

(Draft – Awaiting Approval)  
**MINUTES OF THE  
VETERANS' AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMISSION**  
Tuesday, September 27, 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair  
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair  
Sen. Karen Mayne  
Rep. Val L. Peterson  
Rep. Marie H. Poulson  
Dr. Steven Allen  
Mr. Zachary Barrus  
Major General Jefferson S. Burton  
Dr. Blair K. Carruth  
Mr. Tim M. Cosgrove  
Mr. Bart Davis  
Mr. Tage I. Flint  
Mr. George Gutzmer  
Mr. Gary Harter  
Mr. Johnnie B. Janes  
Mr. Terry D. Schow

**Members Absent:**

Ms. Jackie L. Chamberlain  
Mr. Brian Garrett  
Mr. Frank Maughan  
Mr. Paul Patrick  
Mr. Jon Pierpont  
Mr. Greg Rowley

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Gregg A. Girvan, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Arthur L. Hunsaker, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Esther Chelsea-McCarty, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Debra Hale, Legislative Assistant

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.leg.utah.gov](http://www.leg.utah.gov).

**1. Commission Business**

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. He excused Ms. Chamberlain, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Maughan, Mr. Patrick, Mr. Pierpont, and Mr. Rowley from the meeting.

Mr. Dean Penovich was in attendance for Mr. Patrick, and Mr. Bruce Summers was in attendance for Mr. Pierpont.

**MOTION:** Mr. Schow moved to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Peterson, Rep. Poulson, Mr. Cosgrove, and Mr. Flint were absent for the vote.

**2. State Support of PTSD Treatment**

Dr. Craig Bryan, Director, National Center for Veterans Studies, presented "Economic Consequences of Mental Illness Among Military Personnel and Veterans." During the presentation, Dr. Bryan discussed military peer support programs and the cost of training clinicians and responded to commission members' questions.

Sen. Mayne commented on the need for specialized training of the labor force.

MG Burton spoke of the need to focus on finding which treatment options have proved most effective so that the information may be used as a means of determining where the dollars should be spent.

Dr. Allen spoke in support of the state helping to fund the training of clinicians in evidence-based effective treatments.

### **3. Effects of Multiple Deployments on Servicemembers and Families**

Ms. Laci Warby, Family Assistance Center Coordinator, Utah National Guard, briefed commission members on the services offered through the Family Assistance Center, including monthly contact with service members' families when a servicemember is deployed in order to facilitate help if needed, as well as continued contact with families after the servicemembers have returned home for 180-days or longer.

### **4. Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Update**

Mr. Gary Harter, Executive Director, Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs, presented "Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs, September 27, 2016" and updated commission members on current activities within the department.

Mr. Tage Flint, President, Utah Defense Alliance, discussed the work being done at Hill Air Force Base to facilitate combat readiness of F-35s. He noted that jobs are being created and that national defense is strengthened by the work on F-35s in Utah.

Mr. Harter also distributed an information card entitled "Utah Department of Veterans & Military Affairs, September 2016"

### **5. College Veterans Centers**

Mr. Harter updated commission members on veterans and families that are receiving GI Bill education benefits or other education benefits.

Mr. Blair Carruth, Assistant Commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education, commented on improvements in services provided at Utah Valley University and Southern Utah University within the past year.

### **6. Veteran Benefit Disclosure**

Mr. Girvan presented "Veterans Benefits Disclosure: An Overview" and recommended policy considerations for providing protection for veterans against financial fraud when seeking to obtain veterans benefits.

Mr. Girvan also distributed "Utah Code Chapter 13 – Veteran Benefits Assistance Act" and "State of Utah VA Benefits Claims Assistance Disclosure Form."

### **7. Other Business/Adjourn**

Chair Ray introduced Mr. Greg Unsicker, an independent representative of the Tara Group, Medical Solution Consultants, who presented "Innovative Health Solutions." Mr. Unsicker discussed the NeuroStim System, which is a bridge device inserted behind a patient's ear that assists in alleviating pain so that patients may not be introduced to opioids which may open them up to the risk of becoming dependent on the drug. Chair Ray indicated that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs is using the device in a few states.

Chair Ray reminded commission members that the next meeting will be on October 25, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

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**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Barrus, MG Burton, and Mr. Davis were absent for the vote.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.