

**South Texas Health Care System
VAVS Quarterly Committee Meeting Minutes
7400 Merton Minter Blvd.
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 617-5107 Ph. (210) 949-3361 Fax**

Date: December 7, 2023 CONVENED: 1:00 PM ADJOURNED 1:50 PM
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Members Present:

VAVS Committee:

Jason Gray, Chief, CDCE
Elizabeth Cazares, Assistant Chief, CDCE
LaKeisha Howard, Specialist, CDCE
E. Scott Traeger, Specialist, CDCE
Andraia Avila, Voluntary Assistant, CDCE
VAVS Representative/Deputy Representative (see Attachment 2)

Members Excused: N/A

I. Announcements:

- a. Invocation: Albert Owens, DAV
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Jason Gray
- c. Jason V. Gray, Chief CDCE, presented the Management Remarks/Updates:

-No new changes

Update on construction/moves:

-Fisher House II grand opening projected March 2024 TBD

Management/Staff changes:

Jason spoke on any donations that are being donated outside of CDCE will need to come through our office before being used. These donations are being processed through our system. We do get audited and keeping a record of these donation is paramount.

d. Guest/Needs Request:

Cheryl Kelly, SCI Recreation Therapist –

Spinal Cord cares for Inpatient Veterans that are in the hospital for weeks on

end. Spinal cord is asking for donations of iPad's that do not have to be connected to the VA database. The iPad's will be used to download various music apps These activities can help the veterans while being treated which is critical to rehabilitation. Spinal Cord is also asking for a donation of gift cards for HEB, Walmart and Apple. These will be used for inpatient needs.

Russell Scott, Mobility Department –

Requesting healthy snacks and water to provide to the veterans when they arrive to the hospital due to the veterans that are transported to the VA by this department having lengthy stays while here on campus.

Daniella Boyer, CLC Recreation Therapy-

Requesting donations to start an app called Golden Care. This is a website with tons of intervention and resources. This app requires a subscription to use. This will be helpful and beneficial for our dementia and rehab veterans. This app is \$59.99 a year and we are asking for a Visa type gift card to support this program.

Carli Guzman, Acting Woman Veteran Program Manager-

Requesting diapers and car seats for women veterans in this program. This program is also planning future baby showers which will be funded by donations of the items or gift cards to purchase the items.

Certifications/Re-Certifications:

- Carlos A. Vela – VFW VAVS Deputy Representative

II. Activity Calendar:

Adopt A Vet – December 9, 2023
National Salute Week – February 12-16, 2024

III. Review/Approval of Minutes:

Andraia Avila reviewed the minutes for the Executive Committee Meeting. Minutes approved and will be sent out via email.

IV. Old Business:

LaKeisha reported on the following old business:

- LaKeisha spoke on Veterans Day being a success. Several supporting organizations and volunteers went to area VA clinics to handout gifts.

V. New Business:

LaKeisha Howard reported on the following new business:

- LaKeisha Howard spoke on the upcoming Space Force Birthday which will be celebrated on December 20, 2023. CDCE will be setting up in the Audie and NWHCC Entrances to handout goodies to our veterans.
- LaKeisha spoke on Adopt a Vet; 57 families and 30 single veterans were adopted and over 110 food baskets received. The handout will be in the PRC Entrance December 9, 2023 @ 10a.
- LaKeisha spoke on National Salute Week, celebrated February 12-16, 2024. We are looking for availability to go out to the clinics as we did in previous years. On February 15, ALM Campus will have patient visits to our inpatient ward and outpatient clinics. More information will be sent out via email as we get closer to this event.

VI. Annual Joint Reviews: Please call the CDCE Office to schedule:

December

None

January

The Masonic Service Association
National Society, Sons of the American Revolution
Soldiers' Angels
US Daughters of 1812

February

Military Order of the Cooties

VII. Voluntary Service Office Closings:

- December 25 – Christmas Day
- January 1 – New Years Day

VIII. Upcoming 2023 VAVS Meetings:

- 3/7/2023 @ 11a and 1pm Recreation Center

Approved



DEC 15 2023

Jason V. Gray
Chief, CDCE

Date