

Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 12:30 p.m.
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia

Present

Mr. Shawn Hanley, Chair
Ms. Takosha Swan, Vice-Chair
Mr. Joshua Kopsie, Secretary
Mr. John Kubinec, Member
Mr. Steve Mendez, Member
Mr. Tim Paslawski, Member
Mr. Pete Peterson, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner

Visitors:

Present

Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Mr. Mark Bannister, Executive Dir., Health, Memorials, Finance & Development, GDVS
Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
Ms. Mary Catherine Greaber, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office
Mr. Dean Rakoskie, State Commander, VFW
Mr. Lou Zayas, Jr. Vice Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW Service Officer, Appeals Division, GDVS
Ms. Raven Holstick, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer
Mr. Don Layne, VECTR Chief Operating Officer
Mr. Gabriel Lord, Chief Talent Officer, Civilian Ready
Mr. Vince Pritchett, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS
Mr. Ken Childre, Director, Veterans Benefits North Region, GDVS
Ms. Ramona Roper, Director, Training and Professional Development, GDVS
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS
Mr. Russell Feagin, Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA
Mr. Edwin Berry, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS
Mr. William Wilson, Network Administrator, GDVS
Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Ms. Shareka Monday-Robinson, Director, Human Resources, GDVS
Ms. Veda Brooks, Coordinator, Women & Minority Veterans, GDVS
Ms. Calandra Ferguson, Coordinator, Suicide Prevention & Outreach, GDVS
Mr. Mark Demers, Grant Program Implementation Manager, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, GDVS

On Thursday, February 23, 2023, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Mr. Hanley called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Mendez gave the invocation. Mr. Kopsie led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The visitors were welcomed by Commissioner Ross.

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Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the February Agenda. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the January minutes, which were previously distributed for members to review. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

The following reports were submitted for the Board meeting:

Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW

- The Department Service Officer attended a VFW National Veterans Service (NVS) Eastern Region Zoom meeting on January 26 at 2PM. We discussed the following: PACT Act Claims, the Upcoming VFW Training Schedule, the NVS Updates, New SGLI Insurance, SBC DIC Offset eliminated, VA Automation, and the Department Service Officer (DSO) concerns.
- The Department Service Officer, and the VFW GA Commander, attended a meeting to discuss VFW sponsoring a PACT Act forum for bringing veterans, their families, and survivors together to learn about the PACT Act and its relevance to them. The meeting was held on February 08, 2023.
- The Department Service Officer, the VFW GA Commander and Staff attended a Zoom meeting to discuss the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program and VFW participation throughout the state of Georgia. The meeting was held on February 08, 2023 at 7PM.
- The Department Service Officer attended the Monthly VSO/CMA meeting hosted by Brian Morgan, Change Management Analyst (CMA) on February 09, 2023 at 10AM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the VSO's issues and concerns.
- The Department Service Officer attended the Quarterly VSO/CMA meeting with the Atlanta Regional Officer Director and his Staff. The meeting was hosted by Brian Morgan, Change Management Analyst (CMA) on February 16, 2023 at 1:30PM. The purpose of the meeting was to provide up-to-date information regarding the PACT Act and about the upcoming PACT Act Outreach initiatives.

Mr. Dean Rakoskie, State Commander, VFW

On March 6-8 VFW representatives from all the states and territories will be in Washington, D.C. testifying before Congress on suicide prevention economic opportunities and ways to prevent predators from ripping off veterans with VA claims.

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May 6th will be the VFW Day of Service throughout the nation. We will be hosting 2 events to enroll veterans in the PACT Act.

April 22 will be a program at Mundy Mills High School to feed needy vets. We are still working out the logistics of how to identify the recipients. We are inviting news outlets to capture the event.

Ms. Raven Holstick, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer

- The Assistant Department Service Officer (Ed Kent) assisted 49 veterans with VA benefits related inquiries this month.
- Department Service officer (Raven Holstick) met with Program Support Assistant for Atlanta Center for Development & Civic Engagement (Sadarious Hill). During the meeting a plan was created for local American Legion Posts to start volunteering at their local VA medical center. Meeting will reoccur monthly or as needed.
- Virtual Post service officer training was held for two new service officers on February 6th. Training topics were on the roles and responsibilities of a post service officer.
- Post 29 provided healthy snacks and toiletry items to West Cobb County VA Clinic for salute to service week February 13-17.
- Department service Officer (Raven Holstick) and Assistant Service Officer (Tonjala Moton Williams) conducted one on one training in preparation for upcoming Spring conference via Teams.
- Post revitalization was held at Post 66 in Decatur.
- Upcoming event: Spring Conference on March 24-26.
- Upcoming event: Post Service Officer Training on April 15.

Commissioner Patricia Ross

On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Commissioner Ross helped interview two candidates for the Billing Specialist position and three candidates for the Administrative Assistant vacancy. She also met with Gabriel Lord of Civilian Ready, an organization that is "Helping Transitioning Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses Master Their Re-entry Before Leaving the Military."

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with Tiffany Howard, the Military & Veterans Program Coordinator for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The Reeve Foundation

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helps veterans and family members who are paralyzed. She then attended Governor Kemp's State of the State Address. In the afternoon, she attended the January Veterans Service Board Meeting.

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with OPB regarding the next steps for the VMHS State Veteran Nursing Facilities. Also in attendance for this meeting were Mark Bannister, Russell Feagin, Carlton Deese and Mark Demers. In the evening, Commissioner Ross was the guest speaker at the Johns Creek Veterans Association annual banquet.

On Monday, January 30, 2023, Commissioner Ross held a weekly Director's Meeting. She then held a meeting to discuss budget projections with Mark Bannister, Camala Ball, Kerry Dyer and Shelly-Ann Simpson.

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, Commissioner Ross held a meeting to discuss Annual Training for this year with Shelly-Ann Simpson, Kerry Dyer and Ramona Roper. She then participated in the Transition Advisory Committee Meeting #1, a committee organized to inform the work of the Counsel on Criminal Justice's Veterans Justice Commission. The goal of this committee is to study the process of transition from military to civilian life and to develop evidence-based findings for Commission deliberations. In the afternoon, Commissioner Ross presented a departmental overview to the Senate Veterans, Military and Homeland Security Committee.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended the Unite Us Social Connector and Implementation meeting. She then attended the GDVS & Miner Agency Wrap-Up Conversation.

On Thursday, February 2, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with representatives from Flanders Fields. She also met with House Representative Josh Bonner in preparation for her meeting before the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee.

On Friday, February 3, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with Nick Stout concerning DoD's Skillbridge program. She then had an in-person meeting with Ashley Fielding, Assistant Commissioner for Agency Affairs with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities about targeted outreach to veterans for the crisis hotline 988. Also discussed were the steps to get the mobile crisis teams to respond in locations without VA facilities. Also in attendance for the meeting were Shelly-Ann Simpson, Calandra Ferguson, and Veda Brooks.

On Saturday, February 4, 2023, Commissioner Ross was interviewed by a UGA journalism student about veterans in Georgia and what the mission of the department is.

On Monday, February 6, 2023, Commissioner Ross held a weekly Director's Meeting. She then went to the Capitol to speak for the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce. She ended her day with a Fox Grant Update Meeting.

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On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with Jarrad Turner of the Warrior Alliance regarding the PACT Act. She also presented to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military and Homeland Security.

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Commissioner Ross presented to the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee.

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, Commissioner Ross held an Open Forum for the department on MS Teams. She then attended the Unite Us Social Connector and Implementation meeting.

On Monday, February 13, 2023, Commissioner Ross held a weekly Director's Meeting. She then met with Randy Harris of Warrior 2 Citizen to discuss their program. Also in attendance for the meeting were Shelly-Ann Simpson, Calandra Ferguson, and Veda Brooks. She then presented at the Human Resources Appropriations Subcommittee for DBHDD & DVS.

On Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended an Agency Heads Meeting at the Governor's Mansion. The Commissioner then met with Chairman Lee Hawkins to discuss a bill that he is sponsoring on behalf of veterans.

On Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Commissioner Ross met with Shelly-Ann Simpson, Ramona Roper, and Kerry Dyer to talk about annual training. She also had a follow-up meeting with JourneyPure, a meeting on attracting transitioning servicemembers to state jobs with UGA (Skillbridge), and the Unite Us Social Connector and Implementation meeting.

On Thursday, February 16, 2023, Commissioner Ross attended the February State Workforce Development Board meeting at the Technical College System of Georgia central office.

On Friday, February 17, 2023, Commissioner Ross, along with her leadership team, met with Grady Brain, Co-founder of The Veteran Leaders. She also held an Open Forum to discuss Annual Training and a teleconference with Russell Feagin.

On Sunday, February 19, 2023 through Wednesday, February 22, Commissioner Ross and Shelly-Ann Simpson attended the NASDVA conference in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Ross added the following to her report:

House Bill 299 passed the House yesterday.

Senate Bill 21 regarding the Foundation passed unanimously in the Senate and is favorably reported in the House. It changes the possible number of board members to 13, of which 4 must be veterans. They will have 3-year terms instead of 7-year terms. They will meet quarterly instead of annually. The Commissioner will choose the CEO, COO and CFO. Family members and friends are great advocates for

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veterans. Mr. Hanley added that it is not just veterans who are advocates for veterans. We need advocates to help us raise funds.

Commissioner Ross and Shelly-Ann Simpson just returned from the NASDVA Conference in Washington, D.C. The COMPACT Act was discussed. What it is: Any veteran, whether enrolled in VA healthcare or not, can go to a VA or non-VA emergency room for emergent suicidal care. VA will provide the treatment or cover the costs for treatment including transportation, inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days. For more information visit: <https://www.va.gov/cincinnati-health-care/stories/what-does-compact-act-mean-for-veterans/>

We have been asked by Rep. Bonner to present what GDVS does. We are giving each senator and representative information on their local field office, along with other information on GDVS.

A film called "Dear Sirs" was presented at NASDVA. It follows the story of Filmmaker Mark Pedri. He had never heard his grandfather Silvio's story. Ten years after his grandfather's death, Mark found an archive of photos and letters showing of his grandfather's experience as a Prisoner of War in WWII. If anyone is interested, please let Commissioner Ross know.

A veteran sent a \$200 gift card as a thank you to Mr. Berry. We will put that into our Foundation's account. We received a \$10,000 donation from Papa Johns. This is a good start, and we are hoping to do big things through the Foundation.

Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations and Appeals

GENERAL

- January 31st attended a site visit at KSU to discuss our needs regarding the ongoing PACT Act registration rallies.
- February 9th, met with the Warrior Alliance and VETLANTA to discuss supporting them at the VETLANTA Q1 Summit at the Battery.
- February 19-22 attended the NASDVA Midwinter Conference in Washington D.C. (Crystal City).
- We have hired 2 new North Area District Managers, the districts have been redrawn, but it seems to be working well.
- We are continuing to plan Annual Training.
- **DD 214's and Welcome Home Letters:**

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- 662 Welcome Home Letters were mailed out in January 2023.

PROJECTED POSITIONS

- Current openings in Appeals and Milledgeville.

Ramona Roper, Training and Professional Development Division:

- January 23, 2023, Interviews for the new Trainer 3 position were conducted. Three candidates applied for this position. Mr. Jerry Glenn Massey, Office Manager for the Gainesville VFSO, was selected for the Training and Professional Development Division. Glenn Massey started with the Training Division February 1, 2023.
- January 26, 2023, Ms. Ramona Roper assisted North Region Director Ken Childre with interviews for the vacant VSO1 position in Gainesville. The interviews were conducted in the Gainesville Veterans Field Service Office.
- January 31, 2023, the Training and Professional Development Division had a collaboration meeting to discuss the 2023 Annual Training agenda. The meeting consisted of ideas for the curriculum, to include required subjects by the Department of Veterans Affairs and desired classes.
- February 3, 2023, Mr. Steven Fay assisted North Region Director Ken Childre with interviews for the vacant VSO1 position in Newnan. This interview was conducted via MS Teams.
- February 8, 2023, the Training and Professional Development Division had another collaboration meeting. This meeting primarily focused on the division of attendees per skill levels. Training has Tier style training. The training tiers are Beginners, Intermediate, Seniors and Remedial. The classes are now called Freshmen, Sophomore, Juniors and Advanced. The stigma of being called *Seniors* was changed to Advanced. Additional Advanced and Sophomore classes were added to this year's annual training program due to the increase of employees meeting the requirements for those particular levels. The average class size in the Freshmen, Juniors, and Advanced classes is 20-25 personnel. The Sophomore classes are limited at 10. 2023 Annual Training now has 5 full classes.
- February 14, 2023, the Training and Professional Development Division will have another collaboration meeting. This meeting will consist of assignment of classes to the instructors, discussions pertaining to the development of materials and how to incorporate the training tiers into each module. The Training Division will be conducting at least one meeting per month to discuss the annual training. The closer to the June 12-16, 2023 date, these meetings will be at least twice a month.

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Upcoming Events:

- Daily continued ongoing support to the Regional Directors and Veteran Field Service Offices.
- Continuation of performing duties as VSO's.
- Continuation of Quality Review checks of VSO's work.
 - Planning the 2023 Annual (Regional) Training Conference.
 - New monthly DROP class will commence in February 2023. This class will be on Housebound and Aid and Attendance stipends.

Edwin Berry, Director of Appeals Division

- The total number of hearings conducted by the Appeals Division for January 2023 was 87.
- The total number of pre-hearing actions for January 2023 was 129.
- The total number of post-hearing actions for January 2023 was 31.
- The total number of correspondence conducted by the Appeals Division (with veterans, BVA/VA employees, and VSO field offices) for the month of December was 440.

As of February 01, 2023, the Atlanta VA Regional Office processed benefits as follows for GDVS and the Service Organizations represented by GDVS:

Types of Claims	Number of Awards	Benefits paid out
Compensation	102,613	\$210,844,295
DIC	3509	\$5,844,730
Survivor Pension	832	\$763,832
<u>Veteran Pension</u>	<u>1,616</u>	<u>\$1,893,353</u>
Grand Total	108,570	\$219,346,210

Kenneth Childre, Director of North Region

Retro Awards: January 2023-\$1,906,445.00

Included in that amount is a single award reported by:
Rita Barnhart (Canton)-\$337,478.00 (Roe-4371) PACT ACT DIC Claim

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Director Site Visits/Inspections: 0

Community Involvement:

18 Jan 2023-Ken Childre (North Area Director), Melissa Pritchett (Office Manager, Cobb County Clinic), Sheenah Thrasher (VSO, Atlanta Balcony)

Cobb County Senior Services, Veteran Outreach Program-Briefed over 60 Veterans on state/federal benefits and also discussed new PACT Act.

18 Jan 2023-Rob Johnson (Office Manager, Griffin)

Addressed the Sun City Peachtree Military Affairs Committee on the PACT Act, Agent Orange updated presumptives, Blue Water Navy, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water and general questions about class action participation. There were 87 attendees.

19 Jan 2023-Ken Childre (North Area Director), Rita Barnhart (Office Manager, Canton), Ken Stearns (VSO, Canton), Rico Johnson (Office Manager, Gainesville) and Melissa Pritchett (Office Manager, Cobb County Clinic).

Participated in the VETLANTA PACT Act Summit in Canton. Had 27 visits and filed 12 claims for Veterans.

24 Jan 2023-Ken Childre (North Area Director)

Sat on Panel for HIRE HEROES USA. Expanding Client Success Through Resource Partnerships. Part of a 4 person panel that provided ways that we connect with our Veterans/family members. Approximately 200 HIRE HEROES USA employees were in attendance.

North Georgia Gains/Losses:

Augusta VAMC-Ian Ketterer-Resigned Effective 31 Jan

Gainesville-Glenn Massey-Transferred from Office Manager to Training Specialist

Augusta WVH-Wanda Owens-New Hire Effective 3 Jan

Augusta WVH-Valerie Gilchrist-New Hire Effective 3 Jan

Cartersville-Kristi Jones-New Hire Effective 3 Jan

Marietta-Melvin Taylor-New Hire Effective 3 Jan

Augusta VAMC-Elaine McIntosh-New Hire Effective 17 Jan

Atlanta Balcony-Sheenah Thrasher transferred from Marietta Office to Atlanta Balcony

North Georgia Interviews:

Gainesville-8 candidates/2 interviewed.

Lawrenceville-9 candidates/7 interviewed.

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Average Visits Per VFSO							
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		North					
Month:		January-23					
A	B	C	D	E	D / E F	G	G / E H
			Total Monthly Office Visits	Work Days In Month	Average Office Visits Per Day	Total Claims Submitted To VA Monthly	Average Claims Submitted By VFSOS To VA Daily
Office Name	Veterans' Field Service Officer (VFSO) Last Name	#					
	Number of VFSOs:	52	14,326	914	15.67	2,444	2.67
Number of Offices:	30	Average Visits/Office:		477.53	Average Claims/Office: 81.4666667		

*Total monthly office visits include: 3,241 In-Person and 11,085 phone calls/emails.

Mr. Childre added to his report that Vetlanta went well. We had 4 VSOs who saw 33 people and filed 11 claims. The next event will be on April 4 at KSU.

Vincent M. Pritchett, Director Veterans Benefits South Region

- On January 27, 2023, Vincent Pritchett and Debbie O'Neil (District 3 manager, Lyons) conducted interviews for the vacant manager position in our St. Marys field office. We recommended Brett Kuppler for the position, and he accepted the job offer.
- On February 3, 2023, Sandra Bennett (District 1 manager, Columbus) visited Justice-Involved Veterans at Rutledge State prison in Columbus and talked to them about the benefits they are entitled to while incarcerated and what they should be doing as they near their release dates.
- On February 4, 2023, Melissa Ingle (Americus field office) was the guest speaker at an American Legion District 3 quarterly meeting. She provided over 30 Veterans and American Legion Post officers with an overview of GDVS and updates on the PACT Act. James Wolfe, the District 3 vice commander, contacted Commissioner Ross and me to tell me what a great job Melissa did.
- On February 7, 2023, Stephanie Jordan (Brunswick CBOC field office) met with officials at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Stephanie took a tour of the facility and discussed the VA claims process and benefits.
- On February 10, 2023, Sandra Bennett (District 1 manager, Columbus) was the guest speaker at an annual Veterans Symposium hosted by one of the local churches in Columbus.

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- On February 18, 2023, Stephanie Jordan (Brunswick CBOC field office) was the guest speaker at the "For the Love of Veterans" breakfast hosted by JaCarla Walker, Executive Director of Care & Give Back to Seniors.
- South Region offices reported lump sum payments totaling \$158,631.00 since the last board meeting.
- South Region Gains/Losses: Brett Kuppler joined our St. Marys office effective February 16, 2023. Mike Hardison resigned from our Milledgeville field office effective February 10, 2023.
- South Georgia Region Veterans Population: 237,759.

Office Visits for December: South Georgia offices handled 5,528 phone calls and emails.

Average Visits Per VFSO							
Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO							
Region:		South Region					
Month:		January-23					
A	B	C	D / E		G		G / E
			D	E	F	H	H
			Total	Work	Average	Total	Average
			Monthly	Days	Office	Claims	Claims
	Veterans' Field		Office	In	Visits	Submitted	Submitted
Office Name	Service Officer (VFSO)	#	Visits	Month	Per	VA	By VFSOS
	Last Name				Day	Monthly	To VA
							Daily
	Number of VFSOs:	41	2,744	752	3.65	2,160	2.87
Number of Offices:		24	Average Visits/Office:		114.33	Average Claims/Office:	
						90.00	

Mr. Pritchett added to his report that Melissa Ingle had successfully intervened in a veterans life to get him professional help which prevented him from committing suicide. The veteran said, "Melissa Ingle saved my life."

Veda Brooks, Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)

- January 17 and 19, 2023, Ms. Brooks helped facilitate ASIST Training.
- January 18, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in and evaluated the Fox Assessment Training.
- January 19, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the LGBTQ+ Veterans Health & Wellness Summit.

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- January 21, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in a Women's Veteran Meet-Up.
- January 23, 2023, Ms. Brooks facilitated a meeting with the Gala planning team. Ms. Brooks participated in a Fox Grant Update Meeting.
- January 24, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in AMES/1st Responder Training: Control, Commitment, Challenge and Assertive Communications. She also participated with a work group discussion to see if this training could be used to train veteran family members.
- January 25, 2023, Ms. Brooks facilitated GAPS Assessment Training. Ms. Brooks participated in ACE-SI Training with the Appeals department.
- January 26, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in Coweta Veteran Court.
- January 27, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in a home visit to do a mental health assessment and to ensure that the person was connected to community support.
- January 31, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the weekly GDVS/AMES Summit Meeting.
- January 31, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the Marietta Vet Center Quarterly Stakeholders Meeting.
- February 1, 2023, Ms. Brooks visited the Columbus office to deliver a laptop and went over the GAPS QR code procedures.
- February 2, 2023, Ms. Brooks visited the Waynesboro Office to deliver a laptop and went over the GAPS QR code procedures. Ms. Brooks participated in a Community Engagement Partnership meeting for the Fox Grant. Ms. Brooks participated in a Fox Grant discussion with the VA Suicide Prevention Team in VIZN 7.
- February 3, 2023, Ms. Brooks spoke with G. Leah Davis, PH.D., Chief of Staff DeKalb County Board of Commissioners.
- February 7, 2023, Ms. Brooks, Calandra Ferguson, Dawn Donaldson and Raven Holstick visited a Veteran Empowerment and Outreach Housing facility. Ms. Brooks participated in the weekly GDVS/AMES Summit Meeting.
- February 8, 2023, Ms. Brooks facilitated GAPS Assessment Training. Ms. Brooks participated in ACE-SI Training North. Ms. Brooks participated in the Women Veteran Health Committee Monthly Meeting.
- February 9, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in a Virtual Minority Veteran Outreach Symposium.

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- February 10, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in ACE-SI Training North.
- February 14, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the weekly GDVS/AMES Summit Meeting.
- February 15, 2023, Ms. Brooks facilitated GAPS Assessment Training. Ms. Brooks participated in ACE-SI Training at Warner Robins. Ms. Brooks participated in the Violence Prevention Task Force Meeting. Ms. Brooks toured Middle Georgia University, Robert F. Hatcher, Sr. Conference Center.
- February 16, 2023, Ms. Brooks facilitated GAPS Assessment Training. Ms. Brooks participated in ACE-SI Training North. Ms. Brooks participated in the Black LGBTQ+ Professionals and Vision Panel.
- February 20, 2023, Ms. Brooks visited American Legion Post 160. Ms. Brooks participated in the FOX Grant Update meeting.
- February 21, 2023, Ms. Brooks participated in the weekly GDVS/AMES Summit Meeting. Ms. Brooks participated in the Coweta County Family Connection.
- February 22, 2023, Ms. Brooks facilitated GAPS Assessment Training. Ms. Brooks participated in ACE-SI Training North.

Current Committees

- Women's Veterans Health Committee (monthly meetings and joint outreach events)
- Georgia State VFW Homeless Committee
- VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Georgia Team
- Atlanta Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans
- The Birdwell Foundation Board Member
- Coweta County Race, Equity, and Justice Committee
- Unite Georgia Community Advisory Committee

Calandra Ferguson, Suicide Prevention and Outreach Coordinator (SPOC)

- January 17 & 19, 2023, Ms. Ferguson taught Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST) to staff on the 9th Floor and Balcony.
- January 18, 2023, Ms. Ferguson attended the Fox Grant Assessment Training.

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- January 24, 2023, Ms. Ferguson attend training for Suicide Prevention training among First Responders taught by the KSU AMES Center.
- January 25, 2023, Ms. Ferguson taught Suicide Prevention for VSOs at the VAMC in Decatur.
- January 27, 2023, Ms. Ferguson accompanied a VSO to the home of a disabled veteran to connect them with mental health resources.
- February 1, 2023, Ms. Ferguson provided GAPs training and screening to the Columbus VSO.
- February 2, 2023, Ms. Ferguson provided GAPs training and screening to the Waynesboro VSO.
- February 3, 2023, Ms. Ferguson met with DBHDD to discuss ways to collaborate and provide services to SMVFs.
- February 8, 2023, Ms. Ferguson conducted S.A.V.E. training for VSOs in the North Region.
- February 10, 2023, Ms. Ferguson conducted S.A.V.E. training for VSOs in the North Region.
- February 15, 2023, Ms. Ferguson conducted S.A.V.E training for the VECTR in Warner Robbins.

Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information & External Affairs

INFORMATION OUTREACH

Division Updates

1. GDVS Newsletter – PID published a monthly newsletter in January. The January edition featured an update on the GDVS's accomplishments in 2022, VA's new mental healthcare access policy, a celebration of WWII veteran Russell Hansen's 100th birthday, the advantage of hiring veterans, and a VSO spotlight on Waynesboro office manager Carol Crawford. The full newsletter is available online at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/newsletter>.
2. Veterans Benefits Outreach
 - a. VA mental healthcare updates – shared information on the VA's new mental healthcare policy beginning on January 17, 2023. Veterans in crisis are now able to visit any VA or non-VA healthcare facility for free for emergency care.

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- b. Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit registry updates – As part of PACT Act awareness, boosted the expansion of VA's registry data website for veterans possibly impacted by toxic exposures.
- c. Cobb Senior Veteran Outreach – highlighted Regional Director Childre, Marietta CBOC office manager Melissa Pritchett, and Atlanta VSO Sheenah Thrasher's participation in a Cobb County event. They shared information on benefits, PACT Act, and services available in their area.
- d. Job Fairs and Career Opportunities – shared information on job fairs for military spouses and caregivers and the deadline to apply for VA's partnership with Microsoft Software & Systems Academy.

3. Employee Spotlights

- a. GDVS Names First Employee of the Year – Celebrated the service of Debbie O'Neal, manager of the GDVS Lyons office. Ms. O'Neal is the first recipient of the GDVS Employee of the Year award.
- b. GDVS Names Employee of the Quarter for Q4 2023 – Vershawn Moses was selected as EOQ. PID shared information on his notable accomplishments during his first year as a VSO in Warner Robins.
- c. GWVNH-Augusta 2023 Customer Experience Award – highlighted the continued excellent quality care available to veterans in Augusta and the outstanding work of their dedicated care staff.

Public Information Division Contacts *(Since December 9, 2022)*

- Replies to VA eBenefits Messages = 85
- Replies to General Questions = approximately 180
- Individual Request for the State Certificate of Honor = approximately 30

GOVERNOR'S (VIETNAM VETERAN) CERTIFICATE of HONOR PROGRAM-

- The latest and most accurate totals (since March 2015) –

State Certificates of Honor issued via GDVS – An estimated 29,740
(Honors Ceremonies and Central Office Mail Outs)

DoD Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins presented via GDVS – An estimated 23,740

Honors Ceremonies supported/coordinated by GDVS – 356

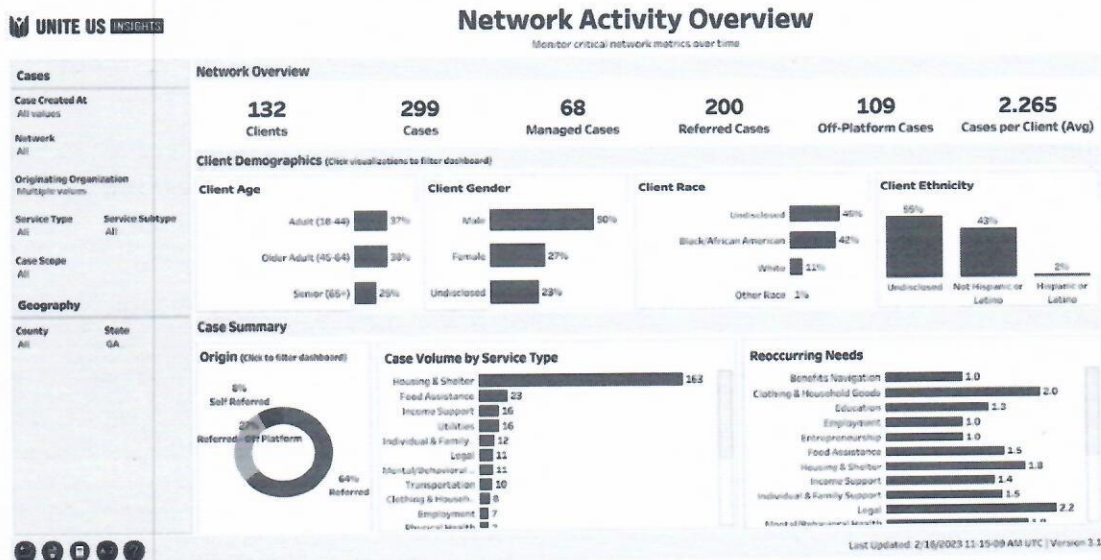
Defense Department's Vietnam Veteran Surviving Spouse CoH – 291

- **Upcoming event** – March 29, Chattooga County Extension Service Office
(<https://allongeorgia.com/chattooga-local-news/chattooga-county-vietnam-veterans-honor-ceremony-scheduled/>)

Ms. May added that she is working on the packets for the legislators.

Mr. Mark Demers, Grant Program Implementation Manager

- Unite-Us Grant- (American Rescue Plan-Negative Impact Grant)- \$6.1m per year effective July 1, 2022:
 - Data ingestion and secure data transfer for the platform and social connector has been slow but we are moving forward. As of February 13, 2023, we have **28,853** in the system and growing. Completed latest SFTP data transfer to Unite Us on February 13, 2023. We have submitted **617** community partners and **312** healthcare partners for inclusion to the platform since August 2022, with another **100** to be added by February 17, 2023.
 - Below is an activity snapshot from Unite Us Insights from October 25, 2022, to February 16, 2023:



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- We received our first batch of data back from Unite Us on February 16, 2023 containing social needs indicators, via SFTP.
- Grant financial management- vendor management set up, issues with state external auditors (RSM), payments to vendor, and grant reimbursement have been a slow and cumbersome process.
- Since the process has been so slow, we requested an advance of \$4,583,516.58 against the grant to cover from October 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. This has been approved by OPB and we have completed all the necessary paperwork on our end. The only thing pending is the Terms and Agreements change from the legal section at OPB. Once completed we will receive the funds and immediately pay 5 Unite-Us invoices. We should be 100% up to date no later than March 15, 2023.
- Attended weekly Unite Us meetings.
- SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program- (\$747,464 for one year with the possibility to extend two more years).
 - We are in partnership with Kennesaw State University AMES Center to implement the grant. KSU started analyzing data collection and submitted the first reports to the VA on February 6, 2023.
 - Our first funds draw for \$144,803.00 was completed on February 2, 2023, and the KSU invoice was paid on February 3, 2023.
 - Attended SSG Fox Grant meetings on February 6, 14 and 16, 2023.
 - Calandra Ferguson or Veda Brooks will report all the outreach and training events regarding Suicide Prevention under the Fox Grant.
 - Calandra Ferguson provided the outreach and training data reports, and we transmitted it to the VA on February 3, 2023.

Mr. Bobby Davis, Director, Veterans Education and Training Division (State Approving Agency)

VETERANS STATE APPROVING AGENCY

- The approval and compliance surveys of educational institutions, training establishments and training programs approved for veterans training is continuing with no significant problems in any area being noted.
- Approval of new veteran's On-The-Job training sites (OJT) continues to increase. As of this date the State Approving Agency (SAA) has granted approval to 1,815 educational institutions and training establishments where Georgia veterans may attend school or job training and utilize their GI Bill® educational benefits.
- SAA attended the NASAA Mid-Winter Conference in Washington, D.C. 4-8 February 2023. Please see attached legislative items of interest.

Item *	Number
Approved Educational Institutions	393
Approved Training Establishments	1,422
Veteran Students Enrolled in Educational Institutions	11,141

* Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Division, January 2023.

NASAA Mid-Winter Conference 2023 Legislative Items

Two significant legislative issues have developed that need close monitoring and or intervention.

1. In the last appropriations bill that was passed in the last congressional session, DEA benefits for children who turn 18 during the Senior year of High School is being eliminated. The current sunset date for this benefit is August 1, 2026. The current benefit allows children who turn 18 during the Senior year of High School to receive 5 months of DEA benefits without taking away from their 36 months of benefits for college, trade school, or OJT/Apprenticeship programs. TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) introduced the legislation. TAPS represents deceased veteran surviving spouses and children. They do not represent our 100% permanent and total disabled veterans. To remove this benefit is a disservice to our 100% permanent and total disabled veterans as this program in conversations I've had with my peers is highly used at every state in the nation. I strongly encourage you to let every veteran you know this benefit is going away and write your congressman about it. A change in legislation will need to happen prior to the August 1, 2026,

sunset date to keep this benefit available for our 100% P&T veterans. From TAPS perspective this is not a cost effective benefit for surviving spouses and children as the DIC benefit they receive is higher than the money they would receive for DEA Chapter 35 benefits. However, for the 100% P&T veteran it is a significant amount of money. To keep a child who turns 18 on the disability award the veteran receives approximately \$110.00 per dependent, and VA will extend this until the child graduate's high school. However, the 5 months of DEA benefits provides \$1,400.00 per child per month for 5 months without effecting the 36 months of entitlement. So, the veteran can choose to receive \$550.00 to keep the child on the disability award for 5 months or they can let the child receive the 5 months of DEA benefit and receive \$7,000.00. For the 100% P&T veteran this is an easy decision.

2. The U.S. Department of Transportation has added a 40 hour training requirement for all Truck Driving Schools. The Truck Driving Schools can provide this training on-line however for our non-accredited Truck Driving Schools on-line modality is not an option under Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 3676. For a school to be able to offer on-line training they must be accredited at the college level to offer such training. This requirement could lead to the SAA having to withdraw all non-accredited Truck Driving Schools (we have 9 non-accredited Truck Driving Schools in Georgia). Considering truck drivers are in high demand and many veterans choose to go into trucking limiting education opportunities could have a negative impact. As part of NASAA's legislative agenda we are currently working on legislation to allow non-accredited Truck Driving Schools to be approved under Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 3672 which is for deemed approved regulated by a federal agency. Currently this section of law only pertains to Vocational Flight Schools but should be expanded to cover any federal agency with oversight responsibilities.

Mr. Russell Feagin, Director, Health & Memorials Division

There are no positive covid cases among staff or veterans, even though the county's transmission rate remains high.

Ms. Tonya Jarrett, Clinical Director, Health & Memorials Division

1. Georgia War Veterans Home (GWVH) has three COVID-positive staff members and no COVID-positive patients.
2. Status of staffing by Pruitt Health for Subacute Unit:
 - a. Psychiatrist-Pruitt Health is pursuing a contract with Salveo Integrative Health for psychiatry services with a start date to be determined.

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- b. Neuropsychologist- Pruitt is currently contracting with consultant Dr. Jeremy Hertza through Integrated Psych Solutions.
 - c. Facility Executive Director participates in bi-weekly calls with the Pruitt recruitment staff for updates on potential candidates and staffing needs.
 - d. LPN/RN- Pruitt is continuing to recruit.
 - e. OT/PT/SLP- Pruitt is continuing to recruit.
3. Status of staff training and program development:
- a. The behavior specialist team traveled to Augusta, GA, in January for training in the use of assessments and scoring to aid with evaluations and treatment of current and future patients. Dr. Hertza and his staff trained the team in the correct selection, administration, and scoring of these evaluations.
 - b. Ongoing modality training for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing therapy (EMDR), biofeedback training, and dynavision training for sensory processing.
 - c. Pruitt staff continues to provide patient de-escalation and safety training campus wide.
4. Onsite tour of the GWVH is scheduled for Ms. Takosha Swan on 02/24/23.

Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA

There are 2 positive Covid cases among staff but no patients. Procedures are in place for infection control.

We had training with UGA and are excited about moving toward electronic medical records with Point Click Care.

Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the Annual Real Estate Management Conference at Kennesaw State University to discuss the changes at State Properties Commission.

On Thursday, January 26, 2023, Kerry Dyer met with Ryan Petty, Access Solutions to discuss the digitalization of the Departments DD214's. Later that day he met virtually with Rutledge Davis, Site

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Manager for the Pike County Clinic to discuss a potential office in the Gwinnett County Clinic, located on Riverside Parkway.

On Friday, January 27, 2023, Kerry Dyer spoke with Shye Wilborn, External Affairs Manager at Georgia Building Authority to discuss reserving the Floyd Tower for 2023 Annual Training. Later that day he met virtually with Tonya Kincaid, Director of Accounting & Financial Services to discuss the State Policy on Lodging for Non-State Employees and Concur Travel for State Employees.

On Monday, January 30, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Directors meeting. Later that day he, along with Commissioner Ross, Shelly-Ann Simpson, Shareka Monday-Robinson, Mark Bannister, and Kirsten Dennis met virtually with Camala Ball to discuss GDVS budget projections. He also spoke with Mark Meeks, DOAS Procurement Manager to discuss the Bidders/Offerors Conference and the Mandatory Site visit for the GWVH.

On Tuesday, January 31, 2023, Kerry Dyer met virtually with Mary Chapman, Deputy Division Director of the State Purchasing Division to discuss the DOAS Small Business & Supplier Diversity Initiative. Later that day along with Mark Bannister he attended the Senate brief at the Capitol delivered by Commissioner Ross.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2023, Kerry Dyer spoke with Teesha Prieto, Sales Manager at Embassy Suites to discuss reservations for 2023 Annual Training. Later that day he met virtually with Ann Thompson, DOAS State Property Program Officer to discuss the FY 2024 Property Renewal Coverage and the process to add the additional Field Offices into the Building, Leased, Land, and Inventoried Property (BLLIP) System.

On Thursday, February 2, 2023, Kerry Dyer along with Shareka Monday-Robinson attended the virtual NextGen onboarding session to discuss Talent Management, Payroll Processing, Labor Distribution and Supplier Contract Management. Later that day he posted the following vacancies internally and externally: Veterans Claims Appeals Officer 1 (VCAO 1) and Veterans Field Service Officer 1 (VFSO1).

On Friday, February 3, 2023, Kerry Dyer scrubbed the monthly Gains/Loss Roster, Promotions Merit List, Department Alpha Roster, Position numbers Roster and distributed to the Senior Leadership. Later that day he submitted the monthly Fleet Management Report to DOAS.

On Monday, February 6, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Directors meeting. Later that day he added 5 additional field offices into the Building, Leased, Land, and Inventoried Property System. He also submitted the FY2024 Property Renewal Coverage Report to State Properties.

On Tuesday, February 7, 2023, Kerry Dyer along with Commissioner Ross, Shelly-Ann Simpson and Mark Bannister briefed the requested changes to the Foundation Board to the legislators. Later that day he updated and disseminated the Department Directives to the Field Offices.

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On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the mandatory Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. Later that day he attended the mandatory GAPS Assessment Training which is a prerequisite for the implementation of the SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant. He also met with John Pidgeon, CWC Office Furniture to discuss quotes for renovating the Central Office suite.

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the Open Forum along with Commissioner Ross to discuss upcoming events and to hear the concerns and issues from the employees within the department. Later that day he met virtually with George Sartin, Regional Sales Manager for Unicoi State Park & Lodge to discuss a potential site to host 2024 Annual Training.

On Friday, February 10, 2023, Kerry Dyer submitted the Annual Comprehensive Loss Control Program Self Evaluation to DOAS Risk Management. Later that day he met virtually with Teesha Prieto, Sales Manager at Embassy Suite Hotel to finalize the reservations for 2023 Annual Training.

On Monday, February 13, 2023, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Directors meeting. He also posted the Milledgeville Grounds Maintenance Tech 1 vacancy. Later that day he met virtually with Jason Hickey, Image API to discuss the digitalization of the departments DD214's.

On Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Kerry Dyer met virtually with Mark Meeks, DOAS Procurement Manager, Linda Lavender, Mark Bannister and Tonya Jarrett to discuss the Evaluation Kick-Off for the Georgia War Veterans Home.

On Wednesday, February 15, Kerry Dyer along with Commissioner Ross, Shelly-Ann Simpson, Julie Hammond and Ramona Roper discussed the plan for 2023 Annual Training. Later that day he met with Hadley Rawlins, Carl Vinson Institute of Government and Research to discuss how to target transitioning service members into state jobs and the Skillbridge Skills programs.

Below are the Personnel Actions Kerry Dyer and Shareka Monday-Robinson processed from January 16, 2023- February 16, 2023.

Location	Position	Status	Name	Date
Gainesville	VFSO 1	New Hire	John Wagenknecht	02/01/2023
Lawrenceville	VFSO 1	New Hire	Christina Williams	02/02/2023
Milledgeville	VFSO 1	Resigned	Michael Hardison	02/03/2023
Milledgeville	Grds Maint Tech 1	Resigned	Charles Woody	02/10/2023
Glennville	Grds Maint Tech 1	Resigned	Anthony MacNeil	02/10/2023
St. Marys	Office Manager	New Hire	Brett Kuppler	02/16/2023
Newnan	VFSO 1	New Hire	Roger McDonald	02/16/2023

On the horizon: Digitalization of the DD214's.

Mr. Mark Bannister, Executive Director, Health, Memorials, Finance & Development

FINANCE

Accounting

Routine operations are continuing.

Through accounting procedural guidance and assistance from the State Accounting Shared Services, we continue to work together efficiently as a team to complete required end – of – year budget reports, monthly allotments, and amendments. As we continue with our accounting and budget operations, we're making adjustments and improvements in the areas of better management and oversight of our operating budget, general ledgers, timely submission of invoice payments and processing of purchase orders. We've reestablished greater communication with our vendors – payments to vendors of our State Veterans Homes.

Budget and General

As of this writing, we are at legislative day 19 of the 40 days of the 2023 Legislative Session. The General Assembly has been actively progressing through its scheduled meetings and budget hearings.

AFY 2023 and FY 2024 Budget Appropriations Hearings

Commissioner Ross presented the Governor's Recommended Budget for the Amended FY 2023 and FY 2024 budgets on the dates listed to the members of both the House and Senate Appropriations Human Resources, and Defense Subcommittees.

January 19th, House Appropriations Subcommittee.

February 7th, Senate Appropriations Health, and Human Dev Subcommittee.

February 8th, House Defense and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

February 13th, House Appropriations Subcommittee.

Under HB 18, the **Amended AFY 2023** the Governor's recommend budget is:

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$25,934,624	\$53,360,361

Departmental Administration (DVS)

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$2,031,065	\$2,031,065

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One-time funds to digitize DD Form 214's.	\$160,579	\$160,579
Program Net	\$160,579	\$160,579
Adjusted Total Funds	\$2,191,644	\$2,191,644

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$1,963,165	\$2,291,051
Reduction in funds for delay in Establishment of Augusta Cemetery	(\$1,000,000)	(\$1,000,000)
Adjusted Total Funds	\$963,165	\$1,291,051

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Homes

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$13,340,376	\$39,684,291
Program Net	\$0	\$0
Total Funds	\$13,340,376	\$39,684,291

Veterans Benefits

Recommended change: None	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$8,600,028	\$9,353,954
Program Net	\$0	\$0
Total Funds	\$8,600,028	\$9,353,954

AFY 2023 Budget

Agency Net	State Funds: (\$839,421)	Total Funds: (\$839,421)
Total Funds HB 18	\$25,095,203	\$52,520,940

Under HB 19, the **FY 2024** the Governor's recommend budget is:

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$25,934,624	\$53,360,361

Departmental Administration (DVS)

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
HB 911	\$2,031,065	2,031,065
\$2,000 cost of living increase	\$54,264	\$54,264
Agency premiums DOAS	(\$3,910)	(\$3,910)
TeamWorks billings	\$4,203	\$4,203

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Program Net	\$54,557	\$54,557
Total Funds	\$2,085,622	\$2,085,622

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$1,963,155	\$2,291,051
\$2,000 cost of living increase	\$44,089	\$44,089
Program Net	\$44,089	\$44,089
Total Adjusted Funds	\$2,007,244	\$2,335,140

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Homes

Budget	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$13,340,376	\$39,684,291
\$2,000 cost of living increase	\$513,073	\$513,073
Program Net	\$513,073	\$513,073
Total Adjusted Funds	\$13,853,449	\$40,197,364

Veterans Benefits

Recommended change: None	State Funds	Total Funds
Total Funds	\$8,600,028	\$9,353,954
\$2,000 cost of living increase	\$369,672	\$369,672
Agency premiums DOAS	\$91,850	\$91,850
Merit System Assessment billings	\$1,568	\$1,568
Program Net	\$463,090	\$463,090
Total Funds	\$9,063,118	\$9,817,044

FY 2024 Budget

Agency Net	\$1,074,809	\$1,074,809
Total Funds HB 19	\$27,009,433	\$54,435,170

HEALTH AND MEMORIALS

State Veterans Homes

State Veterans Homes Census (Through February 10, 2023) +

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Current Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	99	101	200
Service Connected *	27	37	64
Total Patients	126	138	264
Last Month			
Regular Patients	98	105	203
Service Connected *	26	37	63
Total Patients	124	142	266

*One hundred percent of the cost of these services is paid by the VA. No state funds are involved.

+The report to the VSB are total numbers from January 13, 2023, through February 10, 2023.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home – Augusta

Routine operations are continuing.

Georgia War Veterans Home – Milledgeville

Routine operations are continuing.

State Veterans Cemeteries

Burial Statistics (through February 10, 2023)+

State Veterans Cemetery	Cumulative Last Month	Cumulative Current Month	Increase
Glennville	2,220	2,240	20
Milledgeville	5,006	5,038	32
Total	7,226	7,278	52

+ The report to the VSB are the total numbers from January 13, 2023, through February 10, 2023.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

Routine operations are continuing.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville

Routine operations are continuing.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a discussion about funding priorities. Commissioner Ross mentioned that for FY23 it has been the digitization of the DD214s. For FY24 the priority is raises for our VSOs and cemetery workers. The State has proposed a \$2K raise for all State employees. We now have additional positions filled from when they took the snapshot of our department. We will be asking for funding for those positions. We may request funding for the Augusta cemetery in the next fiscal year. State properties has offered a small parcel of land from the Technical College to a possible new veterans home. A 120-bed home would cost approximately \$68 million. The VA would be responsible for 65% and the State 35%, with the State being responsible for the operational cost moving forward.

A discussion ensued about how best to advertise the COMPACT Act. Mr. Paslawski mentioned an ad at the top of our website. Commissioner Ross explained that our website is owned by GTA and we are limited on what we can change. We can put it on the Foundation's website. Ms. May will look at ways to add this to our website.

There was a discussion about the advantages of board members having GDVS business cards. They would have these to pass out when they are out making contacts, and the card could possibly have the crisis line number and information about the Foundation. Mr. Kopsie made a motion to move forward with the establishment of the template for the Board member's business cards. Mr. Paslawski seconded the motions. The motion passed.

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The March 23 Board meeting was scheduled. It will be a combination virtual and in-person meeting, set up at the GDVS. Mr. Kopsie made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Paslawski. There were no objections. The motion passed.

Mr. Kopsie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. There were no objections and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:31 p.m.

SIGNED:



Shawn Hanley, Chair

ATTEST:


Joshua Kopsie, Secretary

The next Veterans Service Board meeting will be held in person at GDVS but will also be available via video/telephone conference call on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. The Webex link is:
<https://georgiadepartmentofveteransservice.webex.com/georgiadepartmentofveteransservice/j.php?MTID=mb83f063a124125228812b346562b85ea>

Meeting password: **JKff399cx3z (55333992 from video systems)**

Or you can call: **1-844-621-3956**

Access Code: **2339 893 3201**