

# 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, April 3, 2023  
9.00 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
215 N. National Road  
Columbus, IN 47201  
Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Eaken and Kevin Coley

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

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

- MFRFFY23-9229
  - Wimer offered a motion to approve the request. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor, DWD and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-1777
  - Lierer offered a motion to approve the request. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor, DWD and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-6675
  - Lierer offered a motion to approve the request. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor, DWD and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 A.M.

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

### AGENDA

Indiana Veterans Affairs' Commission  
Wednesday April 12, 2023  
1:00 PM

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library- Central Branch  
200 SE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
Evansville, IN 47713

#### Meeting Minutes

#### General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance  
Introductions/Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Wasson, Ms. Morgan Torres and Mr. Israel-Barnes
- **Absent for meeting:** COL Cathy Eaken, Mr. Kevin Coley, Representative Zent, Representative Tomes, Sen Griffin

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. Gullion motion to approve, Wimer second Motion passes 6-0.

#### New Business

Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeal

- Scholar ID 10918180
  - Petitioner attended the hearing telephonically.
  - Petitioner presented his case.
  - IDVA presented IDVA's case.
  - Gullion motion to approve appeal, Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion passed 6-0
- Scholar ID 416338
  - Petitioner attended the hearing in-person.
  - Petitioner presented her case.
  - IDVA presented IDVA's case.
  - Gullion motion to approve appeal, Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion passed 6-0

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- Scholar ID 10141223
  - Petitioner attended the hearing in-person.
  - Petitioner presented her case.
  - IDVA presented IDVA's case.
  - Gullion motion to approve appeal, Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion passed 6-0

### Savannah Wood, Presentation from Echo Housing

- Supportive housing for homeless veterans.
- Have 27 one bedroom units for homeless veterans.
- Homeless veterans reintegration programs.
- Also provide housing for civilians and families.
- Have scattered sites throughout Evansville.
- Breaking ground on a new building with 27 units.
- Goal is to work with underserved and marginalized people in society to help them.

### Old Business

#### Joe Devito, Women's Veterans Retreat

- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual women veterans wellness retreat.
- Partnering with DNR. Will host at different state parks every year.
- Clifty Falls State Park last weekend in April. It will be 2 nights this year.
- Meals and activities are provided free of charge.
- Want to encourage wellness and relaxation.
- Friday reception, programming throughout the day on Saturday, will have tours at the Memorial Cemetery and the Women's Prison in Madison. Breakfast on Sunday.
- Sold out in a week. 67 participants have signed up. 29% increase in participation.

#### Joe Devito, Governor's Challenge

- There is a 20 page briefing that will be made available on the roll out of the program. ,
- We have been working for 15 months with other agencies and partners. 3 main priorities – creating, curating connectedness, storage
- Indiana National Guard, Indiana Dept of Health, Federal FSSA are key partners.
- July 1 is the beginning of the fiscal year.
- This is a highlighted portion of the Governor's agenda. Added 2.2 million to DVA budget to help run the program.
- Funds will go back out into the communities.

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### Tim Winslow, Cemetery Expansion

- Working on finalizing contracts and other administrative issues.
- It will be physically underway soon.
- There are upgrades and changes to the cemetery itself.
- There will be changes to irrigation to accommodate near term and future use.
- Keeping the dirt local will help with cost savings.

### Dennis Wimer – Byrne SCIP Grant Update

- Department of Justice Grant Program
- Focus areas are state crisis intervention programs and reducing gun violence
- Formula grant.
- Goes along with the Governor's Challenge
- Veterans Courts and gun intervention program are approvable spends.
- IDVA was approved for the SCIP grant, we will need to establish the SCIP Advisory Board. Using the priority 3 Governor's Challenge existing group. The SCIP Advisory Board will approve subgrants.
- The SCIP grant mandates that at least 40% be subgranted to local government (i.e. police departments, courts, prosecutors offices, etc.)
- IDVA gets 10% for direct costs and 10% of indirect costs. With the direct costs, looking to hire staff.
- \$5.1 million for the next two years; then a potential \$2.1 million each year.

### Chairman Leirer, Legislative Update

- State budget goes to senate appropriations tomorrow. Goes for a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
- State cemetery bill has been signed by the Governor (1056)
- Income tax exemption for military pay has been amended and it is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
- National Guard matter has been passed and signed.
- Hire Education scholarships is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.
- Senate bill 290 - BMV has to report upon the dollars that are received by selling our information. They will need to make it more aware it is occurring.

### Public Comment

Dr. Mark Browning – veteran – Discussed activities going on at the local VFW (Largest membership in the Nation, third in the world)

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### Director Wimer, Director's Report

- 2 years ago the commission supported and the legislation allowed us to no longer have to connect financial need with their service.
- Gave DVA the ability to utilize 10% of the funds to help make the public aware.
- The year before that change we spent \$300,000 in a year and after the change it was \$600,000 in a year and in one quarter we have spent \$461,000.
- Ability to bring new people in.
- Training and Services you will see a very subdued 100% of the CVSO'
- DVA is the highest state agency on the Pulse Survey.

### Gabrielle Owens, Grant Update

- Operation Combat Bike Saver changed its name to Operation Charlie Bravo. When you change your name it invalidates your grant agreement. Working with them to get that changed.
- The Legislative & Legal Division is working with all GVS FY23 grantees who are not 100% spent.
- Looking ahead to the solicitation and grant scoring/grant selection for GVS FY24. Each year the grant selection process gets more competitive.
- The Veteran Service Organization grants will be competitive in FY24 for the first time.
- The Veteran Service Organization grant amount are no longer set forth in the IDVA budget.

### Joe Devito, Outreach Report

- Salon and Kirsten have worked really hard on our newsletter.
- Laura is a national force in women's programming. Represents all women at the highest level.
- Bryan has helped establish a footprint of Indiana in DC for the Governor's challenge.

### Tim Winslow, Division Reports

- MFRF - The two specialty programs holiday and back to school accounts for the spikes in the program. Trying to upgrade and modify the customer service portion of the program. Just finished entering all of the information from the prior programs.
- Next CVSO training is 31 May-1 June.
- SAA is having a meeting in June with all of the major academic institutions.

### Dennis Wimer, Veterans Home

- Increase of residents by 20 since October.

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- The superintendent is changing some things for the positive.
- Should have an inspection from the VA this summer. She is actively working to make sure that goes well.
- She is working on getting a group in to ask the question of what are the needs of Indiana veterans for long term.
- How do we modify what we do to meet those needs.
- Newsweek put out a ranking of long term facilities in the US. IVH was number 17. It included the entire community of long term care not just veterans homes.

Adjournment 3:00 - Caldwell motion to adjourn, Wimer second Adjournment

### Next meetings

#### Date

July 12, 2023  
October 18, 2023  
January 17, 2024  
April 10, 2024

#### Location

Indiana Veterans Cemetery  
TBD  
Indiana Veterans' Center  
TBD

All times are 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Friday, April 21, 2023  
8:30 A.M.

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
12863 Old Meridian Road  
Carmel, IN

Or  
Webex call-in

### Taskforce Meeting Minutes

#### General Information:

Roll Call:

- **Present for meeting:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Eaken and Kevin Coley

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

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

- MFRFFY23-09217
  - Caldwell offered a motion to approve the request. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-0196
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY23-5297
  - Leirer offered a motion to approve the request. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve the Motion passed 3-0.



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

- MFRFFY23-6193
  - Wimer 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.
- MFRFFY23-3237
  - Wimer 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 Non-Final Order

- MFRFAPFY23-026
  - Wimer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY23-024
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY23-025
  - Wimer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Will readdress later when the full extent of income can be determined.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:05 A.M.



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Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
Commission Taskforce Concerning MFRF Matters  
Friday, August 4, 2023  
10:00 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 and Kevin Coley
- **Not Present:** COL Eaken, Richard Leirer and Joe Wasson

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY24-BTS
  - Coley offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Other Than Honorable Appeal

- MFRFFY24-0077
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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

- MFRFAPFY24-001
  - Wimer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFAPFY24-002
  - Coley offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:25 A.M.

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



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs  
Commission October 18, 2023  
1:00PM-3:00PM

1683 N. River Road  
West Lafayette, IN 4

### Commission Meeting Minutes

#### General Information and Reviews

Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Director Wimer, Chairman Leirer, Mr. Coley, Ms. Torres, Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Wasson
- **Absent for meeting:** Mr. Coley, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Barnes-Israel, COL. Eaken  
Representative Pack and Representative Tomes,

#### Old Business:

Approval of previous Commission Meeting Minutes. motion to approve, second Motion passes .

**Kathy Broniarczyk and Shelley McDermott-Wadsworth, MFRI**

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Joe Devito, Governor's Challenge Update

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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

Tim Winslow, Military Family Relief Fund FY23 Update

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### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeal

- No appeals at this time

Richard Leirer, Legislative Update

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### Public Comment

No public comment

Dennis Wimer, Director's Report

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Tim Winslow, Division Reports

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2738



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

Wimer motion to adjourn.

Adjournment: 3:02

### Next meetings

#### Date

January 17, 2024

April 10, 2024

July 10, 2024

#### Location

Indiana Veterans' Center

Fort Wayne

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery

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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, August 21, 2023  
9:00 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:** Rick Caldwell, Dennis Wimer and Richard Leirer
- **Not Present:** COL Eaken, Joe Wasson and Kevin Coley

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Back to School Program

- MFRFFY24-BTS
  - Leirer offered a motion to review all BTS packets as one vote.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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

- MFRFFY24-4229
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY24-
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer
  - Leirer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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

### Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Income Waiver

- MFRFFY24-7870
  - Leirer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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

- MFRFAPFY24-004
  - Leirer offered a motion to uphold the Administrative Law Judge's Non-Final Order.
  - Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 A.M.



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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, December 11, 2023  
10:00 A.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:** Kevin Coley, Joe Wasson, Rick Caldwell and Dennis Wimer
- **Not Present:** COL Cathy Eaken and Richard Leirer

#### Old Business:

No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle Owens, Consideration of MFRF Operation Holiday Program

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

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

- MFRFFY24-6360
  - 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
  - Wasson seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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- MFRFFY24-8488
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

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

- MFRFFY24-2228
  - Wimer offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer and Legal Services.
  - Coley seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.
- MFRFFY24-5289
  - Wasson offered a motion to accept findings from IDVA. Recommend applicants engagement with DWD, a Financial Counselor and a State or County Veteran Service Officer and Legal Services.
  - Wimer seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

### Gabrielle, Consideration of MFRF Income Waiver

- MFRFAPFY24-0803
  - Coley offered a motion to deny the appeal.
  - Wasson seconds.
  - Motion to Approve passed 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:30

# STATE OF INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

777 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET, SUITE 300  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-1421



Eric J. Holcomb, Governor

Dennis A. Wimer, Director

Indiana Veterans' Affairs Commission  
December 15, 2023  
11:00 A.M.

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

### Commission Meeting Minutes

#### General Information

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

- **Present for meeting:** Mr. Wasson, Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Torres, Mr. Gullion, Mr. Coley, Mr. Leirer, Mr. Winslow
- **Absent for meeting:** Director Wimer, Mr. Israel-Barnes and COL Eaken

#### Old Business:

- No old business.

#### New Business:

Gabrielle J. Owens, Tuition and Fee Exemption Appeals

- Scholar ID 13404832
  - Petitioner attended the hearing telephonically.
  - Petitioner presented her case.
  - IDVA presented IDVA's case.
  - Coley motion to approve appeal, Caldwell seconds.
  - Motion passed 4-3.

Meeting adjourned 11:45 A.M.