

ADVISORY BOARD ON VETERANS AFFAIRS



**Virtual Meeting Minutes for  
Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**[coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov)**

**[ova.dc.gov](https://ova.dc.gov)**

**I. Advisory Board Members Roll Call**

**II. Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA) COVID19 Pandemic Response  
(Director Elliot Tommingo – [elliott.tommingo@dc.gov](mailto:elliott.tommingo@dc.gov) 202-724-3856)**

**- MOVA's FY21 Budget Hearing on June 10<sup>th</sup> @ 9am – 12pm (all MOCA Agencies)**

The MOVA FY21 Budget Hearing was Wed, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Recorded testimony on [dccouncil.us](https://dccouncil.us) website.

**-VetsRide Update** (700+ veterans enrolled, 368 from DOES UI list)

**-DC VA Med Center Update and US Vets Status June 11, 2020**

**As of June 8<sup>th</sup>, 125 of the 365 positive cases at the DC VA Med Center are DC veterans or staff members, 15 are being treated as inpatient. 12 of the 27 deaths are DC veterans.**

**MOVA VetsRide Update DC VA Med Center Transportation:**

- 545 rides completed in March-May 2020 by MOVA's VetsRide program to/from the DC VA Med Center.

**Elective Procedures / ReOpening CBOC & CRRC:**

Following a downward trend of positive cases per day, and inpatient care numbers, DC VA Med Center is working on a plan to begin elective heart surgeries and other pressing procedures by July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This is subject to change. SE CBOC and CRRC reopening plan is in the works, PPE and staff requirements are the main driving factors.

**DC VA Med Center Staff Testing:**

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Dept of VA stated to Congress that there was adequate testing for all staff members at VA Hospitals. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, this claim was refuted by the VA's Health Admin Director, Dr. Stone while he was testifying to the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee. Only 12% of VA health staff are being tested on a regular basis. This is a very concerning discrepancy. At the DC VA Medical Center, 640 or the roughly 2,000 staff have been tested, or only 32%. That is higher than the national average but

still dangerous to our DC veterans and DC staff members. MOVA will be closely tracking this statistic. Full article on the VA testing problems can be found here: [Connecting Vets Article](#)

### **US Vets:**

DC veteran transitional home US Vets (152 Wayne Pl SE - Ward 8) had four veterans test positive for COVID-19 over the last 24 hours. There are currently 50 DC veterans living in the facility and 14 staff. The DC VA Medical Center provides grant dollars to this facility. The DC VA Medical Center will conduct testing on all residents and staff this week and then one week later. DC Dept of Health to assist with Contact Tracing.

### **III. DC Govt Updates.**

- Find all veteran specific programs and assistance via MOVA's latest newsletter releases found here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/DCWASH/bulletins/2893cba>

### **IV: Future Board Meeting Plans:**

- July meeting will be virtual

- No August Meeting

- September meeting will possibly be an offsite, MOTA will provide further guidance.

### **V: Board Member Updates / Ideas:**

-Saif Kahn – DC Property Tax Exemption Update / Discussion (See attached document).

-Committee Chairs

- SSVF Homeless Options provided by Friendship Place / DC Council on Homelessness. (See attached flier)

### **VI: Adjournment**

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**Official VetsRide COVID 19 Expansion Graphic**

**#VETSRI**



The DC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, Department of For-Hire Vehicles, and Via are expanding the #VETSRI program.

[ In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, eligible DC veterans will receive (10) private ride vouchers, per month, for transport to health and housing appointments, food distribution sites, grocery stores, pharmacies, education, and employment. ]

**Eligibility:** Served in the US Armed Forces, DC resident, and an annual income under \$30,000 or **ANY DC VETERAN RECENTLY UNEMPLOYED.**

**Enrollment:** Mon - Thurs from 10am - 4pm by calling: **202-724-4010**

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