

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Thursday, January 11, 2024  
1:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Richard Leirer, COL Matt Brown, Joe Wasson and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley, Rick Caldwell

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY24-OHP
  - Leirer offered a motion to review all OHP packets as one.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY24-1216
  - Wasson offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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Dennis A. Wimer, Director

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-024
  - Leirer offered a motion to remand it back to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFAPFY24-7519
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve the appeal. . Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor, County Veteran Service Officer and DWD.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs' Commission  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
1:00 PM

Indiana Veterans' Center  
777 N. Meridian Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

### Commission Meeting Minutes

#### General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Chairman Leirer, Mr. Coley, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gullion, COL Matt Brown, Mr. Wasson, Mr. Israel-Barnes and Rep Zent
- **Absent for meeting:** Ms. Gamble, Rep Pack, Sen Tomes and Sen Ford

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Coley motion to approve all at once, Caldwell seconds, Motion passes 9-0.

#### Kendol Enzinger – VA HUD-VASH Veteran Health Initiative Clinic

- Our program involves 32 counties.
- Work closely with the community and their community partners.
- Believe it is the community's role to support homelessness.
- Coordinated entry – any individual experiencing homelessness generally has to go through coordinated entry to assess their needs. A lot of individuals will go through several services to receive help. Some will not reach out at all.
- Encouraged to make contact with a community based agency.
- Continuum of care – Indianapolis is required to address homelessness at large. CHIP are the lead agency for the metropolitan area.
- Try to operationalize -we have a hotline for homeless veterans. Encourage veterans to call the national hotline. Rings back to our office. We have 60 on our team. Will walk the veteran through the services.
- Veterans that have complex conditions, they will work with them. To make sure their individual needs are taken care of.
- We have transitional housing programs. Partner with HVAF, VoA and other area agencies.

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- Have a contract residential program with HVAF. As long as there is availability, they will provide a bed when needed.
- Expanding our services for ageing veterans. Trying to find more solutions for homelessness.
- Our largest program is the HUD-VASH program. Serves close to 700. It is a very specific program towards the chronically homeless. Veterans who struggle to remain housed due to various issues – mental health, substance issues etc.
- It is more cost effective to provide a voucher for housing.
- Most veterans are single. One bedroom units are very competitive.
- Work closely with landlords and apartment managers.
- Have a homeless primary care clinic located at 777. Try to integrate care here with what they are receiving elsewhere.
- Have a VA domiciliary. It is one of the oldest healthcare programs. Have a 50 bed location at Ft. Harrison. It is a treatment center.
- If you are in our program for 60 days or longer you can receive dental care.
- Veterans Justice Program – focuses on justice issues. Veterans Treatment Court – we have more than some other adjacent states. Helps with several civil issues.
- Vocational Rehabilitation – helps them find work. Compensated Work Therapy Program
- Community based grants – SSVF – is a program that is community based. They receive VA dollars to help veterans closer to their communities. Transitional housing is only in Marion County. When it comes to rural veteran homelessness, SSVF can help.

### Old Business:

#### Gabrielle Owens, GVS Grant Scoring Committee

- Put together internal and external scorers.
- Focus on homelessness the first year.
- Would like for a commissioner to join the process once a year. Two days are blocked off to go through applications. We will send an email to the commission and see who is interested. Leirer, Motion to put a member of the Commission on the scoring team. Wasson motions to approve, Caldwell seconds – passes 9-0.
- Last scoring session – Gabrielle, Joe, Brookelynn, Tony, Tim W. and Rachel Goodspeed. She does grant application work. She has knowledge on what grants are paying and not paying. Dennis is not on the team so he has plausible deniability. Tony and Brookelynn do not score, they provide administrative support.
- For those who are 100% would it be a referral or would it be a stipulation. Stipulation should be for financial counselling. Below 100% it is a stipulation. We do not stipulate an action on meeting with the CVSO. We want the veterans to know who their CVSO is and that they are a resource for them to use. Sometimes it is not in the veterans best interest to try and get an increase in their rating.
- When veterans are engaged with their CVSO it provides them the opportunity to look at education, housing, life insurance, homelessness issues etc.

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- Motion to make it a stipulation that they are seen by a CVSO even if they are 100% Wasson makes the motion, Caldwell seconds. Passed 9-0.

### Gabrielle Owens, Military Family Relief Fund Amended Rule Update

- Started the rule amendment process. HB rule states if something is not in the Indiana code or administrative code, then an agency cannot legally enforce it. If they do enforce it, then the individual could get an attorney and sue the state. The agency would be responsible for the legal fees of the individual. Motion to move this rule along, Gullion makes a motion to move along, Wasson seconds, motion passed 9-0.

### Joe Devito, FY23 Annual Report

- Same format we have used in the past.
- The staff is reflected in the booklet at the time of printing, end of FY23 in June of 2023.
- For the purposes of the commission meeting, we wanted you to see it how data is accumulated through the year.
- It is a much better representation of what the agency does throughout the year.
- Motion to approve the Annual Report – Gullion motion to approve, Caldwell seconds, motion passed 9-0.

### New Business

#### Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeals

- No appeals at this time.

#### Anthony Weber, Legislative Update

- We are tracking anything that has veteran or military in it.
- We are trying to make changes to MFRF and GVS programs.
- Want to increase the MFRF from \$2500.00 to \$3500.00. Raising it due to cost of living. Trying to reduce the need for some of the over \$2500.00 requests.
- We are trying to address the caregivers of veterans. Using the non-profits to help.
- National Guard? The Big 4 will support that. Added uniformed services into the wording, which includes Surgeon General and some other entities. Don't want it in every part of the Indiana Code yet. Right now it says Armed Services. Many states have incorporated this. Trying to get a better understanding of the impact.
- The Military Veterans Coalition, want to remove the cap on the 2x poverty level. It would mean that anyone would be eligible.

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- Modifications to the code regarding eligibility to go to the Veterans Home. Trying to get more residents.
- Governor's Challenge initiatives may be limited. New language would allow us to implement the Governor's Challenge goals better.

### Public Comment

- No comments at this time.

### Dennis Wimer, Director's Report

- We are almost fully staffed. This brings some challenges to our budget. It is a good thing.
- We have a new staff member. Lesley Evans, works with the Governor's Challenge. We have three other Governor's Challenge staff – DOH, FSSA and another staff member will be joining us soon.
- Devon Sprong is our IT Director. We have a partnership with IOT. Each agency pays for a portion. It has allowed us to push forward with updating the MFRF process.
- SAA is fully staffed.
- Four more staff members: (1) Program Administrator, (2) Suicide Prevention Director at IDVA, (3) Suicide Prevention Director housed at FSSA and (4) Suicide prevention Director housed at IDOH
- Hamilton and Johnson Counties have been named as our pilot program Community Coalition partners.
- Veterans Home – Amy is a great asset. We were just notified we will be receiving a grant for bonuses and incentives for our nursing staff. Just under \$115,000.00. We are working on getting the language correct in the grant.
- Working on elder care needs for Indiana.
- Veterans Benefits and how we compare to other states, Indiana is lower than it should be, we would like to improve. Working with Tim to see what we can do. It could have a large impact on the state with how many dollars are being brought in.
- Engaging with IOT to partner with the BMV. Working on a secure data base. In Indiana Code there is a line that says any government entity can get data from BMV.
- Proud of our Outreach Team for creating a veteran resource group. Upwards of 2000 or more.
- The homelessness issue is close to us on this property. It has created some challenges. The National American Legion has had issues with veterans sleeping in the windows among other things. We are working with local police forces to address the issue.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> floor has been vacated by the non-profits. It will become working space for our extended staff we will be getting.

Motion to adjourn Caldwell, Wasson seconds 3:00

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### Next meetings

#### Date

April 10, 2024  
July 10, 2024  
October 23, 2024  
January 15, 2025

#### Location

Fort Wayne  
Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
Coordinate with IDVA Non-Profit Partner 2024  
Indiana Veterans' Center

The April 10, 2024 meeting will be held from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (EST)

The July and October 2024 and January 2025 meetings will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Thursday, January 25, 2024  
1:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Richard Leirer, Kevin Coley, Rick Caldwell and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** COL Matt Brown, Joe Wasson

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY24-3892
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-029
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFAPFY24-2331
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve the appeal. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor, County Veteran Service Officer and DWD.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of Income Waiver

- MFRFFY24-1825
  - Coley offered a motion to deny appeal.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:19

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Wednesday, February 7, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Richard Leirer, COL Chris Mabis, COL Cathy Eaken, Rick Caldwell and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley and Joe Wasson

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Anthony Weber, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY24-1685
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY24-5771
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY24-6377
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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### Anthony Weber, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY24-OHP
  - Leirer offered a motion to review all OHP packets as one.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

### Anthony Weber, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-028
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-033
  - Mabis offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:36

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Monday, February 26, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
12863 Old Meridian Street  
Carmel, IN  
Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Joe Wasson
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley, COL Chris Mabis and Rick Caldwell

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY24-6357
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-037
  - Wimer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order. Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-036
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order. Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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- MFRFAPFY24-039
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order. Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-040
  - Wasson offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order. Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12 A.M.

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Friday, March 15, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
12863 Old Meridian Street  
Carmel, IN

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Rick Caldwell
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley, COL Chris Mabis and Joe Wasson

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-038
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order. Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-041
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order with the amount of need adjusted to \$529.00. Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:12 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs' Commission  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
6:00 PM

Citizens Square  
200 E. Berry Street  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46802

### Commission Meeting Minutes

#### General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Chairman Leirer, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gullion, COL Chris Mabis, Mr. Wasson, Mrs. Gamble and Rep Zent
- **Absent for meeting:** Mr. Coley, Mr. Israel-Barnes, Rep Pack, Sen Tomes and Sen Vinzant

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Gullion motion to approve all at once, Caldwell seconds, Motion passes 6-0.

John Buonanno – Vice Chairman, Summit Equestrian Center

- Mission of helping veterans find purpose in a community where they feel comfortable.
- Three pillars – 1) People - finding a bond. Veterans talking to other veterans, 2) Horses – use the horse as a meaning of connection. Emotional – horses know what you are feeling. We help veterans build healthy relationships, Social – importance of respect for the animals. You can't force the horse to do what you want. Following directions is very important. 3) Hope
- We have ten horses.
- Six week session.
- Group or individual sessions.
- It is free. A value of \$350.00 per participant.
- Paired with a horse based on physical, social and emotional needs.
- Learn how to care for the horses.
- Learn basic horsemanship skills.

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### Alex Dobson – Indiana Veteran Service Officer Association

- CVSO from Steuben County.
- Indiana Veteran Service Office Association was formally recognized as a 501c3.
- We are the men and women who work with the veterans on the front lines.
- Deal with veterans who return from service.
- We are county funded.
- We will help train the offices.
- We have federal access to VBMS, allowing us to look up veterans' claims.

### Old Business:

#### Gabrielle Owens - Grant Update

- One that just closed is a new grant opportunity for us that we chose to run for just this year and that is the Governors Challenge non-profit grant. Utilized the funds from the General Assembly.
- We had 25 total applications with 2.2 million of ask. We awarded 14 for \$807,000.00.
- Currently open are the grants for veteran service organization – homelessness, job placement, connecting veterans with benefits, therapeutic services and the new addition which is preventing veteran suicide.
- Grant information is available on the IDVA website.
- Two Governors Challenge opportunities open. They have no defined end or start date.
- IVH Nursing award was granted through the Federal VA.
- IVH Construction grant, applied and awaiting a decision. Will be used to enhance safety components of the home.

#### Joe Devito and Dennis Wimer - Governor's Challenge

- Governor's Challenge is a program that was initiated through the US Dept of Veterans Affairs through an organization SAMHA. Work with states and communities to address veteran suicide. It was about 7 or 8 years ago they reached out to get the program going again. Indiana reached out 2 or 3 years ago to get involved. We are working with communities to support their decisions and help them work through their own decisions and help fund them.
- There are three pillars – 1) Indiana Veteran Community 2) Curating connections 3) Lethal means safety and storage.
- Each state was given the opportunity to look at the plan and find what would work best for their state. Create a plan for your state. We want to empower communities and how they see it working in their communities.
- We will provide them with data.
- Purdue has helped us create community snapshots.

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- MFRI helped us develop a community risk index. They have a score for each county with a multitude of risk factors.
- We are able to rank the communities based on this data.
- Three counties are in the planning grant phase - Hamilton, Johnson and Allen.
- We have a Program Administrator – Lesley Evans and a Suicide Prevention Director – Brad Harper.
- We have partnered with FSSA and the Indiana Dept of Health.
- Also working with other state agencies to include the Indiana National Guard.

### New Business

#### Dennis Wimer – NASDVA Conference and Update

- I started to participate five years ago in the National Association of State Directors and Veterans Affairs. It is comprised of all the Governor appointed directors and secretaries from all 50 states and territories.
- I became the President of the National Association this year.
- Indiana was chosen as the site for the National Conference in August 18-21, 2024.
- We have been coordinating topics for the conference.
- We are adding a whole separate day for just the Governor's Challenge.
- The American Legion has been invited as well.
- NASDVA is about best practice sharing among the states. How can we get better.
- We have an amazing team that is doing the critical work.
- We have partnered with the National Association of State Women Veteran Coordinators. They are going to have their conference at the same time as ours.

#### Richard Leirer - Legislative Update

- We had a couple of dozen bills this year.
- We had five bills passed. One was house bill 1021 which is the Green Alert for missing veterans.
- The Veterans Benefit poster has a lot of potential for many things. It can also act as a recruiting poster.
- Trying to get State Park Admission for all veterans. Made some progress this year. There is a new license for catastrophically disabled veterans. They now have a different hunting season.
- One for the Veterans Home did not get passed. Trying to change the military discharge categories for which a veteran can be admitted.
- Upcoming legislative session, setting aside priorities. Right now we have six. 1) Bronze Star license plate 2) Removing any reference to war time service as a caveat to benefits 3) Claim sharks 4) NGAI has a life insurance policy 5) Removing the service dates for Tuition Remission 6) Trying to get electronic gaming for VSO posts in the state.

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### Public Comment

- Jay Kendall - VSO for Miami County. Would like information on what bills were passed.
- Olena Gillam – Pay Master with Marine Corps League. Multiple organizations housed at the same VFW. There are 7 public days they have to share with other organizations. Need more open days to fund raise for their organizations.
- Renee Cook – Nonprofit – Veterans Resources of Indiana – Want to connect people to all of the different resources available or with people who can give that information.
- Jesse Booker – 4<sup>th</sup> District Officer for the American Legion – Number of death certificates served. VA wants every cause listed on the death certificate but doctors won't do that. This can help surviving spouses get benefits.

### Dennis Wimer - Director's Report

- We can't do all of the meetings in the evening.
- Appreciate everyone being here.
- Division Report information was sent out ahead of time.
- We have three main areas: Healthcare, Benefits and the Cemetery.
- We support, serve and advocate for veterans.
- We didn't get all of the language of the bills through. We will work on that next session.
- Thanks Rep Zent for all of his efforts concerning veterans.

Motion to adjourn Leirer, Wimer seconds 8:00pm

### Next meetings

#### Date

July 10, 2024  
October 23, 2024  
January 15, 2025  
April 9, 2025

#### Location

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
Coordinate with IDVA Non-Profit Partner 2024  
Indiana Veterans' Center  
Location TBD

The July and October 2024 and January 2025 meetings will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (EST)

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Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
8:00 P.M.

Government Center  
200 E. Berry Street  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Richard Leirer, Rick Caldwell, Joe Wasson, Morgan Gamble and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY24-4371
  - Wasson offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-047
  - Caldwell offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Wasson seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-044
  - Wasson offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Gamble seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFAPFY24-045
  - Wasson offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15pm

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024  
10:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Richard Leirer, Rick Caldwell and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Morgan Gamble, Kevin Coley and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Lynn Dickey, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY24-4608
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:10am

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Friday, June 28, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Indiana Veteran Center  
777 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Kevin Coley, Rick Caldwell, and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Morgan Gamble, Richard Leirer and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY24-3983
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-050
  - Wimer offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-054
  - Coley offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-049
  - Caldwell offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15am

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs' Commission  
Wednesday, July 10, 2024  
1:00 PM

Indiana Memorial Veterans Cemetery  
1415 North Gate Road  
Madison, IN 47250

### Commission Meeting Minutes

#### General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Chairman Leirer, Mr. Coley, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gullion, COL Mabis and Sen Vinzant
- **Absent for meeting:** Mrs. Gamble, Mr. Wasson, Mr. Israel-Barnes, Rep Pack, Sen Tomes and Rep Zent

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Caldwell motion to approve all at once, Gullion seconds, Motion passes 6-0.

#### Kelley Troutman - Liberty Place

- Oversees support services for the vulnerable veteran population.
- Along with veterans we also provide services to the elderly and those with disabilities.
- March of 2019 Liberty Place opened.
- Work closely with Veterans Court.
- It is a transitional space. They spend 12 to 18 months and then move out into the community.
- It is a 16 bed facility. Each has its own bed and bath. Meals are included.
- Coming from incarceration or rehabilitation center. They can work on their sobriety and recovery.
- 24/7 support staff. It is always monitored.
- Common area for activities, indoor and outdoor.
- Hold vet court and graduations along with support groups.
- 24/7 access to counselors or probation officers.
- Do not house anyone with a violent crime.
- After they are allowed to work, we ask them to contribute.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300  
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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

### Faith Weir – Jefferson County Veteran Service Officer

- Have four vehicles to help transport veterans to their appointments.
- Able to hire a full time assistant service officer.
- All volunteers are retirees. We have around ten.
- Established a local financial assistance fund. Also utilize the MFRF.
- Small council will vote on the funds. Usually happens on the same day. It caps out at \$750.00.
- We don't turn away any veterans. We help veterans who come from Kentucky as well.
- We have heavy foot traffic as well. We know the word is getting out.
- We continued the radio program that was started by Joe Devito.
- Very focused on community outreach.

### Old Business:

#### Dennis Wimer - MFRF Amended Rule

- The MFRF had an initial rule put in place about four years ago. It was time to be updated.
- Looked at the rule process going forward, and how to get it into the public hands.
- Once it goes out of our agency it goes to Office of Management and Budget. From there it goes to Legal Services Administration (LSA) who gets it published into public record. That will initiate what we want to have happen. It needs to be in the public hands to open the door for public comment.
- It will open the door for thirty days of public comment. We will schedule a public hearing. It is an opportunity to take the public comments and determine if we need to make modifications.
- Once it goes through the second public comment period it then goes to the Attorney General's Office for their review and then sent to the Governor for signature. It is a 90 to 100 day process.
- If we make changes we can highlight what changes were made.
- It goes to LSA so it can get posted.
- We want other agencies to look at it and see how it will impact them.
- Gullion motion to move forward to approve the rule to be submitted, Caldwell second. Approved 6-0.

### New Business:

#### Gabrielle Owens - Grant Update

- Grants for veterans services, we have awarded our FY25 grants.
- Granted out \$429,115.00 to sixteen grant recipients. All of them are non-profit organizations.
- We had repeat grantees. Enjoyed seeing other organizations we hadn't heard of.

# STATE OF INDIANA

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- For the first time we had some funds available to grant non-profits that were doing work in alignment with the three priorities of the Governor's Challenge. We were able to award grant funds to 14 recipients \$807,810.00 granted out.
- We were able to reach an entirely different veteran non-profit serving community than we can with the GVS grants.
- We always offer grantees who are denied the opportunity to speak to us regarding what they could do better on their grant application.
- Two bodies of grants - Governor's Challenge Planning and Governors Challenge Implementation. These are grants made available to communities who are working to prevent veteran suicide.
- \$67,000 granted to three communities for them to do start doing planning.
- Three grant opportunities involving the Indiana Veterans Home 1<sup>st</sup> – nursing retention and recruitment grant from the Federal VA. We were able to get \$113,450.00 for that program, the state matches that amount 2<sup>nd</sup> – construction grant. We received \$813,000.00 from the Federal VA and the state matches that amount. It has been recommended for approval. It will be used to keep the veterans safe inside the facility. 3<sup>rd</sup> – cemetery expansion grant, it would include access and waive finding. Currently only inters those who are residents of the facility. It would open it up to the veteran community. We are seeking \$5.5M dollars for this expansion.
- Byrne Scip grant is \$5M and it is from the Federal Dept of Justice. It is used to help reduce gun violence and prevent suicide.
- These funds will be delivered back out into the communities.

### Richard Leirer – Legislative Update

- The Big 4 approved the four priorities for the 2025 session.
- There are four initiatives – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuition remission for children of disabled veterans – We want to remove all the 2011 changes that gave us two levels of veterans for benefits. We also want to: a) Include Space Force b) Change residency from 5 years to 1 and c) Take war time service out; 2<sup>nd</sup> INNG Life insurance and member death benefits – would like to see the state sponsor a \$10,000 death benefit to INNG members; 3<sup>rd</sup> electronic pull tabs. It is a great way to help the communities. VSO posts utilize these a lot and 4<sup>th</sup> Regulation of Claim Sharks. We want to prohibit claim sharks from operating in Indiana unless they are on the approved VA list.

### Public Comment

- No comments

### Dennis Wimer - Director's Report & NASDVA Conference Update

- President this year, it will end next February.
- This year's national conference will be held in Indianapolis August 17-20.
- NASDVA has two staff members who help with these conferences.

# STATE OF INDIANA

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- We are having a few events during the conference. Going to Gainbridge and watch a Fever game. Governor Holcomb will speak on Monday. Motivational veteran speaker Josh Lyle will be talking to the attendees. Montel Williams may also be attending a lunch. Sammy Davis will close us out.
- Every attendee will have a brick laid at Monument Circle.
- Deputy Secretary of the VA is coming along with three other Under Secretaries coming to speak.
- Tearing one of the buildings down at IVH. Working with the INNG to help do the demolition.
- CVSO training conference was held earlier this summer.
- VSO grants paperwork is going out. Working on budget submission for next year.
- Event sponsorship program is \$500.00 to help organizations with their needs.
- Back to School Program and Operation Holiday Program helps veterans with these seasonal expenses.
- Governor's Challenge - Going to individual coalitions to help them develop a strategic plan. Funding is \$20,000 to 25,000 dollars to help them get started. Starting with three counties.

Wimer Motion to adjourn, Caldwell seconds 2:42pm

### Next meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
October 23, 2024	1:00 pm (EST)	Coordinate with Hero Hut (IDVA Non-Profit Partner 2024)
January 15, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Indiana Veterans' Center
April 9, 2025	6:00 pm (EST)	TBD
July 9, 2024	1:00 pm (EST)	Indiana Veterans' Center

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Wednesday, July 10, 2024  
3:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
1415 North Gate Road  
Madison, Indiana

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Kevin Coley, Rick Caldwell, COL Mabis and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Morgan Gamble and Richard Leirer

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-9523
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-9077
  - Caldwell offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY24-053
  - Coley offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-055
  - Coley offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFAPFY24-057
  - Caldwell offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:15pm

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Wednesday, July 24, 2024  
11:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and COL Chris Mabis
- **Not Present:** Kevin Coley and Joe Wasson

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Lynn Dickey, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY25-BTS
  - Caldwell offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Lynn Dickey, Consideration of MFRF in excess of \$2500

- MFRFFY25-8976
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25- 0173
  - Mabis offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY25-6439
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:15 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Thursday, August 1, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Disabled American Veterans  
170 Airport Parkway  
Greenwood, IN

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Richard Leirer and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF in excess of \$2500

- MFRFFY25-2497
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. . Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25- 4301
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. . Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY25-8182
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. . Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY25-BTS-5801
  - Coley offered a motion to approve.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-BTS
  - Wimer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:38 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Tuesday, August 13, 2024  
8:00 A.M.

Stout Field  
2002 South Holt Road  
Indianapolis, IN

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and COL Chris Mabis
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson and Kevin Coley

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF in excess of \$2500

- MFRFFY25-6948
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Non-Final Order

- MFRFFY25-
  - Wimer offered a motion to uphold ALJ Decision.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY25-BTS
  - Wimer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Mabis seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Monday, August 26, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY25-BTS
  - Leirer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:03 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Tuesday, September 10, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

VFW  
12863 Old Meridian Street  
Carmel, IN

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Rick Caldwell and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-2118
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of Income Waiver

- MFRFFY25-9016
  - Coley offered a motion to deny income waiver appeal.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-8161
  - Leirer offered a motion to deny income waiver appeal.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY25-BTS
  - Leirer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer, Mark Gullion and COL Chris Mabis
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Richard Leirer and Kevin Coley

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF in excess of \$2500

- MFRFFY25-5380
  - Gullion offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-1148
  - Gullion offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-0374
  - Caldwell offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-1552

# STATE OF INDIANA

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Gullion offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
- Wimer seconds.
- Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-3763
  - Gullion offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY25-BTS
  - Wimer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Gullion seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:15 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans Affairs' Commission  
Wednesday, October 23, 2024  
10:00 AM

Embassy Suites  
13700 Conference Center Drive  
Noblesville, IN 46060

### Commission Meeting Minutes

#### General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Chairman Leirer, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Israel-Barnes, Sen Vinzant, Mrs. Gamble and Mr. Wasson
- **Absent for meeting:** Mr. Coley, COL Mabis, Rep Pack, Sen Tomes and Rep Zent

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Gullion motion to approve all at once, Wasson seconds, Motion passes 7-0.

#### Kathy Broniarczyk – History of Battlemind

- 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Battlemind
- 5 Strategic Goals: 1) Support 2) Strengthen 3) Generate 4) Influence 5) Sustain
- In 2007 the Lilly Endowment funded \$20M for Indiana Veterans.
- Work together to bring education to veterans.
- Battlemind was a program developed at the Walter Reed Medical Center.
- It refers to the mental orientation developed during combat.
- The initial events were sponsored with the Lilly Endowment grant with the VA Roudebush VA Medical center taking the lead with logistical and staff support from MFRI.
- MFRI takes the planning lead and Battlemind serves as the VA Mental Health Summit.
- Collaborators changed to now include INNG and the IDVA.
- MFRF continued to provide enhancements and new content to keep Battlemind relevant to Indiana professionals.
- In 2019, half-day preconference session were included to provide extended content exploration.
- Over the course of 15 years Battlemind has provided education to more than 4,260 participants.

# STATE OF INDIANA

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- We've provided education awareness about suicide, behavioral health needs, legal issues, military families, the latest military research, veteran treatment courts, medical issues and transitions from service to civilian life.

### David Hoffmaster – Hero Hut Presentation

- Founder and President, Army Veteran, served 7 years
- Hero Hut is a non-profit that builds communities for veterans at big events.
- How to connect veterans to resources and each other.
- Make it an easy spot for veterans to feel comfortable at events.
- The golf outing was their first big fundraiser.
- Mission: we make it exciting for veterans to gain assistance and build community through unforgettable experiences at the most popular events in cities across America.
- Vision: We want every American veteran to feel a sense of connectedness support and hope after service.
- Values: Community, Celebration and Service
- 75 non-profit partners, 15 events, 50,000 veterans and their families, 250 volunteers to support our culture
- Taylor Force "Force for Good" Memorial Scholarship was founded in 2023.
- We have expanded our operations to five states.
- Our goal is to capture the attention of sponsors, donors, volunteers, hosts and veterans.

### Tish – Governor's Challenge Presentation

- Governor's Challenge started in 2019.
- Indiana is leading the way.
- Indiana's action plan is the model for the whole nation.
- The work that IDVA is doing is saving lives

### Old Business:

#### Dennis Wimer - MFRF Amended Rule Update

- We have been working with the Office of Management and Budget to get our MFRF rule amended.
- We received a final comment from OMB a couple of weeks ago and we responded on October 11.
- Waiting on an actual number from LSA and then we can schedule our public comment date.
- It will be 30 days out and then there will be a public hearing. It will be comments not a debate.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Depending on comments we will see if the rule needs to be amended anymore.
- Once we get it back with an LSA number we will let everyone know. You can be there if you like.

### New Business:

#### Mark Gullion - Legislative Update

- Legislative session is getting ready to start. The Big 4 each have 4 people on the committee.
- 4 priorities for this year. 1) Tuition and Remission – Remove language regarding the 2011 changes to ensure all eligible children receive 100% tuition and fee exemption. Sponsored by Chris Judy 2) INNG \$10,000 death benefit – financial support for families of Guard members. They are not covered if they are not on federal orders. Sponsored by Stephen Bartels 3) Electronic pull tabs for organizations – Modernizing paper pull tabs to electronic pull tabs. Sponsored by Ethan Manning 4) regulate claim sharks – protect the veterans from being taken advantage of. Sponsored by Chris Judy.
- January 14, 2025 is Legislation Day at the Statehouse. There are 40 tables available for the event.
- Each of the agencies deliver to the Governors office if they want to. Legislative staff reviews those.
- Received our response back and we will work to find out who our authors will be.
- Since it is an election year, some things have been pushed towards the next Governor after he or she is elected.

#### Gabrielle Owens and Brookelynn Deaton - Grant Update

- Governor's Challenge planning grants, Governors Challenge implementation grants and \$900,000 in grants that goes to nonprofit partners.
- The IVH and the nurse recruitment and retention grant. Introduced this to get nurses a bonus.
- Private nursing homes in the area started upping their bonuses after we implemented this.
- We have already applied for the next grant for the next fiscal year.
- Retention bonuses are in line with how long you have been at the home. They were able to give a \$5,000 bonus to a thirty year employee.
- Byrne Scip Grants, funds released for the first and second grants. 5.2M for 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2.9M for most recent year.
- GVS FY24 had a total of 15 grantees. 13 out of 15 spent 100% of funds. That is the highest number we have seen.
- GVS FY25 - all grant agreements are done.
- Event Sponsorship Program (ESP) is dedicated to provided sponsorship dollars to nonprofits that provide services for veteran oriented events. It is administered by IDVA.
- It is up to \$500.00 per event. One time per fiscal year.
- Several counties have not held any events. Trying to reach out to these other counties.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 N MERIDIAN STREET SUITE 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- Usually have a table at these events to talk about state and federal benefits.
- In FY24 there were 59 ESP applications and we approved 51. Denials are due to events not being aimed towards the veteran community. Events held in other states are also denied.

### Public Comment

- Alex – Wants the funds from pull tabs to go back to the community.

### Dennis Wimer - Director's Report & NASDVA Conference Update

- Current President of NASDVA.
- Went to Tennessee to their annual CVSO training.
- 7.155B federal dollars coming into their state.
- Would like to implement things on their website to put on Indiana's.
- Talked about being able to do this nationwide. Want to give veterans the ability to compare state to state and county to county.
- In August we had the national conference in Indiana.
- There was an event at the IWM and Josh Lyles spoke. He is a disabled Marine who lost both legs. Sammy Davis also spoke. Purchased bricks around the circle with the names of current State Directors on them.
- Next year it is at Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- IVH received a perfect survey. Zero deficiencies. Everyone worked hard to achieve that goal.

Wimer Motion to adjourn, Wasson seconds 11:45am

### Next meetings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 15, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Indiana Veterans' Center
April 9, 2025	6:00 pm (EST)	TBD (Possibly Terre Haute)
July 9, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	Indiana Veterans' Center
October 29, 2025	1:00 pm (EST)	TBD

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Wednesday, November 6, 2024  
2:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Mark Gullion and Rick Caldwell
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Richard Leirer and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-4529
  - Gullion offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:06 P.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Monday, November 18, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
12863 Old Meridian Street  
Carmel, IN 46032

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer, Kevin Coley and Rick Caldwell
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Mark Gullion and COL Chris Mabis

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-3564
  - Leier offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY25-OHP
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve all OHP packets as one vote.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Tuesday, November 26, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer and Stu Barnes-Israel
- **Not Present:** Joe Wasson, Mark Gullion, COL Chris Mabis, Kevin Coley and Rick Caldwell

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Kyle Gross, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-9656
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Kyle Gross, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY25-OHP
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve all OHP packets as one vote.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Friday, December 13, 2024  
11:00 A.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Richard Leirer, Joe Wasson and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** Mark Gullion, COL Chris Mabis, and Rick Caldwell

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY25-2664
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-4296
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-4718
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

# STATE OF INDIANA

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777 North Meridian Street Suite 300  
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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

- MFRFFY25-2280
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY25-OHP
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve all OHP packets as one vote.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:25 A.M.

# STATE OF INDIANA

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Thursday, December 19, 2024  
2:00 P.M.

Indiana Veterans Center  
777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

##### Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Dennis Wimer, Mark Gullion and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** Richard Leirer, Joe Wasson, COL Chris Mabis, and Rick Caldwell

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY25-4080
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Gullion seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Cases in Excess of \$2,500

- MFRFFY25-2281
  - Gullion offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY25-0555
  - Coley offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Gullion seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

# STATE OF INDIANA

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor  
Dennis A. Wimer, Director

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

- MFRFFY25-OHP
  - Wimer offered a motion to approve all OHP packets as one vote.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:10 P.M.