Trauma (MST). I went in the military to grow my life and become a better man in 1979. I was sexually assaulted by my Drill Sergeant who told me no body would believe me because he was a sergeant, and I was a nigger. And I've been dealing with that trauma using drugs, I've been in and out of prison eight times, arrested 50 more times because of my drug use and I've had a stroke. The trauma is I've been hating the system hating the way VA treats us and most importantly where you want to send us to live. I'm 100% service connected because of my trauma but I lived on 30th and Normandy around gangs, every time I come out of my unit surrounded by take all by you or somebody being killed. And they think Veterans we get money 100% money we get is not no income when you live around a bunch of poor people, drug addicts, in a drug infested neighborhood run by gangs it just not safe for them. And here you all have housing here for Veterans and you all say we make too much money to live there, how dare you. We signed up to serve and we've been traumatized. You know I served eight years, even though I was sexually assaulted, and I still continued to serve to suppress what happened to me in the military. But now, I'm living in a CTRS tiny home which is so disgusting. It don't make no sense, we have to trek through mud to get to the showers and the restrooms, when they bring us our food, they throw it on the table like we dogs and animals. They put a container of potato salad on the table and people use their hands because we don't have any utensils to feed ourselves. And then they want to know why we

	act the way we act, why do we use drugs, why do we do what we do? Because look how we treated as Veterans we struggle with it, trauma, PTSD, we struggle with anger, hate, and a whole bunch of stuff. But we still Veterans, we still proud that we served. I'm a Black American Veteran, and I'm proud of that. And now, why do they have housing for Veterans when they say we can't us it? It don't make sense to me. And I tell you, right here as I speak, I would die in CTRS before I move to one of those neighborhoods where you know, you have to worry about coming out of your house, being knocked in the head for what little money you do have, you can't have nothing nice because being around poor people, if you dress nice or have a nice care they gonna take it from you. It's sad how we treated, it don't make no sense, and not only that, the money they have for homeless Veterans we're not seeing none of it. The vouchers that we get, they give us garbage. They don't give us nothing nice, … and now you got people delivering our mail to us and now mail employees. You know, it's sad how we treated, nobody is organizing anything for us Veterans. But still I am standing her saying 'I am proud that I served', and I have a problem because I was sexually assaulted, and it damaged my whole life. But, you know, I stand here, a strong Black man, hoping that things will get better for all us Veterans every Veteran out there that's going through what they going through, we all need help, we all need counseling. We need somebody to stand up for us to help us become better men. We older men, I can't defend myself like I used to, if I get caught carrying a gun in Texas, I could get 15-years. You know, what am I supposed to do? I'm disabled, I'm homeless and I want to live up here where the housing is so precious. You know, you should be glad we have an income to pay to live somewhere. And how dare you guys say, 'we make too much money', I do not understand that. It's not fair, it's not right and I wish that somebody would hear what I'm trying to say you should be trying to do something about homeless Veterans who want to live on this community of Veterans that are here for us Veterans. And it's a nice community, it's in Westwood, who wouldn't want to live in Westwood, I haven't seen a helicopter, I haven't heard a gun fire, the only sound was the backfire of a car. But if you live in South Central it's devastating. They take advantage of Veterans. Why do you think they don't want to come out of their rooms? Why do you think they don't want to go nowhere? We are afraid, we live in fear, we should not have to live in fear when we have a place up here, we can live at. And I pray and I hope someone will do something about it. Thank you for letting me speak." Austin Harvill: "Good morning my name is Austin and I'm a seven-year Air Force Veteran I work for UCLA, and I cannot speak on behalf of UCLA. And I wanted to start by saying that a lot of the messages out here are really, impactful to me personally from my own experiences and I live with a disabled Veteran. But I wanted to share, hopefully, some good notes about what you say, we've been up to. I would say we do our best for the community that I know, uh, it's very critical of us. Certainly, something I wanted to bring up is that we have recently been at building 207, which has been opened up more than 50 units are opening up there at the VA, our Army ROTC cadets are providing move in kits, baskets, pots and pans, some sundries items and stuff like that for our vendors. We just did that the other day. So, just a quick footnote on that. We recently got our numbers back

	from the Veteran Legal Clinic in 2022 alone, has provided about $200,000 of returned money, whether in fines from traffic citations to renegotiated benefits and over or just around $800,000 in lifetime benefits for Veterans that came through, had questions about getting re-evaluated for VA benefits and our legal team to be able to help them accrue moving forward, a different rating so that $800,000 a day of the social security data for, you know, how the average life span of these populations. Another thing I wanted to mention while I was up here, was that we do still have our Veteran Family Wellbeing Clinic (VFWC) at building 20. I hear a lot of these issues in our community, and I think that there's a lot of value in having a wellbeing clinic that specifically caters to families of Veterans, not just the Veterans themselves, though if you are a single Veteran, you're still welcome come by and receive services. I don't have all the numbers on that, but I was there today, talking to our Air Force ROTC to try and get…more involved with our programming and again, and got briefed again by Tom Babion, our director, on all the great things they're doing. I wanted to reaffirm that is something we are up to. We recently had a lot of success with our Success Academy UCLA extension. We started a new kind of partnership with UCLA extension they do a lot of certificate programs for the community that's outside of just the baccalaureate or other kind of standard college classes. We asked Veterans, 'Hey, what can we do?' They offered these success academies, we did our first before COVID the pandemic happening, and now we're offering more of these academies and every time we offer one, they get booked up, so we have another cohort coming through and we're talking with UCLA extension and try to get more cohorts for this program. But that's what the Academy does, it basically teaches communication skills, resume building skills and things like that. But more importantly, you get people from the community employers to come out and see and talk about, 'hey, this is what I want to see as an employer on a resume', this is how I think you should communicate differently. It's not just, you know, coming around and saying this is what the study's saying. So, it's really valuable stuff. We projected to get things from them, and we're excited to continue doing that program. Finally, we are going to be having a new website, and I'll be writing a newsletter for the UCLA Veterans Initiative and Partnerships which is kind of our overarching entity that is directly under the office of the chancellor that covers and can get you, whoever you may be, to any of our resources, UCLA for Veterans. Our office exists, and we're building a new website, it'll have some calendar functionality to talk about events so we can amplify other community members so if there's an event you want to do or want to support that is shared with our community. There's a lot I could talk about but really, I just wanted to come here and say that UCLA, we're not just this university and baseball stadium, we have a team of six very dedicated people, three of them are Veterans themselves. We're here to try to bridge these gaps because we know they exist, um, but also for the board, we're here to remind you guys we are still here, we're still listening if there's something that we can do differently we'd like to it different, we have the ability to do it differently, we just need to know. Thank you so much." Dan Ortiz: "Hey VA there's an issue with Metro going on, why not statement? This is our land, you're the caretakers of it. They are making up their own names for

	the station, choosing their own art to decorate our land, I get it, it's not your issue, but it's our land. Shouldn't you have a say in what goes int the station? Um, come on, Westwood station? Westwood is all the way on the other side of the cemetery. Sounds like carpet baggers to L.A. naming our locations never setting foot in the area. Read a map, Metro. It would sure feel good to know that our caretakers, that's you VA, were concerned about our local issues as well and it's not like this is off your property. Aren't you guys paying attention? Who's at the helm over there? This issue is quite right now, and we have tried to reason with Metro, but they lie and think they won't get caught. Stick to the issue Metro, don't side-step us by throwing the Veteran's Legacy Art Project at us, apples, and oranges. Now, thank you for the $361 million, that's a good start. I support having healthcare to the south of Wilshire community to the North. Kudos, on the additional cemetery space on the West side of the 405 freeway. I contemplate my own demise and where I will be buried. As an L.A. native, I hope I can be honored with a burial in my homeland. Just as a final reminder here, we're currently on the 32nd anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, the last conventional war our nation fought. I recall coming back to yellow ribbons and flags everywhere a real warrior's welcome, but it seems we've been forgotten. Laws passed now are being for post 911 Veterans, come on, help all Vets. Thank you for your time." David Echavarria: "I'm David E., I've been here a couple of times before. I'm a Veterans advocate I've been on some Veterans groups and other social groups, you know, and I've been thinking, I guess Mr. Austin left, and I wish he was here because I don't need to call him out because he mentioned it, he said it was, oh there you are, you were nervous about being up here, you were afraid, well brother you know the reason you were afraid is because you know somehow you're on the wrong side of the issue. You guys yes, you're right to us, you see how you are? Yes UCLA, a big university the baseball field that shouldn't be here. And everything I've heard since I've been here, you guys came up with the Wellbeing Center, you want to take care of Veterans and their families. That's cool. That's great. You know what? Take care of Veterans, and I think about it everyday I'm here. I heard my brother Preston and my brother Devin. I'm not trying to call you guys out in a bad way bro, but for them to get up here, tell you why they're here or what they experienced that brought them here I didn't know that until recently, so, the fact that I'm advocating for him and then I find this out, just by him, try to, you know, share their stories, it's shameful and it makes me think too, How many Veterans got a bad paper? I've seen it here. They're put out, all the way a raw deal. You know, one thing leads to another that spider with a social spiderweb. Well, I'm in the Army, went to combat, I self-medicate because if I get healthcare for issues, I'm weak. I'm not a hero like I'm supposed to be. You get in trouble put out with a bad paper, come here, you can't get nothing. You know, whatever, it happens that way. I'm actually surprised that nobody tried to put them out back in the day. You know, because no one would believe you, and as a drill instructor myself we could easily just put you out and not accept section 8 before today, right? Just crazy stuff. And yet, my buddy…talked about unoccupied beds because there's the shortage of staff or is that maximum? And when you tell people that it makes you like there's no more beds. But I'm asking because you're not hiring anybody. That's crazy, we got to take care of Vets. Vets

	take care of this country. Vets have made it so we can talk about this stuff openly. And then we go look at what's being built for us, it's really not great, it's not bad either, but you go look at closets and there's posts in the middle of the closets, they take up 1/3 of the closet for some of these apartments. And some of these apartments are no bigger than what they are living in right now, are these supposed to be their homes, and then they can't afford it because the way the laws are written, because these buildings are financed, that's beyond crazy, see, because we're not taking care of Veterans, again we're the afterthought. You know, we put their sheds up a couple of years ago. Right? Well, in fact, you know, like, we're not doing too bad because on that 90-day program when we started November 2021, right, 90-days from November 1st pretty much, they're supposed to be gone, and there was only, what, two dozen tiny homes. Now, there's almost, well, quite a few, right? You know, quite a few more to come in because…some for admin. At $10,000 a unit, 30 units, you know, however, 300, right? Not only unoccupied beds, but the bigger problem, unoccupied land. We have everything we need here, except the interest to take care of Veterans. I look around and see many here are Veterans why, why are we not taking care of the Veterans? But you know what? If we don't do it now, it's going to get worse. We're still coming off of 20-years in Iran and Afghanistan. And my comrade Brett, you said too, I'm in that age turned 60 a couple of years ago and I hope not to get like, where I need whatever, but if I need it, it's got to be here. I didn't ever think about it the time I was in, in fact, the day I had my evaluation I almost didn't come because I was tired of everything. And if that's what you want to do to Veterans, that's what's going to happen. If it's true that Veterans have given, some have given all and we thought we did something for this country, what did the country do for Veterans? Thank you." Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper: Thanked the Public for their comments.
Community Engagement & Reintegration Service (CERS) Leadership update	**Sally Hammitt, Chief of CERS** Introduced herself… • Important not to have fractured relationships not just within the hospitals but to ensure they are not siloed within the community. • Acknowledge the impact of staffing changes. • Goal: to ensure she continues to work with leadership, embracing the talent of the existing staff and strengthening those relationships not just internally but with the community as well to ensure success and stability and forward progress. CERS Reorganization to ensure the following is prioritized: • Outreach • Access • Accountability • Collaborative & coordinated efforts

	Restructuring these programs in a strategic way, meeting the Veterans where they are and prioritizing. More collaborative effort (coordinated entry, Veterans outreach program, street outreach, CRC, GPD, contract residential housing).
	• What is not changing is the mission of CERS.
	
	"To empower Veterans to recover and effectively reintegrate back into their communities through dedicated recovery-oriented health services, community partnerships, and a Housing First approach to homelessness; providing Veterans with the resources they want and need to be successful"
	
	• Guiding Principles:
	  ○ Teamwork
	  ○ Quality
	  ○ Open & Proactive Communication
	  ○ Continuous Improvement
	  ○ Follow Through
	  ○ Hard work
	
	• CERS All Employee Survey (AES) top priorities:
	  ○ Workload – supporting reasonable workloads.
	  ○ Growth – they want to learn and be innovative.
	  ○ Communication – critical in being in lockstep with leadership messaging.
	  ○ Accountability – ensuring they are accountable not just in performance but in conduct as well.
	
	• Current State CARP Demographic Data – Veterans enrolled in a VA specialized homeless program (excludes SSVF), serving Veterans in a way that meets their needs.
	  ○ Total Veterans = 6,847
	  ➢ Female = 580 (8.5%)
	  ➢ Male = 6,251 (91.3%)
	  ➢ Transgender Female to Male = 3
	  ➢ Transgender Male to Female = 10
	• Race – disproportionate racial and ethnic differences between the U.S. population and the population experiencing homelessness.
	• Ethnicity – Hispanic, Latino and Latin X are also disproportionately represented in the U.S. population and experiencing homelessness.
	• Age – importance of the organization being cognizant of the needs of our aging Veterans.
	• Substance Use Disorders – the reason for homelessness is not because of drugs, alcohol, and mental health but because of the shortage of affordable housing.
	• Mental Health & Co-Occurring Disorders – tailoring those services with clinician so they can meet the Veterans where they are at with that housing first model and harm reduction.

	• Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team – we have more room on the HPAC team panels to bring in more patients.
	  ○ CAN scores designed to predict hospitalization and mortality – only Vets assigned to a PAC panel are assigned these scores.
	  ○ NOSI Risk Scores (cost) in VA patients so researchers can adjust when making comparison with treatment and outcomes.
	• Major Health Problems among Vets Exiting SSVF
	  ○ Only data from FY 21 that still exceeds pre-COVID numbers.
	  ○ SSVF was able to put the Veteran up in hotels and as they exited those hotels into permanent housing, they no longer tracked those numbers, so, some of the decrease may be attributed to that.
	• SSVF Veterans Age and Disability Trends – 2012 through 2021 increase in aging population and disability.
	• Ensuring Resources to meet needs –
	  ○ HPACT,
	  ○ Telehealth,
	  ○ Group visits,
	  ○ Medical Mobile Unit,
	  ○ Individualized Treatment Plans,
	  ○ Healthcare Navigators,
	  ○ Partnerships for social enrichment activities.
	Currently, working on a hybrid model bringing in contract staff to meet the needs.
	• HUD-VASH/GEC Collaboration Pilot
	  ○ Three Community Residential Centers (CRC) identified
	  ○ CRCs provided a breakdown of their room & board fee vs. care fees
	  ○ Goal – Identify Veterans in VASH to transition to Assisted Living
	  ○ Week of 2/13/23 LACDA will visit CRCs
	  ○ Determination of Congregate vs. Group Home
	  ○ Once setting type is determined and formal inspections are completed, L.A. County Development Authority's (LACDA) compliance team will assist with payment determination
	  ○ Anticipated to transition first Veteran by April 2023
	• Colma Veteran Village in San Francisco lessons and best practices.
	• Tahanan San Francisco – modular building, they were able to do this project less expensive, not a VA project but focused on the mental health and safety needs.
	• 250 Kearney St/Stanford Hotel San Francisco – one of the largest project-based permanent supportive housing sites in San Francisco.
	• Harm Reduction Vending Machines – Narcan, safe syringe, etc. The whole idea is that "your life matters."
	• Lessons Learned from San Francisco Staff
	  ○ Building rapport, trust, and therapeutic relationships critical
	  ○ Focus on mutual investment and Veteran choice
	  ○ Ensuring collaborative partnerships to ensure socialization and a sense of community/belonging

	○ Flexibility ensures success ○ Onsite nursing/medical care was critical to their operations and helped with both access to and quality of health care, as well as overall housing and health stability. Dr. Braverman: HUD-VASH/GEC Collaboration Pilot – Collaborative effort with VCOEB, VA GLA, LACDA and the community to ensure that there were no gaps in care as people wait to go into homeless housing, shelters, or nursing homes.
Community Impact Analytics Dashboard Updates	**Andrew Strain, Program Manager, Office of Strategic Facility & Master Planning** • Reviewed the VA Greater Los Angeles website. ○ Individuals can subscribe to the GLA email distribution to get news and announcements. ○ Social media (twitter, Facebook) they post a lot of updates, especially around the homeless program. ○ All health services available in the GLA healthcare system can be viewed from the Health Services button. • New CERS website Homeless Veteran Care explains different components offered by the homeless programs. ○ New initiative around the call center for temporary housing to get connected to immediate shelter access. ○ Temporary housing contact list that links to Power BI dashboard which goes each program offered through GPD where there are potentially available beds. ○ HUD-VASH FAQs – listing site working with LAHSA for project-based voucher buildings that are available with vacancies. ○ SSVF link to the main SSVF website information and coverage map with the different SSVF contractors covering different areas within Los Angeles County. ○ Information on Veteran employment program. ○ Information on the Veteran Justice Outreach program. ○ There is a direct link to the dashboard, power BI resource that updates monthly. ▪ Permanent Housing Placement progress, ▪ By-Name-List work in progress, ▪ By area breakdown, ▪ Voucher Utilization, ▪ Currently, working on the HUD-VASH pie chart to not only show vacancies but also in-process referrals, ▪ Staffing information, ▪ WLA campus Bed Capacity Report, ▪ Information received on residential care facilities, ▪ Information from the public housing authorities. ○ This dashboard compliments the listing of services on this website.

	• Mr. Boerstler comment/question: The employment information mentioned on the website, is that part of a service offering internal to the homeless programming? Or is it a partnership with something like a regional office?
	
	  o Mr. Strain response: Technically it comes under the mental health department but works closely with CERS.
	
	• Mr. Boylan comment/question: Who updates the website with the available housing? Is it local staff, LAHSA, individual sites? How often are the units available updated?
	  o Mr. Strain response: The "last updated" appears at the bottom of the map on the site, the VASH project-based voucher team manages all this data and sends out regular email blasts to partners and staff about unit availability.
	
	• Mr. Boylan comment/question: Is there a public facing website detailing this information? Is the information being gathered accurate?
	  o Mr. Strain's response: It does not have an individual unit breakdown but will indicate that a particular building has vacancies.
	
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper comment/question: Is this power BI gov.us, is that the dashboard website?
	  o Mr. Strain's response: Yes, that will link to the website. He will send Eugene the steps on how to navigate the website that might be helpful.
	
	  o Dr. Harris said work continues developing a Veteran Coordinated Entry Program, it uses our Resource Management System (RMS) through LAHSA, there are people whose role is to keep that information continually updated because this is how the mapping will be done with Veterans coming into the system to maps them to the appropriate resources. That system is still moving and nearly developed but that data will be available, not sure about a public facing version, but if someone wanted the data, they would have the capacity to provide.

Acting Deputy Medical Center Director, VA GLA HCS	**John Kuhn, Acting Deputy Medical Center Director, VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System** 1. Implementation and initial results for the temporary housing call center 2. Update on EUL referral process 3. Progress on permanent housing **CERS initiatives** • Same day access phone number, (310) 268-3350, for temporary housing is active. Most homeless Veterans are unsheltered which may mean that they are not engaged in services. They must engage these Veterans to make sure they are safe.

- Housing Choice form for Veterans to indicate preference and streamline a match to permanent housing. Individual preferences and services specific to that Veteran.
- Expanded use of 4201 funds to support emergency assistance, increasing from $10,000 in FY 22 to over $7 million in FY 23.
- Expand contracting for HUD-VASH, CTRS operations. Engaging community providers – contract providers to bring in more skill sets … hybrid model to strengthen our service delivery approach.
- SSVF/HUD-VASH partnership agreement executed December 6, 2022 – *One Team*.
    - HUD VASH/SSVF partnership – SSVF strength in housing navigation and placement the front end to include housing while waiting for voucher process…once the Veteran is in housing HUD-VASH will take over…potential for a national program like this.
- Expand Capacity
    - Moving 22 of 47 PBV (Project Based Vouchers) to contract services.
    - Contract for housing match services – ensure criteria and services match Veteran's needs. More efficient, less frustration for Veterans.
        - Improve efficiency of process that links Veterans to available housing.
    - Revise housing navigation contract.
        - Meeting with Brilliant Corners for input.
        - Exploring use of master leasing.

- Dr. Bamberger comment/question: How are you balancing Veteran choice with consequences if they don't take the choice offered? Are you doing anything to maintain a sense of community?
    - Mr. Kuhn's response: They are training with Housing First creating a new model with how to engage the homeless population they are training staff to ensure their work that their level is consistent with evidence-based practices. They may not have the consequences issue resolved; this is a work in progress:
        - They hear the choices but if a Veteran turns down the housing choice, in L.A. County, they move to the "back of the line", they may not be able to stay in a hotel indefinitely.
        - Individuals signed an agreement coming in that they have 60-days, this will also be happening with CTRS as well, that they must engage in a housing plan, and they must be co-enrolled in SSVF.
        - This is all with the goal of moving people from temporary housing into permanent housing while also trying to maintain that social connection.
- Dr. Bamberger comment/question: A good PR campaign to ensure that everyone knows the rules and it is consistently being administered.

Availability of Permanent Housing

- 1301 permanent housing placements in 2022

	o 40% higher than second highest VA Las Vegas at 894 o California second most expensive housing market after Hawaii • 19 new Veteran PBV projects in 2023, creating 576 new housing units to already existing 1,328 units • In 2021, average wait time, 166 days from admission to housed. In 2022, it was 78 days, a reduction of 47%. **Utilization of Housing Resources** o 1,328 existing PBV units with 1,116 occupied (84%) ▪ 146 active referrals for the 212 vacancies o 7,840 vouchers allocated with 5,212 in use (66%) ▪ Addressing landlord reluctance with the addition of SSVF housing navigators and landlord incentives ▪ Improve efficiency with contract for housing matchers who link Veterans to vacant units ▪ Working with Sam Tsemberis to train existing HUD-VASH navigation contractors • Dr. Bamberger comment/question: Have you tried triangular leases? Where the lease is between the landlord and a professional organization and the Veteran has a lease or a relationship to the professional organization, but not the landlord so that the risk to the landlord is shared with the professional organization. o Mr. Kuhn's question: Is that separate from Master Leasing? o Dr. Bamberger's response: It's not a master least because you're not guaranteeing that you will rent that unit indefinitely, but the landlord's relationship is not directly with the tenant. o Mr. Kuhn's response: That will depend on the legal opinion and in some ways, it is the same issue with master leasing, but it is a great idea. • Dr. Bamberger comment/question: Brilliant Corners does this with the county health department. The county health department has control of the vouchers, and they hand them over to Brilliant Corners, the legal relationship is with the individual and Brilliant Corners. o Mr. Kuhn: For benchmarking CA EHV Utilization, tenant-based vouchers are the closest equivalent in HUD is the Emergency Hazard Voucher (EHV). The EHV is designed to serve homeless and at-risk persons, which is a broader category than HUD-VASH homeless persons. **CA EHV utilization** • HACLA utilization is 30.88% • GLA 61% • everyone is facing the same challenges trying to identify landlords in this market and a very little vacancy rate • This data is located on the Public Indian Housing website, but it is national data. **Augmenting EUL Referrals**

- Open houses not possible in 205/7/8 as developers could not host an event as buildings are still under construction.
- Bringing "open house" to Veterans on campus
    - January 23 at Domiciliary, 18 referrals
    - January 24 at A Bridge Home, 16 referrals
    - February 8 at New Directions, 23 referrals
- On December 23, 6,574 Veterans homeless or at-risk Veterans targeted with robocalls. Repeated January 6th.
- Live follow-up calls with most recent and active on BNL
    - 616 contacted

EUL Referral Results

- 87 referrals to 207 and 13 acceptances
    - 18 pending 3rd party verification
    - 16 Veterans declined, 8 denied acceptance (5 over income)
    - Unicorn required: 30% AMI, 62+ age, 26 units SMI only (12 must also be chronically homeless)
- 187 referrals to 205/8, acceptances on hold
    - 3 denials
    - Set Up holding off on paperwork so it won't expire before first Veterans move-in, likely not until April.
    - Believes sufficient referrals now available to fill building

- Dr. Bamberger comment/question: How many referrals are coming from on campus?
    - Mr. Kuhn's response: He did not have the breakdown numbers, but they prioritize those on campus.

CTRS Update

- Operations contract awarded January 27th will allow staff to cover areas such as food service for example.
- Trying to avoid temporary details of staff, this was only to fill a short-term need. Retention bonus approved to support staffing levels.
- New showers and bathrooms
- Approved for dental services
- Added RT services
- Roadway paving (Feb 13)
- Planning outdoor kitchen, food contract, security cameras

Call Center Volume

From - To	Total
12/16/2022-12/22/2022	11
12/23/2022-12/29/2022	25
12/20/2022-01/05/2023	26
01/06/2023-01/12/2023	29
01/13/2023-01/19/2023	30
01/20/2023-01/26/2023	22
01/27/2023-02/02/2023	25
TOTAL	168

	• Unsheltered numbers are difficult to count…inconsistencies with general unsheltered and unsheltered Veteran population.
	
	Disposition
	• Of 168 calls they were able to place 70 Veterans.
	• Many people have called for things other than housing, (e.g., information, etc.).
	• There may be a time where they will expand this call centers focus, but at this time they are focusing on the temporary housing base.
	
	Temporary Placement Locations
	• Between 12/16/2022 – 01/26/2023
	  ○ Total off campus = 46
	  ○ Total on campus = 15
	  ○ Total Hotel/Motel = 9
	
	• Contract agreement with the Veterans that they can staff in temporary shelters for no more that 60-days, they commit to housing plan to avoid going over that 60-day limit.
	
	• Dr. Bamberger comment/question: Can SSVF master lease hotels as a non-congregate shelter? That is what they do at Room Key.
	  ○ Mr. Kuhn's response: The funding must follow the Veteran. It cannot go to a building.
	
	Prevention
	• State of Homelessness 2022, LAHSA reports that everyday 207 homeless people are re-housed
	  ○ Also, 227 fall into homelessness everyday
	• Prevention is integral to any solution – GLA completed first round of Rapid Resolution training on February 7 & 8 with 100 participants drawn from GLA and SSVF staff.
	• The PIT count is a snapshot, we can place Veterans but there needs to be a substantial investment in prevention. One area of untapped housing is friends and family, they cannot build their way out of this, what they can do is re-connect Veterans to friends and family. There may be a need for specific method of conflict resolution, there may also be the need for financial assistance to families for housing Veterans, or the family is also getting section 8 housing so the current HUD policy would not allow for the Veteran to stay permanently. They are currently having conversations with HUD regarding that.
	• Mr. Mangano comment/question: What is the end number of Veterans you are using? What is the geography you are using?
	  ○ Mr. Kuhn's response: The L.A county area is the focus area.
	  ○ Mr. Mangano comment/question: Do you have a number to determine the magnitude of the problem to help with what resources may be needed?

	○ Mr. Kuhn's response: It is an issue of concern because he believes the PIT count is off. He has engaged in conversations with the people at USC, he believes there are ways to get to a more accurate number possible using the tool Squares which is an online system that would streamline the data. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: With the Governor creating thousands of units through Home Key, perhaps taking advantage of that, the county, and the city, that would be an opportunity to create more affordable housing that is affordable to the poorest. In San Bernadino County they used the PIT count to do PIT Plus, they targeted the different subpopulations, once they were identified as Veterans, they were issued a HUD VASH voucher which helps with the utilization rate but also gave a certain urgency for creating that transaction it gave some tangible, reliable activity outside of the PIT count. ○ Mr. Kuhn's response: He had suggested this to LAHSA, but they were clear that the PIT count is no interaction with the Veteran. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: Even the untrained people in San Bernadino County have pulled this off. So, it is possible in L.A. It is a great idea moving out to the community organizations because of the social capital they bring to the lives of the Veterans they interact with, as most homeless do not have social capital. The degree that you are now transitioning into utilizing more community organizations it will be beneficial to the stability of those lives. • Mr. Perley comment/question: As a Developer he had a bad experience with the HUD VASH voucher because they did not have the service providers available, they can provide the units, however, they are not social workers and cannot provide the services that are needed. They had so many problems they end up selling the building. It may work better with Veterans that need less acuity. ○ Mr. Kuhn's response: Our landlords are customers and if we are not responsive to what they are capable of providing where they are able to support us then we are not doing a good job of being supportive. • Mr. Boylan comment/question: Individuals that are not VA eligible, how do they access the coordinated entry system in L.A.? ○ Mr. Kuhn's response: Legislation has opened the capacity to serve all Veterans, vast majority can get HUD VASH and SSVF. Coordinated entry there is a system called Dynamic Prioritization they pick the Veterans with the highest acuity level to get housed first, the rest wait. VA does not need to do that; VA can house everyone because they have the resources. • Mr. Boylan comment/question: With the training, please ensure they go through all the Housing First information.

	• Mr. Zenner comment/question: Hiring Veterans to do the work increases the social capital they were discussing earlier. Veterans not only lend their professional networks but also their personal and social networks.
	
	  ○ Mr. Kuhn's response: Veterans are able to immediately connect on a military experience.
	
	• Mr. Zenner comment/question: Veterans Suicide Review Team in partnership with Dr. Fisher V22 team, they are doing surveillance over a dozen county departments and VA medical centers looking at every suicide in L.A. County, looking at trends, and allocating resources to prevent Veteran suicides.
	  ○ COS Bradsher comment/question: National guard if they served title 10 the VA can take care of them. May 11th is the end of the National Emergency funding. She also requested a white paper on the master lease.
	
	Mr. Kuhn: Incredible dedication of the staff the level of work they put out every day is amazing.
	
	Ms. Bravo comment/question: For those "Unicorns", since they are rare, at what point do you fill that room vice leaving it empty?
	
	Mr. Kuhn's response: The way the funding streams are set up the developers need to commit to a specific group…they jump through all these loops…to fund the project.
	
	COS Bradsher: They wrote and spoke to the Governor to get flexibility with AMI…they are hopeful for change.
	Ms. Bravo: Regarding staffing issues have they tried using other MSW programs locally in the area bringing in those students as interns?
	
	Ms. Hammitt: They are doing that; they have 36 available slots for interns those are funded stipends through the national office. They have 11 affiliates and are trying to expand that.

OAEM/Veterans Collective	**OAEM/Veterans Collective** **Tyler Monroe, Teresa Banko, Oscar Alvarado** Mr. Monroe: Project updates: • Unicorn units that exist in 207 that have that 30% AMI • The State of California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee, and the County of L.A has approved half of those units to go up to 60% AMI…so they can serve a broader number of Veterans.

	• The City of L.A. has put a transmittal through, regarding the 60% AMI, to the Mayor for the Mayor's office to sign off on and going forward to the city council in the coming weeks.
	• Building 207 completed.
	  ○ New 60-unit senior Veteran housing age 62+.
	  ○ Temporary certificate of occupancy received.
	  ○ Another month of inspections with the county to make sure they were eligible for the PBF vouchers.
	  ○ Finishing touches on the project.
	
	Ms. Banko: Outreach effort updates:
	• VA HUD-VASH providing referrals from County By Name List (BNL), SSVF providers, GPD Social Work, County Peer Support and VA transitional housing (e.g., CTRS, New Directions, A Bridge Home, etc.).
	• County Department of Mental Health and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority providing referrals as well.
	• VA hosted housing fairs to facilitate Veteran access to West L.A. VA North Campus Buildings 205, 207, and 208. VA HUD-VASH screeners, SSVF, TSA, and Step-Up Property Management, and U.S. Vets in attendance.
	• U.S. Vets reaching out to Veterans, service providers, and programs.
	
	• They are currently looking through Veteran cases that now reside with the programs to identify SMI Veterans specifically for those units. They are getting the word out and networking in order to fill those units and information on how to access those units and how to refer Veterans.
	
	Mr. Monroe: Lease Up update:
	• Building 207:
	  ○ 82 referrals,
	  ○ six have moved in,
	  ○ four more by the end of the week,
	  ○ seven pending final approval by the County of L.A.,
	  ○ 24 are being interviewed or are part of the qualification process,
	  ○ five have been scheduled for interviews,
	  ○ 13 have been contacted for eligibility interviews,
	  ○ 16 declined housing opportunities,
	  ○ for those that have been nonresponsive or those that are not eligible, they have been referred to Step Up for other housing programs within the community.
	  ○ no one is being turned away, they are collaborating with the Step-Up team and VA team to ensure that is happening.
	  ○ of the 82 referrals only six were over the 30% AMI income and of the six, only three were over income because of service-connected disability.
	• Dr. Bamberger comment/question: If someone has 100% disabled payments where are they in the average median income in Los Angeles County?

	○ Dr. Braverman's response: 100% they are between $50,000-$60,000…over 62 they may also be receiving social security…everywhere else in the system the more disabled they are the more services they would be eligible for, so they need to also look at when they are receiving disability payments at 100%...make sure they are not declining someone if there is some chance that they can get in but may not meet the requirements. There was only three that were declined because they were over the AMI and that's because we are not referring them if we know they already are, so caution when looking at the numbers because the AMI issue is a problem. • Dr. Bamberger comment/question: Blended incomes regarding AMI, is that at play for 207? ○ Mr. Monroe's response: Today, it is at play they would need to go back to the state to update that. Income averaging, it's not as simple, they must predesignate when they apply and would have to go through this similar process and ask for other exceptions. It is certainly on the table for future projects on this campus. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: In the public comments, Veterans were saying they want to live on campus. For those that were declined is there a common thread and do you do research on that, why people are being declined so that could possibly be remedied in the future? ○ Ms. Banko's response: There is a portion of Veterans that do not want to live on the WLA campus and there is a portion that don't want congregate living so they want other options for living out in town and some have been subject to misinformation who don't understand that it is not something where they would have to check in and out or bed checks, etc. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: Were there declines once they visited the site? ○ Ms. Banko's response: Yes, some of the case managers are seeing Veterans onsite, there are some that have said "no, I know this is not really for me" and some are declining during the interview process as well. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: So, they don't want to congregate in a building that only have Veterans? Are there thoughts in terms of thinking about future developments that might remedy the number of declines we have? ○ Ms. Banko's response: There is no "one size fits all" with behavioral health care. Some people want the congregate situation living in a building with other Veterans and others want to be dispersed out in different housing options in the community. ○ Mr. Mangano's response: This is not what they have heard in the public comments, so something needs to be remedied on that front.

	• Mr. VanDiver comment/question: Made the suggestion that the VA require a question as to why people are declining these units? And what would it take to speed up the movement? Is the bottleneck the county?
	
	  ○ Mr. Monroe's response: It is a circuitous path that the tenant selection process goes through.
	• Mr. Vandiver comment/question: The process is so complex…who is responsible for streamlining this?
	  ○ Mr. Monroe's response: It would have to be LACDA who is contributing the HUD vouchers for their housing authority, they would have to accept the VA and the property management files…It is hard copy paperwork that gets filled out and then there is also a lot of collecting the documentation because of the fair housing rules and everything else that goes on.
	• Mr. Vandiver comment/question: Who is the ultimate owner? Who can say this needs to be streamlined? Is that LACDA?
	  ○ Mr. Monroe's response: Someone would need to convince LACDA that they would not need to look.
	• Mr. Vandiver comment/question: I think it would be the government, is that something we can ask the counties? Let them know we have a population that we know about that the current process is causing more hurdles for them.
	  ○ Dr. Harris' response: We would need to be the convener of that conversation. There is a meeting with LACDA field office and Central office both from the homeless program and headquarters so we can put streamlining the process on the agenda for that meeting.
	• Mr. VanDiver comment/question: Can someone from our board be present to represent this idea?
	  ○ COS Bradsher's response: You can submit the recommendation tomorrow and put all that together and then we can go from there.
	• Dr. Bamberger comment/question: We have one housing provider in San Francisco who will; sign the lease, do all the paperwork, and move them in, all on the same day.
	  ○ Ms. Banko: It has been an "all hands-on deck" effort working with the current system. There have been innovations like the Housing Choice Form which has helped streamline the process where the Veterans are coming from, what their housing choices are, helping them get to the appropriate buildings and ensuring that those who are referring Veterans have them complete paperwork as they're submitting them, that has been part of the efforts that have been put forward to get Veterans into housing faster.
	• Mr. Zenner comment/question: We need to address the AMI. County resolution to bring county departments reach out to our partners CalVet and VA to see where the barriers are and come up with

	recommendations, so there are multiple things going on to streamline the process.
	• Mr. VanDiver comment/question: We've been discussing streamlining the process since 2015.
	
	  ○ COS Bradsher's response: Ribbon cutting is not until the 27th, right now we are working on moving Veterans in there to work out the kinks and to get stuff done. We're moving in the building that is available to us, the goal is to minimize the impact on the Veteran the staff is working behind the scenes which is transparent to the Veteran. They are learning as they go and are going to improve along the way. Ultimately getting faster and better as they go through the process.
	• Mr. VanDiver: It's less about now but more about the whole picture. Everyone must go through the same process so the attention that is placed on this now and the continuous efforts of the VA to show this best in country model will help nudge along local and state government processes. Let's use this as an opportunity to make this faster, smarter, better
	  ○ COS Bradsher: They are using this momentum to get folks talking and having conversations locally and nationally.
	• Mr. Begland: Take the time to find the right people to live in these residents, focus on screening Veterans and assembling a group of people who with living together will benefit from that communal experience. Don't let any commercial expectations about how properties ought to be leased up get in the way of that vision.
	• Mr. Monroe: We all want this to be an incredible success and doing everything together with the VA, our colleagues to make that happen.
	• Mr. Begland: You find people that are qualified but if they are not the right fit for the residences, use your professional judgement, you need to assemble a communal living environment where everyone would be better.
	  ○ Ms. Banko: HUD VASH governs the fair housing practices, much attention to the mix of Veterans and how they fit, sense of community and belonging.
	Services Plan – building 207
	• U.S. VETS executed 207 HUD-VASH contract
	• U.S. VETS currently hiring for staff positions
	• U.S. VETS will provide:
	  ○ HUD-VASH case management services
	  ○ Transitional housing resources, peer navigation and outreach
	  ○ Specialized programming for women Veterans (e.g., Women Vets on Point)
	• Staffing Detail
	  ○ VA 207 Service Staff (4.86 FTE) – evening and on-call staff
	  ○ 0.5 FTE VASH Clinical Program Manager
	  ○ 1 FTE VASH Clinical/Team Supervisor

	○ 2 FTE VASH Case Managers ○ 1.36 FTE Veteran Service Coordinator (Peer Specialist) ○ Additional Campus-Wide hiring to include: ▪ Project Director (hired and fully funded) ▪ Director of Behavioral Health (in process) ▪ Outreach Coordinator (in process) ▪ Contract for Aging Services – currently with the state • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper comment/question: Is this service plan defined at other places that target 62+? ○ Mr. Monroe's response: This is greater than what they have done in the past, more resources into this that he's seen in conventional supportive housing. The VASH project is funding a lot as well as the project itself, very robust on resources. • Mr. Zenner comment/question: Did not see anything regarding medical staff…is there any further discussion on that? ○ Mr. Monroe's response: Conversations are ongoing not specific to 207, there's in play for building 300, which is across the street, to potentially have medical staff there and engage with the VA to have people come up to the building as needed from the medical center. • Mr. Zenner said he was worried about that piece specifically with the mental health and chronic illness even though it's on campus they're not going to walk there.
OAEM/SHANGRI-LA INDUSTRIES (SLI) (virtual)	**Aaron Criswell, Chief Housing Development Officer for Step-Up** **Nicole Jean, LCSW, Director of Veterans Services** **Joe Cowan Project Manager B205 and 208 – partner from SLI** • Mr. Criswell: SLI and Step-Up's Joint Mission – "SLI and Step Up's joint mission is to be at the forefront of change to deliver safe housing solutions coupled with compassionate support to help the most at-risk recover, stabilize, and integrate into their communities." Mr. Cowan: Updated on B205 and 208 • B205 – 68 units • B208 – 54 units • Total 122, one bedroom and studio apartments • Type – Rehabilitation • Target – Homeless and Chronically Homeless Veterans • Estimated substantial completion date is February 27th for B208 and March 9th for B205. The dates were pushed back from the original dates due to coordination with the local utilities current work taking place is primarily testing sections and any corrections from the inspections. Mr. Criswell: applicant processing and lease up activities are in full swing. **Lease Up/Move in Plan** • The VA provides referrals to 205 and 208 by sending the interest letters Veterans have completed. These letters indicate the preferred property for each Veteran.

	• Step-Up HUD-VASH teams accepts the interest letters. Referrals are vetted to confirm HUD-VASH enrollment of eligibility. • Once confirmed as HUD-VASH eligible or enrolled, referrals are sent to the Step-Up property management team. • Step-Up property management team then reaches out to the Veteran and their Social Worker through email, letters, or phone calls to set appointments. • Step-Up property management team meets with the Veteran and Social Worker to identify documents needed for lease-up and complete the housing application. • Concurrently, if the Veteran is identified as eligible for the property, the Step-Up HUD-VASH team begins work on the Housing Authority application. • Step-Up property management confirms files are complete and accurate through a compliance review. • Once the file is approved, the Veteran is accepted into the property. Files can be approved in 2-3 business days. • Once the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) for the properties is received, Step-Up will request the Housing Authority to perform Housing Quality Standard (HQS) inspections to approve all vacant units for move-in. • Once the Housing Authority and Property Management have approved an applicant, a move-in date will be set, and a lease will be executed. • Units are turn-key, fully furnished, and will be stocked with welcome home kits that allow for all the tenants' initial needs in permanent supportive housing. • Full occupancy for 205 and 208 is expected in three months after TCO. Ms. Jean: Reviewed the services provided, Step-Up is the HUD-VASH selected service provider for both B205 and 208. **Selected Services Provider – Step-Up** • Step-Up on Second, Inc. • Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation • 35 years of experience • 400+ employees • Service provider for 26 PSH properties • Individualized supportive services focus on long-term stability and housing retention at no cost to the tenant through the evidence-based practices of Housing First, Harm Reduction, and Trauma-Informed Care. • Individuals in Step-Up housing and support programs remain stably housed at a 97% retention rate after 12-months. **Step-Up VASH – Veterans Affairs Supportive Services Buildings 205/208** • Ending homelessness for Veterans through permanent supportive housing, vocational opportunities, and supportive services. • Building 205 and 208 will move 120 Veterans into permanent supportive housing on the West L.A. VA Campus. The VASH team helps Los Angeles Veterans move from the streets, shelters, and transitional housing into permanent supportive housing.

	• Provide Veterans with street outreach, engagement, help with benefits enrollment, and making appointments with the Los Angeles Housing Authority (PHA).
	• Once housed, the Step-Up VASH team then continues to provide supportive mental and physical health services and Life Skills programs for Veterans on-site on the West L.A. VA campus at building 205 and 208.
	Step-Up VASH – Veteran Affairs Supportive Services Buildings 205/208
	• Veterans who are appropriate candidates for this program demonstrate:
	  ○ The most need or vulnerability
	  ○ Must need case management services to obtain and sustain independent community housing
	• HUD-VASH targets:
	  ○ The homeless and chronically homeless Veteran
	  ○ Most vulnerable and often has severe mental or physical health problems or substance use disorders
	  ○ Frequent emergency room visits due to substance use disorder, multiple treatment attempts, and limited access to other social supports.
	Each Veteran is assigned a HUD-VASH case manager who meets regularly with the Veteran to secure and maintain housing. Case managers may connect these Veterans with support services such as health care, mental health treatment, and substance use counseling to help them in their recovery process and with their ability to maintain housing in the community.
	Details of the Services Plan
	• All Veterans moving into 205 and 208 will be assigned a Step-Up HUD-VASH Case Manager who will meet regularly with the Veteran, providing case management and mental health services.
	• 1:25 ratio of trained and credentialed HUD-VASH supportive services staff to tenants.
	• Services are provided on-site, in units and communal spaces Monday-Friday 8am-5pm and on-call after-hours.
	• The HUD-VASH Case Manager develops an Individualized Services Plan (ISP) detailing the type of support needed to assist the tenant in gaining access to medical, behavioral health, employment, social, educational, and other services essential to meeting basic needs and to promote progress toward individual goals.
	• The HUD-VASH Case Manager reviews each tenant file, including demographic and identification information, authorization for services, confidentiality, and other information to substantiate benefits and needs.
	Case Management Services
	A vital component of the VASH program is VA's case management services for Building 205 and 208. These services are designed to assist Veterans in obtaining and sustaining permanent housing and engaging in needed treatment and other supportive services that improve Veterans' quality of life and end their homelessness.
	Some of the services provided:

	• Transporting and accompanying the Veteran, as needed, to appointments and meetings. • Assisting the Veteran in completing applications and paperwork for housing and other services. • Providing resources and referrals to programs and services in the community. • Assisting the Veteran in increasing their income through referrals to vocational training, job placement, benefits, and service-connected disability. • Teaching and modeling life skills so the Veteran can learn to budget their money, maintain a clean and safe home, and sustain good personal hygiene. • Use therapeutic techniques to assist the Veteran with any ambivalence they may experience related to services, medical, and mental health care. • Coordinate care with VA providers to ensure that the Veteran is getting the best possible care and that their mental health and medical needs are being met. • Support and run groups and recreational activities for the Veterans to participate in to build social skills, reduce isolation and increase a sense of community, (i.e., art groups, computer classes, cooking classes, gardening, coffee, and bagels). • Organize monthly events, (i.e., community dinners and movie nights, to provide fellowship and community amongst our Veterans). • Partner with community organizations to provide more access to food, socialization, and continued support for our Veterans. **Successes:** • 97% retention rate for members after 12-months. • Thousands of chronically homeless housed. • Job placement for members in programs run by Step-Up including food service, janitorial work, etc. and assistance for members in typical employment. • Individualized outcomes in improved mental health. Mr. Criswall: These two projects are adjacent to their current building 209 projects, so they are going to have this economy of scale and build up the community of permanent supportive housed Veterans in that part of the campus. • received 200+ referrals, • referrals are at various stages of acceptance, • provisionally accept people as early as next week, • building up their move in ready list. • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper thanked them • COS Bradsher comment/question: Do they have a timeframe for 205 and 208? ○ Mr. Criswell: If TCOs are received at the dates they are projecting that in 2-4 weeks the units will be move in ready and they will start occupying those units with Veterans. • Dr. Bamberger comment/question: If the VA employed a full time RN would there be an office for them in either 205 or 208?

	○ Mr. Criswell's response: Yes. • Dr. Bamberger comment/question: Have you thought of ways to keep in touch with those people on your move possible list? ○ Ms. Jean's response: In terms of the referrals that they have received, they are actively communicating with the Veterans whether they are enrolled in the HUD-VASH program or not. They are keeping them informed of the timeline and communicating with the providers that have communication to make sure that they are still informed of the process. • Mr. Begland comment/question: Efforts on 205 and 208 would target the chronic homeless vets who are the most vulnerable…If you have two Vets are you allowed to show a preference for one that has greater needs? ○ Mr. Criswell's response: They would follow the sequence referrals are received as per the tenant selection plan. • Mr. Begland comment/question: Chronic mental illness…is there a notion what level of the population in the building can be chronically mentally ill and still have a positive environment. There is the same view with placement of the chronically mentally ill that whatever the sequence is, they are housed as they come in? ○ Mr. Criswell's response: Aaron: The L.A. housing department requires a split of 50% chronically homeless and 50% homeless. So, we must adhere to that as well as the AMI requirements. They would be more than willing to serve the highest need population; they just must adhere to all the funding requirements. • Mr. Zenner comment/question: Would be interested in hearing how they are going to build a community with different developers? How are they moving to build a community with all these different parts? This is not directed at any one developer but would like to focus on that as they move forward. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: What's the anticipated date of the first person is moving into these buildings? ○ Mr. Cowan's response: He did not have the exact dates for move in, but the TCO dates are tracking. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: Is there some ongoing impediments that we are not reading about? ○ Mr. Cowan's response: They are currently picking up the work that was previously delayed. The construction work is complete, it is systems testing and inspections. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: Is there a date for the first person to be moved in? ○ Mr. Criswell's response: I would anticipate by March 15th. • Mr. Mangano comment/question: Disappointed, the SECVA was thinking about journeying out for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Anything that Shangri-LA could do to speed up the opening would be much appreciated. • Dr. Bamberger comment/question: The property managers are responsible to a very strict fair housing regulations so they cannot make

	an assessment based on anything. However, housing is healthcare, and the VA plays a role so they can make the assessment and recommendation as to who goes into which building.
Wrap-up	• COS Bradsher: She thanked the committee for their time and efforts. The SECVA will be flying out to Alaska next week, then we go into hearings, so he will be unable to fly out here for the ribbon cutting. • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper: Thanked everyone for being here. Asked board members if they had any further questions. He thanked the VA staff for their support and briefing. Something very important was identified by Rob Begland; Who gets into the building, and does it fit with what the building can provide and with the services that are associated with the building can provide? Getting the right people in there is hard work. As they work their way through that, refining those criteria and processes, it's a collaborative ownership of the processes but folks are working on it.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board

DATE: 16 February 2023

VCOEB Board Members Present
Lt GEN (Ret). John Hopper (Chair)
Philip Mangano (Vice Chair)
Anthony Allman
Joshua Bamberger
Christine Barrie
Robert Begland
Keith Boylan
Aimee Bravo
Stephanie Cohen
Jennifer Marshall
Jim Perley
Joe Sapien
Kristine Stanley
Dennis Tucker
Hamilton Underwood
Shawn VanDiver
Mark Wellisch
Dr. Jim Zenner

VCOEB Board Members Absent
Heidi Marston
Larry Vasquez

VA Employees and Staff Present
John Boerstler
Dr. Keith Harris
Dr. Steve Braverman
Jennifer Purdy
John Kuhn
Jeffrey Moragne
Alan Trinh
Joe Friddle
Eugene W. Skinner Jr.
Chihung Szeto
Janet Elder
Rika Brown
Kristin Grotecloss
Roberto Marshall
Sally Hammitt

Contractor Support
Nathalie Chavez (ECS)
Cyndee Costello (Voyage Advisory)

February 16, 2023: Day 2	
Call to Order Opening Remarks	**Eugene Skinner, DFO** **Lt GEN (Ret). John Hopper, Chairman** • Meeting was called to order at 9:12am • Designated Federal Officer (DFO) Eugene Skinner asked the committee to hold questions until the end of the presentation or if the Chair recognizes the member. • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper passed the opening remarks to Dr. Braverman • Dr. Braverman yielded his time back to the chair

Core Companies, MacArthur Field Phase A Update	**Cyrus Jahanian, Development Manager**
	Ben Ross
	
	• The Core Companies reported on MacArthur Field Phase A
	  ○ Two Phases (Phase A and Phase B) that are mostly identical
	  ○ Phase A (Q3 2024) and Phase B (Q3 2025)
	  ○ 75 units, one-bedroom apartments
	  ○ Phase A an 18-month construction period
	  ○ All units earmarked for HUD-VASH, some unites for Veterans who qualify as "chronically homeless"
	  ○ 10% for dishonorably discharged Veterans (stipulation from grant), providing medical services and connected
	  ○ Facility has amenities such as a dog park, smoking area, tv rooms, computer labs, etc.
	• Mr. John Kuhn asked for clarification if dishonorable was "other than honorable" and Mr. Jahanian answered yes, other than honorable
	• Amenities included:
	  ○ Dog Park and Dog Wash
	  ○ Smoking Area
	  ○ Porch
	  ○ Garden
	  ○ Walking Trails
	  ○ Business Center
	• Staffing includes case manager, resident services coordinator, social worker from VA, and various third-party planners
	• Anthony Allman asked about the dog wash and park being used by the entire Veteran population and Mr. Ross said that amenities are for MacArthur residents, but they can look into expanding that amenity for the broader Veteran community.

	• Mr. Allman asked if there were any units reserved for female Veterans only. Mr. Jahanian answered no, even though the facility is for both male and female Veterans. Mr. Ross said they do have a woman's program and will help tailor the services to the women Veteran population.
	• Dr. Bamberger asked if the VA nurse was able to have an office in the facility. Mr. Jahanian said he believed the answer was yes, although they may be sharing office space. The way the building it financed does not include a nurse.
	• Dr. Bamberger asked if the nurse was a VA nurse, would she be able to treat Veterans not receiving benefits by VA?
	• Dr. Braverman answered there are certain things VA can do for Veterans, especially homeless Vets including care for emergencies/mental health. No primary care, though.
	• Mr. Ross said they are partnering with Altamed which will cover dental, etc.
	• Mr. Ross also assured Mr. Bamberger that they are leaning on VA to advise, help with transportation, qualified Vets, HUD-VASH vouchers, rideshares, etc.
	• Want to make it as accessible as possible (transportation onsite)
	• Mr. Jim Zenner asked if they would be using notes from the electronic medical records and Mr. Ross said they do not have access to the VA electronic medical records
	• Recent convos with VA may move forward with using a county-wide system so county has full understanding of all potential qualifying vets out there
	• Mr. Zenner asked if they had a partnership with the Department of Mental Health or the full-service partnership
	• Dr. Susan Michael, Vice President for Programs stated she would like to make the full-service partnership available
	  ○ They also have a clinical treatment team housed in flagship building
	  ○ Looking to expand clinical services
	• Mr. Philip Mangano commended New Directions for their amenities and asked if the other 15 buildings managed by them were permanent housing.
	• Mr. Ross said they are permanent supportive housing
	  ○ Range that are half VASH, half low income affordable for Veterans
	• Mr. Mangano then asked if all those were non-homeless people moving in.
	• Mr. Ross said some are homeless, but some are low income, so they don't need to be considered homeless to move in.
	  ○ A mix as specified in the funding (some are homeless, low income, some are chronically homeless, etc.)

	○ Out of the 700 units, 500 are considered homeless ○ Need to partner with VA in order to fill these facilities • Mr. Mangano asked what the case manager to client ratio is ○ Mr. Ross answered there is a 1 to 20 for chronically homeless ○ 1 to 25 ratio for general homeless with a disability ○ For primarily VASH units, 1 to 30 • Mr. Mangano asked what the chronology was for the 96% retention rate was. ○ Mr. Ross answered annual ○ Work hard to make sure Veterans aren't evicted • Mr. Mangano asked if New Directions had met with other developers and service providers on the campus. He mentioned there's always the idea of establishing community ○ Mr. Jahanian said they have been working with century housing and the collective. ○ They have not, however, met with the service providers • Mr. Vandiver wanted to go back to the numbers saying there is 300 empty VASH units ○ Mr. Ross said as of this morning, L.A. County has 300, the distribution can be printed off from LAHA (L.A. Housing Authority) ○ Mr. VanDiver mentioned there should be increased pressure across agencies to get homeless Veterans in using the standing as members of the board, or as Veterans, to make a lot of noise locally. ○ Mr. VanDiver said he would love a presentation on the pipeline and the sticky points of why there are empty units • Dr. Harris explained that rideshare is an impactful and innovative program where VA has contracts with Uber and Lyfte to pick up Veterans and take them to their appointments, etc. ○ The rideshare will end May 11, so there should be an alternative • Dr. Harris also clarified that VA is not moving away from its electronic medical record, there is a piece of its operations that the staff will be putting in the data • Dr. Harris mentioned that there have been meetings about the roles of the developers, service providers, and VA has a place within that ○ Trying to get to a point where that agreement and set of relationships is clear and on paper ○ That is when the board will see regular meetings

	pick up
	• Dr. Braverman wanted to speak to the requirements on the slide (maximum AMI is 50%)
	  ○ The 100% service connected; disabled Veteran exceeds the 50% by a wide margin
	  ○ 80 is close, 100% exceeds the 30% which is a category of disability experiencing homelessness
	  ○ Working on getting the service-connected disability payments as exempt from the income calculation
	  ○ By the time the units need to be filled, that may be successful but, in the meantime, the ask is to change that so that 100% service-connected Veterans would be eligible
	  ○ Most Veterans will want to live on campus for close proximity to VA care
	• Mr. Zenner said the plan is to bring together a lived experience board and present recommendations to group about barriers that need solved, need to do better
	• Mr. Allman mentioned that the governor announced 188 million dollars will be going towards housing, Phase B received 22 million of that, moving forward with construction, and progress on fundraising.
	• Mr. Jahanian said they were thrilled to get funding, applied for tax credit, find out in May if successful
	• For Phase A and B, found a model that worked faster
	• Mr. Allman said it is great after 6 years, it is good to have progress on the building
	• Dr. Bamberger said the AMI is a big deal for Vets and asked New Directions what would happen if someone got a job and made more than the amount allotted for the low-income housing, what would they do? What do they do to mitigate evictions?
	  ○ Mr. Ross said there is an annual recertification process for New Directions
	  ○ Cannot change the eligibility requirements but going to ensure that Veterans get into stable housing
	  ○ If they do decide to move on, we are not going to kick them out
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper said there are more conversations that need to be explored, especially about Veterans that are ineligible for VA healthcare. He asked how many of the new constructions have units set aside for Veterans ineligible for VA healthcare.
	  ○ Mr. Jahanian said 10% was the requirement for MacArthur Field project, so both Phase A and B will have 10% of their units going to ineligible Veterans.
	Dr. Harris:

	• used to work in homeless office and HUDVASH was under • If they are eligible for HUDVASH, it can get a nurse, case manager, etc., Veterans can get the care

Expiration Term of Service (ETS) Sponsorship Program	Mr. Zenner introduced the ETS Sponsorship program
	• VA and ETS sponsorship have been partnered for 2.5 years
	• Wellbeing on residents
	• Mr. Eastern introduced himself and an overview of the organization
	• Evidence-based approach to get in front of negative outcomes
	Overview Brief
	• The Deadly Gap
	  ○ 12 months between the end of active military service and reintegration back into civilian life
	  ○ Empower vets and communities they are going to
	• What are we doing wrong?
	  ○ Least qualified to navigate the system is the new veteran
	  ○ The approach is reactive (the Veteran must find help; help does not always find the Veteran)
	  ○ Support structure is fragmented
	  ○ Difficult to know which VSO to go to
	  ○ Federal programs and plans do not always match state and community conditions or needs
	  ○ Community has different needs, work from bottom-up meeting communities where they are
	• ETS-Sponsorship: A different approach
	  ○ Engage with servicemembers through physical and online presence
	  ○ Relationships with servicemember begin 6-12 months before the end of active military service
	  ○ Servicemembers paired with sponsors, just as they are when they move from post-to-post on active duty
	  ○ Sponsors come from the Veteran's future community, matching local knowledge and connections with new Veteran talent
	  ○ Proactive outreach and positive condition setting
	  ○ Veterans' plans can change
	  ○ Survey that captures legal concerns, medical concerns, bundle into file with their consent
	  ○ Administer any high-risk for suicide, shared with the consent of the servicemember with sponsor, all HIPPA compliant
	• Program Expansion and Enrollment Projections
	  ○ Conservative projections
	  ○ ETS showed a map of their service areas

	• The Population We Serve
	  ○ Looks a lot like military
	  ○ 80% male, 20% female
	  ○ 80% know where they are going post-military, 20% do not know
	  ○ Many want job, education, medical care, family, etc.
	• LA County Forecast
	  ○ New Veterans destined for California-19,000 annual
	  ○ 6974 new California Army Veterans in 2021
	  ○ 56% of California residents return after Army service, 44% are new residents
	  ○ Historically, 40% of new Veterans remain in the state of their last assignment
	  ○ Predicting 2814 Veterans to move to LA County in 2023
	  ○ 5% of new Veterans are immediately referred to VA services
	  ○ 50% request a sponsor
	  ○ 100-200 projected community sponsors
	• Key Advancements in the Past Year
	  ○ Referral agreement with the USO Pathfinder Program
	  ○ Partnership with the US Army Soldier for Life Program
	  ○ Pilot program with Harvard Medical School to screen for high-risk enrollees
	  ○ Expansion of the VA Regional Community Coordinator Program
	  • Migration of all data to the Cloud
	  • Addition of a self-guided transition dashboard
	  • Food insecurity pilot in TX
	• Partner Network
	  ○ Try to find best partners, college, etc.
	• What does the program produce?
	  ○ 30% of Veterans who had a sponsor there was a reduction in negative outcomes like suicide and homeless
	  ○ Streamlined access to full range of Veteran services and benefits
	  ○ For the community, visibility of Veteran before they arrive
	  ○ Builds a support network
	• Mr. Begland asked if they were aware of any psychological test offered to servicemembers and if they were making recommendations about placement. Traditionally, many have thought about these assessments has how to get the Veteran the right job instead of what makes them happy.

	• Mr. Eastern said that is a tough question, the structure of transition while on active duty is mechanical, not a huge investment in helping folks self-actualize over that gap
	  ○ Hope to survey a person's interest
	  ○ Informal life coaching
	  ○ Lot of work to be done

Purple (D Line) Extension Transit Project, Station Naming and Metro Art Update	**Marlon Walker, Community Relations Manager, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority**
	Clare Haggarty, Senior Manager of the Metro Arts Program
	
	Easement Agreement with Metro:
	  1. Proposed Purple Line station naming convention (Station Naming and Metro Art Update)
	• PLE Construction Update
	  ○ Expect completing later 2023
	  ○ 9 miles underground subway
	  ○ Purple Line is 9 miles of underground subway, seven station being build, last station on the LA Campus
	• VA WLA Campus Purple Line Easement Agreement (Article 5 – shared obligation in easement)
	  ○ Prior to the commencement of operations of the Transit Facilities, VA and Grantee shall jointly agree on the official adopted name of the Transit Facilities, consistent with the Parties' then current policies and procedures for such actions.
	  ○ Westwood VA Hospital Station is a temporary name
	• Mr. Allman said the renaming process will take place in Spring 2025. VA and Metro have to agree on the name, VA cannot name this property, can name it after a geographic Veteran. If VA has to agree to it, it doesn't matter what opinion is?
	• Dr. Braverman said that there is a process for naming approval, it doesn't mean VA doesn't have a say, it just that Congress has to approve it, which may impact the timeline
	  ○ Mr. Walker said they could adjust the presentation to make it clearer
	• Mr. VanDiver said it looks like there is no entrance facing the hospital
	  ○ Mr. Walker said it is towards the road so people can get picked up and dropped off but there is another slide with better detail
	• Mr. Begland presented some background on Mr. Allman's comment

	○ A year ago, made a recommendation that the campus should revert to its historic name the Pacific Branch ○ VA says the Secretary cannot change the name without an Act of Congress ○ Federal Statute (38 USB 513), Congress will have to name ○ Mr. Walker said they are aware and are anticipate that will be in their outreach plan • Mr. Walker went over Metro's Station Naming Policy: ○ Community outreach and engagement for the soliciting station names for the stations in Purple Line Extension (PLE) will begin Spring 2025 ○ Station names will reflect the following principles: ▪ **Transit system content:** Names will reflect the property's location, relative to the entire transit system, and not duplicate elsewhere ▪ **Property area:** provide specific information about the property's location relative to the surrounding area ▪ **Neighborhood identity:** Acknowledge the communities and neighborhoods services by the station and stops • Initial station names were identified during the project planning process, primarily based on geographic location ○ Metro staff will solicit input from cities, communities, and other stakeholders on preferred station names based on the board-adopted naming criteria ○ Resulting station names will be reviewed by focus group comprised of both transit system users and non-users for public recognizability ○ Metro staff will return to Metro Board Construction Committee and then to full Metro committee for adoption of final name • Clare Haggarty began her portion of the presentation ○ Have heard concerns about Metro's outreach not being robust enough • Artist Solicitation ○ Call to artists included a 3-month outreach period (Oct 2019-Jan 2020)

	• Outreach to stakeholders
	  ○ Sent multiple email blasts to over 10,000 artists including Veteran artists and art organizations that provide services to Veterans
	  ○ Sent multiple emails to the Metro Purple/D Line project stakeholder e-blast list of nearly 8,000 people including Veteran and organizations that provide services to Veterans
	  ○ Posted on the Metro Purple Line project Facebook page, which has over 14,000 followers
	  ○ Posted on the Metro Art Facebook page (over 7,000 followers)
	  ○ Art program integrated into whole project, included in Environmental Impact Report
	• Invited the following to share information about the artist call with their communities:
	  ○ Metro Strategic Hiring Initiative Group (SHIG)- Veteran Outreach
	  ○ West Los Angeles, VA
	  ○ Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
	• Held five in-person, public technical assistance artist workshops in arts and cultural venues throughout LA County
	• Issued advertisements in local and national publications where artists, including Veteran artists, go to find artwork opportunities
	• Distributed hard copy information at local schools, shops, etc.
	• Westside Purple (D Line) Extension Project, Sections 2 and 3 Artist Selection
	  ○ A ten-person art panel of community stakeholders selected the artists for the Wilshire/Rodeo, Century City/Constellation, Westwood/UCLA and Westwood/VA Hospital Station
	  ○ Metro Art consulted with VA staff on who sat on the panel to represent the Veteran/VA community
	  ○ The proposal included a design concept and a preliminary community engagement plan. The selection criteria included the artistic merit of the proposal and appropriateness of the proposal to the station

	• 4 artwork commissions, 5 artists
	• Victoria Fu and Matt Rich are two artists being selected
	  ○ Abstract art
	  ○ Welcoming experience, color
	• Artist-led community engagement events at the Veterans Home of California (Cal Vet), a long-term healthcare facility for Veterans on the campus of VA
	  ○ Explaining their process, artistic goals
	• Ticketing area
	  ○ Wrap around all the walls
	  ○ Lead artist is Francesco Simeti
	• Artist/Veteran mentorship
	• Veterans' artwork being integrated in the artwork
	• Concourse Artwork (Sandow Birk)
	• Birk has led two community engagement events: urban sketching tour and artist talk, in collaboration with the Brentwood Arts Center
	• Platform Artwork (Eloy Torrez)
	  ○ Military life portraits
	  ○ Positive Veteran stories
	• North Plaza entrance to make it safer
	• National Veterans Mural protected
	• Veteran Legacy Art Project – piece by piece mosaic work, working with Veterans
	• For the latest on Metro Art's project, subscribe for email updates at metro.net/art
	• Mr. Allman said while there was some outreach, the four artists for the interior station art currently named Westwood VA Hospital, the engagement was not sufficient with Veteran communities or public at large.
	  ○ While email blasts went out to Purple Line stakeholders, did not go out to other Veteran groups
	  ○ On Purple Line stakeholder list, did not receive the e-blasts, so when did metro notify the public?
	• Ms. Haggarty said she could not tell the date but listed some meetings, etc.
	• Mr. Allman asked to walk through the selection process, they are selected and then there's a community-based panel, but is there a middle step?
	• Ms. Haggarty said they called artist in 2019, the application closed January 2020
	  ○ Created one pool to satisfy all Metro art projects

	○ Apply in the pool, project-specific panels that then short-list artist based on qualifications • Mr. Allman said when an artist is pulled from the pool, they have no idea what project or type of art they are doing. ○ Ms. Haggarty answered yes but do know about the opportunities even though they don't know what art projects they will be assigned to • Mr. Allman noted that the chances of an artist like Sandow Birk being selected for this is a fluke ○ Metro glossed over his previous private work ○ Based off selection process, there is minimal input the public can express in what they'd like to see ○ Mr. Allman is afraid the station will have art that hasn't been inclusive to Veteran and community input • Mr. Allman also asked how the Veterans selected for the botanical garden murals were selected? ○ The time for input is coming this Spring, not enough of a developed design, need help in outreach efforts ○ Metro assured that none of these projects are done • Mr. Dennis Tucker said Metro reached out to Veterans to see if they wanted to be a part of this Purple Line Extension. They want the public engaged, shared information with high-level people, heard complaints about artists and art, will eventually get public input. • Ms. Aimee Bravo asked if Sandow Birk is a controversial artist and Vets have repeatedly expressed issue with him doing the Metro art, what process do they need to get him to be removed from the selection? ○ Metro said it has heard this concern from the Veterans ○ Make distinction on past gallery work vs. what is selected for the artwork on Metro • Ms. Bravo said she did not want to talk about the selection process but wanted to know what Veterans can do to remove him as an artist. ○ Metro stated that Mr. Birk is already under contract and designing the work ○ Encourage Veterans to come to meeting where the artwork will be revealed, will send

	an invitation to everyone here ○ Mr. Birk is committed to hearing concerns that Veterans may have and addressing them • Mr. Begland said that the discussions the committee is having now will be the discussions of public art on this campus ○ Careful the way we think about this challenge ○ Concerned there is not enough awareness of this station ▪ When VA granted use for the Metro, it seemed like another land grab for non-Veteran use ▪ This is not a typical station ▪ This campus has an incredible history and is a historical place, as prominent of feature as Beverly Hills, Culver City and hand an active campus for decades ▪ The art should depict that in a historically accurate way and focused on Veteran identity • Metro said they want input, so the artwork does truly represent Veterans • Mr. VanDiver is concerned that the Veteran community is not as involved as it would like to be in the selection of artists, not a willingness to reconsider the contract and artist ○ Consider meaningful ways to include Veterans ○ Inviting to an event that we didn't have any say in the artist or selection process ○ Hope that the future art of this campus can reflect Veterans' interest and voice • Metro acknowledged the concerns, wants to ensure a long-term relationship is maintained during this time • Mr. Keith Boylan asked if the art contracts were advertised ○ Metro team responded that contracts were advertised but the threshold is smaller ○ Mr. Boylan said those contracts should still be put out through the bidding system with the governor's Office of Business? ○ Metro said they would have to check with the procurement office, the contracts are put out through Metro

	• Mr. Mangano asked if there were other depictions of the larger mural that was featured during the presentation?
	  ○ Yes, there are other depictions of the campus than what was shown
	  ○ Mr. Mangano asked if he could get a sample of the larger piece of work. Metro said they could give it to him by end-of-day.

Bridgeland Resources, LLC.	**Tim Skillman Chief Operating Officer Bridgeland Resources, LLC.**
	Haraj Mamarsida, Sub-Surface Engineering Manager Bridgeland Resources
	Ernest Guadiana, Bridgeland Resources inhouse counsel
	
	Mr. Skillman provided and overview:
	• Company name changed to Bridgeland Resources from WG Holdings, LLC. in the fall.
	• Condition of their lease agreement with the Bureau of Land Management.
	• Last summer they spoke with a subset of the VCOEB committee addressing:
	  ○ Provided document with the historical production on their facility on Constitution Ave.
	  ○ The income that the VA receives from the oil production contributes to the operation of the transportation network for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV).
	  ○ There was a concern about the downward trend in the size of the check payments to the VA due to lower oil production.
	  ▪ They've invested over $800,000 in improving well production and the facilities that handle what is being produced thus increasing the amount being paid.
	  ▪ They anticipate the increase in the production long-term.
	  ○ They have filed a Notice of Intent as they have slots in their facility to drill three additional wells as well as an alternate drill site just south of their facility. They would work out the details as there is discussion of putting a temporary medical hazardous waste facility there.
	Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper comment/question: Is there any overlay with the price of a barrel?
	Mr. Skillman's response: He did not put pricing in the packet but suggested that oilprice.com is a good resource.

	Mr. Marmasida: Provided an overview:
	• Sawtelle
	  ○ A dip in production in February, one of their wells went down but they quickly repaired it.
	  ○ Currently oil is around 220-barrel production with more coming online soon.
	  ○ Injected water is no longer trucked into the site.
	  ○ Acronyms:
	  ▪ BOPD – Barrels of Oil Per Day
	  ▪ BWIPD – Barrels of Water Injected Per Day
	  ▪ mcf – standard cubic feet of gas produced
	• Successes:
	  ○ Oil wells will produce water along with the oil some options to get rid of the water:
	  ▪ Truck it from the site – very expensive and does not restore the pressure in the reservoir will leads to a decrease in oil production.
	  ▪ Water injected – 100% of water is injected back into the well improving pressure and oil production.
	  ▪ They repaired a down hole producer which was only making 40-barrels per day, it is now making 60-barrels per day.
	  ▪ Another producer will be coming back online after 5-years of not producing anticipate 14-barrels of oil per day from this producer.
	  ○ Revamped the chemical treatments and down hole equipment will last longer.
	• Challenges:
	  ○ DF4 producer was redesigned to a more traditional rod-pump system and will be returning to production next week.
	  ○ 25-Oils producer went down in December – they are getting repair quotes to see the feasibility of getting this back online.
	• Upcoming Projects:
	  ○ DF6 producer restoration
	  ○ DF4 producer upgrade
	  ○ Bring back the onsite generator with the intent to use gas produced from the wells to run electricity for all the pumps.
	  ○ A third injector repair
	  ○ Notice of Intent to drill five new wells
	
	• Mr. Begland comment/question: On two occasions the VA

	Inspector General has looked at this oil production operation and has offered the opinion that it does not comply with the master plan because it is a private business endeavor 97.5% of the receipts are going to a private business and 2.5% of the receipts to the VA does not make it an activity that principally benefits Veterans and should not be allowed. Of your production what percentage relies on that slant drilling onto nonfederal land? ○ Mr. Guadiana's response: They do not have the exact figures, there are a few wells that are bottom pooled off the federal lease, of those wells the VA gets the 2.5% royalty based on the gross receipts. They can provide them with the exact accounting of how many barrels of oil per day are produced from the nonfederal lease sites. • Mr. Begland comment/question: It would be useful because what they have been told by the VA Inspector General is that there is one portion that occurs through the Bureau of Land Management as the ordinary administrators of federal mineral rights, but separately you've been engaged in slant drilling on a nonfederal land and in the Inspector General's opinion that activity is illegal, it is inconsistent with the master plan and federal law. Suggested they look at the 2018 and 2022 Inspector General reports where they offered this opinion. ○ Mr. Guadiana's response: From a legal perspective you are not allowed to slant drill off one property and store it on another property, so the Inspector General is correct on that. However, there are pre-existing agreements between the VA and the operator that allows for that slant drilling on those wells. • Mr. Begland comment/question: What do you operate under? Do you have a lease or multiple leases? Do you have licenses for particular drilling activity? ○ Mr. Guadiana's response: There are two federal leases that are part of the main production and there are a few private leases. They can provide them with that information. • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper comment/question: What were the amount of the royalties the VA received in 2021, 2022? ○ Mr. Skillman's response: Asked them to refer to the second page of the document. Most recently checks in upwards of $12,000 per month were issued to the DAV. ○ Mr. Guadiana's response: The federal government also receives royalty checks as well.

	• Mr. Boylan comment/question: Are they using VA and DAV interchangeably? ○ Mr. Guadiana's response: The amount to the DAV does not include the checks received by the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Guadiana: • Referendum on Nov 2024 ballot will not allow drilling on current drill site and near sensitive… • Ordinance • Considering arguments and deadline to file lawsuit will be in next two months and will keep VCOEB apprised • If VA wants to join in lawsuit Mr. Begland: • appreciate telling how state and county banned drilling • Additional development that has happened • Not technically in the middle of L.A. city • L.A. said want all oil production shut down (ordinance) • Do you operate wells within city and have needed to undergo analysis Mr. Guadiana: • Don't believe they are subject to ordinance because they are in and unincorporated county. • Don't think they will conduct bottom holed drilling in the city. • City doesn't have jurisdiction over drilling permits it is the California State Land Division. • Environmental Quality Act Mr. Begland: • Stepping back, plans for significant capital venture/improvements. • Are you putting improvements on hold to see lawsuit outcome or going ahead? Mr. Guadiana: • Will put in whatever improvements the government approves. Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper: Has the 2.5% royalty been renegotiated? Mr. Guadiana: It was renegotiated in 2013 Lt GEN(Ret). Hopper: And what was it? Mr. Guadiana: It was renegotiated at 2.5%. Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper: We were short on time they will send them any further questions the board members may have.

Discussing Housing Needs Among People Experiencing Homelessness	**Joshua Bamberger, MD, MPH**
	• Mr. Bamberger relayed that he screened homeless Veterans for COVID in the San Francisco area March 2020
	• Get homeless population into hotels
	• People experiencing homelessness have a higher rate of chronic medical conditions and behavior health disorders than general population
	  ○ Assess who has these problems and what housing will work
	  ○ Conditions improve with housing but do not go away
	  ○ Matching services and housing quality to the needs of an individual improves outcomes, reduces unnecessary intuitional based care and healthcare costs
	  ○ No funding stream in VA for level of care above permanent supportive housing, no assisted leaving of care
	• Relationship between Housing Quality and Mortality
	  ○ Rating houses by beauty (most ugly to most beautiful)
	  ○ Crossed ranking of beauty to mortality
	  ○ The more beautiful building a person is in, the less death (7% to 2% annually)
	  ○ Informs what the committee is doing, prioritize a beautiful building
	• Emergency Response to Covid
	  ○ Approximately 2,500 people experiencing homeliness were placed in tourist hotels
	  ○ All were assessed for medical needs and services
	  ○ On site, nurses identified people who:
	  ▪ Have chronic and progressive medical conditions and,
	  ▪ Benefitted from and accepted nursing services
	  ○ 184 “nursing needs” individuals identified (7%)
	  ○ Over 98% who remained in shelter-in-place sites had placement from shelter-to-place to permanent housing with in-house nursing
	  ○ More than 90% placed in site with on-site nursing
	  ▪ Reduces hospitalization, death, etc.
	• Mr. Bamberger showed pictures of the apartment buildings that housed the homeless
	  ○ Only 14 people died in San Francisco, housing helped that low number
	  ○ Housing also lowers overdoses
	• For every person housed, two more become homeless
	  ○ Lots of great work but so much work to be done
	• Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Nursing in San Francisco
	  ○ 11,000 PSH units in SF (mostly in Tenderloin area)

	○ 2,000 have on-site nursing ○ Approximately 5% annual mortality ○ 1,500 new units in 2022 ○ Nurses provide assessment, referral to primary care, coordination with hospitals, medication adherence, support of on-site staff • Clinical Assessment for High Need Placement ○ Summarize person's story, send to diverse panel, assess what their medical problems are ○ Assess what their needs are (this person is not going to make it in housing without a nurse on-site) ○ Encourage VA to diversify the housing site (full-time nurse, case manager, etc.) • Opportunity to improve outcomes, reduce cost and provide the quality of housing every veteran deserves ○ Diversify housing options for Veterans ○ Offer a match of housing and services to each Veteran • Mr. Boylan mentioned putting in a Veteran Service Representative. ○ Dr. Bamberger agreed ○ Mr. Boylan said he put the quote "housing is health," it starts with housing ○ 700 units for pilot program that US Vet, hoping to have in-house nursing • Mr. Allman said the clinical assessment for high needs placement slide seems intuitive. Where is the breakdown in funding? We have heard developers say, "this is a business." Is it because the funds aren't coming from the VA, county, or state? ○ Mr. Bamberger said the hard part in this map is assessing people in real time. ○ The biggest challenge is getting diversity in housing options • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper asked if every Veteran present would be eligible for VA healthcare ○ Dr. Bamberger said most but those who weren't eligible would have some medical assessment • Mr. Mangano asked if the buildings shown in the presentation were exclusively for Veterans. ○ Mr. Bamberger answered no ○ 175 permanent housing units, only 20 have a nurse ○ Mobile nursing unit • Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper asked who pays for the nurses ○ Mr. Bamberger said the health department, straight out of the general fund
Master Plan Subcommittee Discussion/recommendation	• Mr. Begland read the recommendation 19-2 (attached) ○ Dr. Bamberger and Mr. Allman seconded the motion • The members discussed the Pacific Branch naming and if it

	needed Congressional approval since it is a historical location
	  ○ It is listed in historic district as pacific branch
	  ○ Free to use a geographic, not historic
	• Mr. Kristin Grotecloss, an attorney for the VA mentioned
	  ○ Naming campus must go through Congress, a wise process to go through Congress
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper said that the note must come from Secretary to Metro (already made the recommendation)
	• Mr. VanDiver said we have heard this is a closed issue from the lawyer and recommends the committee does not do this
	  ○ Have had a year to rename VA campus
	  ○ Focusing on names does not help Veteran get into housing
	  ○ Made it clear what committee wants, is not going to vote on this because it doesn't help Veterans
	  ○ Haven't taken any input from Veterans
	• Mr. Allman said the Federal Advisory Committee agreed this was the preferred name
	• Mr. VanDiver had a recommendation that the committee strike Recommendation 19-2b and ask the Secretary to survey the Veterans that live and work here through an amendment
	• Mr. Begland said when the Committee picked a name last year, it was to understand this area is more than a VA Hospital and nothing oversteps Congress/VA's agreement
	• The committee just learned today the VA and Metro must come to an agreement on the name. the Committee wants the Secretary to know the committee's preferred name
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper said there is as long history to the naming process, want people to understand and embrace what the place is about
	  ○ Pacific Branch makes sense, goes through Secretary, and has to be approved by Congress, the committee thinks
	
	• Mr. Mangano asked Ms. Grotecloss if there was a federal government agency that recognized the Pacific Branch name, could the committee skip the process (there is an agency that recognizes it as Pacific Branch)
	  ○ Interior recognizes it as Pacific Branch
	  ○ may have standing for a geographical description
	• Ms. Grotecloss said not all names are written by the federal government
	  ○ Application submitted by third parties, not approved by federal government
	• Lt GEN (Ret) Hopper recognized Dr. Jennifer Marshall on the phone
	• Ms. Marshall said the name of the Metro station was important because it sets the tone for the whole parcel of land
	  ○ There is a historical precedence to this name

	○ Spending a lot of time on this when there is a historical precedence, and it may not need to go through Congress • Mr. Zenner said that Veterans through public comment wants the Pacific Branch name ○ Would like to move for a vote • Mr. Allman said both VA and Congress have a role, all this is saying is the committee's preferred name is Pacific Branch • Allman: clear that VA has a role and congress has a role but it says that SECVA will tell metro that pacific branch is VCOEB preferred name Vandiver: support making recommendation that Pacific Branch is the preferred name • Mr. Jim Perley recommend that we attach the research to the letter to Congress and Mr. Begland said they would • Mr. Mangano said they need to present it as a fact, not just an opinion • The board voted on the recommendation ○ No one was opposed and the recommendation passed unanimously
Master Plan Sub-Committee	• Mr. Allman read Recommendation 19-3 ○ Edit should read January 13th not January 3rd ○ Mr. Zenner motioned to vote on the recommendation ○ Ms. Bravo seconded the motion • Mr. VanDiver said he supports the motion but doesn't the think the description of artwork sounds like is a commentary on the reality of war and struggles that Veterans and their families face • Ms. Bravo said she wants to see what type of leverage the community holds since Veterans said they did not have a say in the selection process and are adamant about the artist being removed • Mr. Zenner said Metro missed the mark engaging with Veterans, but thinks motion should move forward but the committee needs to advocate to Metro to get Veterans involved • Mr. Allman said offensive artwork has disappeared after the concern, recommendation should tell Metro to be more inclusive of Veteran input • Mr. Mangano suggested putting "given the veteran input, we should reevaluate the selection." • Mr. Allman said it is worth having a conversation with Metro that they should be more inclusive of Veterans' input in the art projects on their campus • Mr. Mangano says while the recommendation builds a case,

	it is tepid in terms of recommending the Secretary contact Metro
	• Mr. Allman said the committee is better off saying they need Veteran input and to reconsider the selection
	• Mr. Mangano said there needs to be a reevaluation since so many Veterans are not comfortable with the artist
	  ○ Committee represents voice of the Veteran
	  ○ Not censoring or cancelling Sandow Birk, but doing job as a committee
	• Mr. Mark Wellisch said he was in favor of the recommendation
	  ○ Cancelling artists for prior work is inconsistent with what our position should be
	• Jennifer Marshall was strongly against the selection process and its failure to engage Veterans
	  ○ Stated the recommendation is the very least we can do
	  ○ Agreed with Mr. Mangano that the contract needs to be reevaluated with the leverage from the board
	  ○ Vets need to be given the consideration and Birk's art is inflammatory
	• Mr. Boylan asked what the board and Secretary could do but it may be better for that there may be a contract process that could allow the contract to be reinstated
	  ○ Local Veterans can go to the county, not sure what authority the board has over this decision
	  ○ The Secretary can be informed but Metro's request should be removed
	  ○ Metro should have brought Veterans together during the early stages when the scope of work was being put together
	• Mr. Begland said he knew that the Secretary does not have any approval right over art in Metro station
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper said he does not like that the artist removed prior work and does not stand by it
	  ○ It's important to offer the Secretary a chance to say this artist is not suitable and recommend a recompete to find a more suitable Veteran-centric artist
	  ○ Preference is to accept of what Mr. Mangano suggested
	• Mr. Tucker asked what Veteran input looks like and what Veterans have said that they like to see
	  ○ The Board has heard multiple times that Veterans were not involved, asked for an example
	• Mr. Alman said one example is before Metro gave the go-ahead for these art concepts, they would have liked to see

	them and discuss beforehand
	• Mr. Tucker said there were three meet and greets with Metro and the West LA Campus, not many Veterans attended
	• Mr. Allman said Metro reached out to VA, the county's Veteran and Military Affairs, and Metro's own Veterans' programs, none of which are Veteran community groups, mostly government agencies
	  ○ One art project may be done and three are conceptual, more than three meetings in 2019 when the artwork will not happen years later
	• Mr. Perley agreed with Mr. Mangano, Ms. Marshall and Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper that Veterans should have had more say in the conceptual design and picking out the artist since they will be living on the campus
	• Mr. Zenner said that the issue is at Metro
	• Mr. Mangano said that the process for selection is flawed and that's what should be "cancelled," not the artist himself
	  ○ The artist should be reevaluated
	• Ms. Marshall reminded the board that there are so many resources for Veteran artist
	  ○ Metro did not reach who they needed to reach
	  ○ Many Veterans who will be living on campus want Sandow Birk removed from the selection process
	• Mr. Begland was concerned the board was evenly divided on this issue and asked if there was anything the board could amend to reach an agreement on
	• Mr. Mangano said the Secretary should urge Metro to reevaluate this artist given what Veterans have said
	• Mr. Allman said Sandow Birk has been contacted about having a conversation with Veterans and he said he will have to run it by Metro, have not heard back
	• Mr. Allman said he is willing to have a conversation about his art, answer questions, etc.
	• Christine Barrie said her niece reached out to Sandow Birk explaining the history of the land
	  ○ Unique in its landmarks, not Westwood
	  ○ Willing to reevaluate his work
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper moved the vote forward
	  ○ 8 yeas, 5 nays (Mr. Perley, Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper, Mr. Mangano, Ms. Bravo, Ms. Marshall)
	  ○ The recommendation passed

Services sub-committee discussion/recommendation	• VCOEB Recommendation 19-1 (see attached)
	  ○ Edit from February 1, 2023
	• Dr. Bamberger moved to motion the vote
	  ○ Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper seconded the motion
	• Mr. Begland said he was thankful to be educated on

	homelessness as a housing problem
	  ○ Homelessness worse where housing is not affordable and where opportunity to build affordable housing is constrained
	  ○ Huge fan of recommendation
	• Mr. VanDiver agreed that permanent housing is the solution to homelessness
	• Mr. Mangano made two quick recommendations on wording
	  ○ Units will be done in March, not February
	  ○ Whereas should be “short term solutions” not “responses”
	• Mr. Boylan said he would have added “whereas” that defines what permanent housing entails
	• Mr. Allman supports the recommendation as is
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper called the recommendation to vote, and it passed unanimously

Wrap-up	• Mr. Boerstler said that the committee meetings and committee itself keep getting better because of the dialogue
	  ○ Recruiting new members since some have end of term coming up
	  ○ Possibility of having meeting somewhere else
	• Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper recognized Mr. Purdy for the first time as a board member in recognition of first time, started as a social worker with homeless Veterans
	• Dr. Braverman thanked the group for coming back and participating
	• Lt Gen (Ret). Hopper thanked the supporting members (administrative and technical)
	• The meeting was adjourned

John D. Hopper Jr.

Approved

Lt GEN (Ret). Hopper, Chair

Eugene W Skinner 686906 Digitally signed by Eugene W Skinner 686906 Date: 2023.05.01 08:17:41 -04'00'

Approved

Eugene Skinner, DFO