



STATE OF ARIZONA
 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES
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MEETING NOTICE OF THE ARIZONA VETERANS' SERVICE ADVISORY SUBCOMMISSION

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02 notice is hereby given to the members of the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission (AVSAC), the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), and to the general public that there will be a Arizona Veterans' Services Advisory Subcommission meeting on **Friday, September 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.** This meeting is virtual via Zoom.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87015216808?pwd=T0Q4dGZzb3hGaIE2TU9OSVNmRDNsQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 1521 6808

Passcode: 994381

Agenda

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| Call to Order and Roll Call | Philip Cushman, Chair |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Philip Cushman, Chair |
| Approval of Previous Subcommission Minutes | Subcommission |
| I. Review of Summary of Commissioner, Governor & ADVS Priorities | Kathy Gallowitz, Commissioner |
| II. Address Questions raise by Subcommission (see attachment) | Kathy Gallowitz, Commissioner |
| III. Open Discussion of other Items / Determine what is missing | Kathy Gallowitz, Commissioner |

Adjournment

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in conducting its meetings/hearings. Individuals with a disability may request reasonable accommodation by contacting the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services at 602.255.3373 to make known their needs as soon as possible so that there will be sufficient time to provide the accommodation. A copy of this agenda and meeting materials may be found online at www.azdvs.gov.

**Working Document of
AZ Veterans' Commission Strategic Policy Update
6 Sept 2023, Kathy Gallowitz**

Questions:

1. Are these Governor priorities, Veteran issues:
 - Immigration and Border Security
 - Water and Environment
2. What are
 - Administrative vs. Policy
 - Board vs. Single Issues
3. Do we need to do more to support:
 - Nursing homes - Increase utilization, staffing, PR support?
 - Monitoring VBC - #claims, approval rating, rural, needs?
 - Identification/reporting of high risk Veteran populations?
4. Need current status of issues? How obtain?
5. What do we want to articulate positions on?

Summary of Commissioner, Governor & ADVS priorities

I. Promote Economic Growth and Workforce Development of Veterans

- Educating employers on Veteran-hiring best practices (P)
- Creating hiring preferences for able/disabled Veterans in state and local government jobs (P)
- Drawing Native Americans back to Arizona after their military service (P)
- Establishing 3% state contract set-asides for Veteran Owned Businesses (P)
- Attracting Veterans/Military Spouses to Arizona's workforce (P)
- Developing a State Veteran Employment Council (P)
- Incentivizing small business and local governments to hire Veterans ®
- Expediting military medics into civilian healthcare jobs (P)

- Property Tax and Income threshold elevation in this section. (P)
- Make twenty Tribal/Rural VBC's a budget line item. ©
- Support: (A)
 - Arizona Coalition for Military Family's *Arizona Veteran Supportive Employers (AVSE)* program
 - *DOD Skillbridge*
 - ACMF's "*AZHires Vets,*" to employ more Veterans in state government jobs Expand Affordable housing options, homelessness and financial stability of military families

II. Improve Access to Mental and Physical Healthcare

- Broad support of suicide prevention strategies, to include:
 - Support funding *Be Connected Support Line, Resources and Navigator Training* (P, DA)
 - Support DVS': (A, DA)
 - Stakeholder outreach to facilitate Veterans receiving a warm handoff to civilian life
 - Outreach to Veterans to foster awareness about direct services and benefits
 - Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program
 - Development of a "Justice Involved" Veterans tool kit
 - Hiring VBCs to specialize in rural areas

- “Ask a Veteran: Have you or family served in Armed Force?” as an administrative recommendation to see what is feasible for agencies. (A)
- Keep needs of Veteran subgroups top of mind, including: Minority, Women, Disabled, Rural (A)
- Support DVS’ engagement with Native Americans:
 - Create rural and tribal engagement events using satellite internet capabilities
 - Deploy tribal traditional healing program
- Support these plans/programs:
 - Arizona Veteran Homeless Action Plan (A)
 - DVS Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (A, DA)
- Support Veterans Treatment Courts, to include: (A)
 - Increased funding (P?)
 - Develop more of these courts & share best practices (A)
- Support organizations that provide legal assistance to Veterans (A)
- Expanding tele-health into rural communities, including extending broadband and fostering digital literacy. (P)
- Fund *Star Behavioral Health* to educate civilian behavior health providers about military culture and learn evidence-based intervention best practices. (P)
- Support the needs of Aging Veterans to include:

- Protect and grow the cemetery trust fund with the intent to build more Veteran cemeteries across the state. (P)
- Provide memorial grants for private and municipal cemeteries. (P)
- Veterans' widows, by providing better communication and coordination of benefits. (A)
- Foster collaboration of Arizona HealthCare Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) and Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to better support Veterans aging in rural communities. (A)

Federal issues to support: ?

- Offering Veterans paid transportation to healthcare appointments, especially rural Veterans. ?
- Simplifying credentialing of health care providers as TRICARE providers.
- Advocate for *Fisher Homes* in Phoenix, Prescott and Tucson.

III. Improve Education

- Ask for funding for:
 - Troops to Teachers ® so that more Veterans can become teachers
 - Purple Star Schools ® to foster awareness and support of military children K-12