

# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

[www.slocounty.ca.gov/coa.htm](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/coa.htm)

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday July 24, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am - Noon

**Location:** **DSS Building, 3433 South Higuera Street, Room #101, SLO**

- ✓ Call to Order
- ✓ Flag Salute (please stand if able)
- ✓ Check/announce meeting being recorded.
- ✓ Public Comment and Member/Agency Updates – *burning desires from members or guests about current concerns, issues, events - 2 min. max*

**Introductions:** Members and Guests (please provide your name, Commission position, and brief agency description)

**Member rollcall:** Chair establish Quorum.

**Approve Minutes:** June 26, 2024

**Presentation: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Discussion and Information Panel**

**Presenters:** Bill Crewe, CCVHV ~ George Moran, Veterans Outreach ~ Ryan Barney, Veteran Service Office ~ Jim Stitt, Veteran Service Collaborative ~ Ron Torres/Maryanne Zarycka, SHS H/HHA Veteran Health Benefit, and more.

***Break 10 minutes***

**Reports:**

- ASPC (5 min) – Jerry Mihaic
- AAA (5 min) – Ron Torres
- Scam Report (10 min) – Tristan O’Neil DA’s office
- Legislation Report (5-10 min) – Anne McCracken

**New Business:**

- Feedback from Mini-Resource Fair

**Next Meeting: August 28, 2024:**

**DSS Building, 3433 South Higuera Street, Room #101, SLO**

***Please submit agenda and program items, ideas, and feedback to  
[slocommissiononaging@gmail.com](mailto:slocommissiononaging@gmail.com)***

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Department of Social Services Building, Conference Room #101 3433 South Higuera,**  
**San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**  
**July 24th, 2024 Minutes**

**Members Present:** Maryanne Zarycka, Anita Shower, Charmaine Petersen, Sue Gibson, Paulina Flores Jimenez, Ilene Brill, Jamie Moothart, Alexis Okumura, Mike Bossenberry, Kristin Allen, Jerry Mihaic, Danielle Raiss, Paige Anderson

**Members Absent:** Anne McCracken, Frank Triggs, Louise Justice, Ron Torres, Paul Worsham, Lora Aladdin, Tristan O'Neil, Dianna Votaw, Kristy Edwards

**Call to Order: 10:00 am**

Flag Salute.

"Meeting is Being Recorded" Announcement

**Public Comment:**

SLO County Veteran Resource Office:

- Resource fair in Morro Bay on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to 2:00

Alzheimer's Association

- Recent resource fair was successful, and quarterly caregiver retreat is upcoming on September 7<sup>th</sup>

ILRC

- Reminder of the Master Plan on Aging survey

Mike Bossenberry

- September is national suicide prevention month

**Introductions: Guests & Members**

Members and guests introduced their role in the community and with the Commission.

**Approval of June 2024 Minutes:** Motion was made to accept minutes.

**Presentation:**

**Presenters:**

- Bill Crewe, CCVHV
  - The mission of Veterans Helping Veterans is to provide assistance to low-income or homebound veterans, provide household support & companionship, and provide mentorship to veterans participating in the Veterans Treatment Court
  - CCVHV works with other organizations to deliver these services: APS, American Legion Post #66, CAPSLO, HASLO, Hospice SLO County, HUD VASH, SLO Behavioral Health, SLO DA, Senior Volunteer Services, Veteran's Support Office

- Originally CCVHV was founded to provide the mentor portion of the Veteran Treatment Court. To be eligible for the Court veterans must have a condition related to their service (PTSD, traumatic brain injury, alcoholism etc)
- CCVHV funds the care during the periods veterans are awaiting on approval from VA, including home repair services in partnership with Home Depot, financial assistance with grants and loans, home visitations/gift baskets, transportation/bus passes
- Veterans Treatment Court occurs at the county-level and participation by veteran is voluntary when a veteran has committed a felony and takes two years
- Intensive mentorship and treatment, upon graduation from the court their record is expunged
- George Moran, Veterans Outreach Center
  - Started in 1979 for Vietnam Veterans, but overtime it grew to incorporate any veterans
  - Service is primarily counselling (face to face and telehealth)
  - Criteria for entry: faced combat or served in a hostile environment, faced sexual trauma, or family of KIA. However these services have expanded to include more personnel, including family members of veteran suicides and National Guard serving drills
  - Veteran information is confidential
  - Alternative therapy options are available
  - There are 35 facilities in California alone and 300 nationwide
- Ryan Barney, Veteran Service Office
  - Veterans can enroll in VA Healthcare and file for VA Compensation
  - VA Pension is a large umbrella for assisted living or housebound veterans
  - VSO makes great use of Seniors Helping Seniors and CCVHV
  - Call 805-781-5766 to make an appointment at the Broad St office
- Jim Stitt, Veteran Service Collaborative
  - There are about 150 different organizations in the Collaborative providing an array of services – both governmental and volunteer
  - Services including food, housing, financial
  - The Collaborative doesn't provide services directly, but provides the network to access those services
  - COVID impacted efficacy of the Collaborative but there has been a resurgence, including an expansion of resource fairs
  - Collaborative allows veterans to network and focus on camaraderie
- Maryanne Zarycka SHS H/HHA Veteran Health Benefit
  - Seniors Helping Seniors is currently servicing about 17 SLO Co Veterans utilizing the H/HHA (Homemaker/Home Health Aide) VA health benefit.
  - H/HHA benefit is paid through Community Services branch of VHA – Veterans Healthcare Administration.

- Veterans qualify by requiring stand-by or full assist with a minimum of two out of five ADL's (Activity of Daily Living). These are showering, dressing, feeding, toileting, walking/transferring.
- Veterans must be seen by a VA PCP (Primary Care Physician) and request a referral for the H/HHA Benefit. After VA PCP makes the referral, the process takes approx. 6-8 weeks for VA approval.
- Veteran and Seniors Helping Seniors (SHS) are contacted by VA when approved and SHS performs an in-home assessment to discuss types of care needed, address any safety issues, and set up in-home care schedule.

### **Reports:**

#### **ASPC**

N/A

#### **AAA**

N/A

#### **Scam Report**

N/A

#### **Legislation Report**

N/A

### **New Business:**

Feedback from Mini-Resource Fair

- Recommendation for resource fair to be conducted outside of regular COA Meeting Hours
- Recommendation for it to also take place in North County
- Suggestions made regarding more publicity and communication strategy for next time.

**Next Meeting: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Conference Room #101 3433 South Higuera, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401** Minutes submitted by Samuel Graves. Reviewed by Co-Chair



# Central Coast Veterans Helping Veterans

SLO Commission on Aging  
July 24, 2024





# Why?



- **Why our focus on providing services to the 17,000 Veterans in San Luis Obispo County?**
- **Every Veteran once wrote a blank check to America**
- **For many, their service caused lasting health injuries**



# What is CCVHV



- **Mission: Provide assistance to low-income homebound Veterans (household support and companionship), and to provide mentorship to Veterans participating in the Veterans Treatment Court (established in 2013) as well as for procuring needed services.**
- CCVHV relies on our network of caring volunteer Vets as well as partnerships with other supportive services in San Luis Obispo County. Our partners:
  - Adult Protective Services, San Luis Obispo County
  - American Legion Post 66
  - CAPSLO - Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.
  - HASLO – The Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo
  - Hospice SLO County
  - HUD-VASH – Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing
  - San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Program
  - San Luis Obispo District Attorney
  - SVS - Senior Volunteer Services
  - SVSC - SLO Veterans Service
  - SSVF - Supportive Services for Veteran Families
  - VSO - Veterans Service Office



# Background



- CCVHV was founded in 2013 to provide a critical element in the Veterans Treatment: the Mentors for the participants
- In 2017, we recognized our VTC participants needed more than just mentoring, we then created the Veteran Caregiving Program to provide needed services during their participation in the VTC program (transportation, housing, moving, etc.). This evolved into a wider program to bridge the gap for homebound Veterans – providing them vital, needed care, while also helping them to apply for and attain benefits from the Veterans' Administration. We enable these Veterans to begin receiving needed services while their applications to the Veterans' Administration are in progress (typically multiple months). For those who begin receiving Aid and Attendance from the Veterans Administration, we discontinue our support once the VA begins paying for the services. For those Veterans who for one reason or another do not receive assistance from the VA, we continue our support.





# How do We Help Veterans?



- Veteran Treatment Court support
- Home Care Services
- Home repair services
  - Home Depot partnership
  - Wheelchair ramps
- Financial assistance (grants/loans)
- Home visitation
- Transportation (bus passes, providing rides)
- Hoarding cleanup



# VTC Eligibility Criteria



- Service members and veterans in trouble with the criminal justice system because of criminal behavior resulting from physical or mental injuries in service.
- Typically vets who have committed a misdemeanor(s) or relatively minor felonies. Persons who have committed capital crimes such as murder or sex crimes (such as rape) are not eligible. Registered sex offenders are not eligible.
- Participation is voluntary for the Vet (who can withdraw at any time) and subject to approval by the DA.

**VTC IS NOT A GET OUT OF JAIL FREE CARD**



# Veterans Treatment Courts Significantly Differ from Traditional Courts



- Veterans Treatment Courts are Veteran-Centric
- They take into full account the military culture.
- They focus on addressing the complex needs of the service member
- The VA is the primary care giver. Of the 20 million veterans, approximately 70% do not access the VA for healthcare
- Peer Mentoring Component
- Two Categories of the Court:
  - VTC
  - Military Diversion



# Veterans Treatment Court Components

There are ten key components of Veterans Treatment Courts



- Integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing.
- Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program.
- Provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- A coordinated strategy governs Veteran Treatment Court responses to participants.
- Ongoing judicial interactions with each veteran.
- Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.
- Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, SLO Veterans Collaborative, public agencies, and community-based organizations generate local support and enhances Veteran Treatment Court effectiveness.