



# MINUTES

## ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL

**June 12, 2024**

**2:00P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

[www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory](http://www.veterans.ocgov.com/advisory)

### **Location:**

Seal Beach City Council Chambers  
City Administration Building  
211 8th Street, First Floor  
Seal Beach, CA 90740

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Alexis Federico
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. COUNCIL ROLL CALL: OC Community Services Representative  
*PRESENT: John Burick, Alexis Federico, Robert McDonald, Steven Vargas, Stephanie Wade*  
*ABSENT: Erik Duane, Michael Radigan*
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

At this time, members of the public may address the Council regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes, unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).

  - *Rick Foster Oral re: Founder of veteran housing provider, Universe Properties. Rick voices concerns for assistance for both veterans struggling with mental health, and housing providers.*
  - *James Richardson re: North Orange County Vet Center which provides free readjustment counseling services. Their primary mission is to provide mental health care to veterans.*
  - *Rebecca Kopczak re: Public Affairs Officer for the VA Long Beach HealthCare System which provides healthcare benefits for veterans.*

5. PRESENTATION:

Free Tobacco Cessation Services in OC

Alicia O. Carranza, MPH, MCHES, NBC-HWC, CTSS, DrPH

Health Educator

Orange County Health Care Agency Tobacco Use Prevention Program

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair, Alexis Federico7. OCVSO UPDATE: Claudia Harris, Director, Veterans Service Office8. CALVET LINC UPDATE: Ben Gales, Local Interagency Network Coordinator

*No update provided. Ben Gales was reported absent.*

9. OC4VETS UPDATE: Elana E. Randal, Orange County Health Care Agency, Service Chief10. COMMITTEES:

i. Communications Standing Committee Report: Council Member, John Burick  
*Council Member John Burick withdrew his resignation as Chair for the Communications Standing Committee.*

ii. Events/Outreach Standing Committee Report: Council Member, Michael Radigan

*Council Member John Burick updated that he will work with Council Member Michael Radigan. He requested if there is still opportunity for OCVSO to update the OCVSO website to include updated calendar of events. OCVSO Director, Claudia Harris, informed OCVSO is working on updating the website and the calendar of events is on the list for consideration. OCCS is tasked with the vetting process on what veteran events can be marketed throughout Orange County.*

iii. VSO Metrics Ad Hoc Committee Report: Council Member, Erik Duane  
*Chair Federico announced that Council Member Erik Duane has resigned as Chair of the VSO Metrics Ad Hoc Committee and appointed Council Member Steven Vargas as the new Chair.*

iv. Veterans' Pets Ad Hoc Committee Report: Council Member, Stephanie Wade  
*Council Member Stephanie Wade updated that she will be attending the Orange County Veterans and Military Families Collaborative's Housing Group meeting and will also look into free programs for licensing, vaccinations, etc.*

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS

At this time, members of this Advisory Council may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters within the subject jurisdiction; provided that NO action be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

- *Council Member John Burick shared information about the VA Million Veteran Program and encouraged veterans to get involved.*

- *Council Member Stephanie Wade shared information about Senate Joint Resolution 6 that was passed in the Senate last week. The legislation will provide reform for LGBT related discharges.*

12. ADJOURNMENT: