

Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (VCOEB)
Federal Advisory Committee Meeting (Virtual)
March 23, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Lieutenant General (R) John D. Hopper Jr., Chair
Philip Mangano, Vice Chair
Anthony Allman
Joshua Bamberger
Robert Begland
Leticia Colchado
Jennifer Marshall
Jim Perley
Dan Rosenfeld
Sarah Serrano
Kristine Stanley
Dennis Tucker
Hamilton B. Underwood
Dr. Mark Wellisch
Jim Zenner

Committee Members Absent:

Julian Manalo
Joseph Sapien

Department of Veterans Affairs Staff Present:

John Boerstler, Chief Veterans Experience Officer
Jim Wartski, Deputy Director VFCE
Eugene W. Skinner Jr., Designated Federal Officer
Chihung Szeto, Alternate Designated Federal Officer
Dr. Steven E. Braverman, M.D. Medical Center Director
Toni Bush Neal
Dr. Betty Moseley Brown
Ogochukwu Ekwuabu, Attorney Advisor, Office of Inspector General
Regina Griffin
Darryl Joseph
Matthew McGahran, Director, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)
Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan
Khariah McLaurin, Staff Attorney
Christopher Olson
Carrie Pham

Public Present: Please note that the meeting was virtual and open to the public, full attendance could not be taken or confirmed.

Tess Banko, Executive Director, UCLA VA Veteran Family Wellness Center (VFWC)
Megan Bland, Office of Congresswoman Julia Brownley
Jay Berger

Jamel Brown
 Beatriz Camarena
 Perlita Carrillo, Associate Director, Brilliant Corners
 Antonio Chapa
 Jeanette Christian, Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
 Kathleen Cone
 Tony DeFrancesco, Executive Director, UCLA Veterans Affairs Relations and Programs
 Maureen Elias
 Janet Elder
 Marnie Gale, Craddock Group, Managing Director
 Dean Gotham, California State Council at Vietnam Veterans of America
 Todd Groothuis
 Hanna Guthrie, Concourse Federal Group
 Kayla Hetzel
 Patricia Jackson Kelly, Board Director, Foundation for Women Warriors
 Francisco Juarez
 Liga Krievans, Concourse Federal Group
 Zeia Lomax
 Monica Martin
 Mathew Millen
 Joel Montes
 Kyle Orlemann, Veterans Affairs Commission, City of Hawthorne, CA
 Carla Pena-Vega, Craddock Group
 Joseph Proffitt
 Osvaldo Ramirez
 Robert Reynolds
 Janet Rice, Craddock Group
 Robert Rieth
 Armine Sargsyan, L.A. County Board of Supervisors
 Colleen Schillmaier (ERPi)
 Helene Schneider, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
 Dick Southern, Vietnam Veterans of America
 Ryan Thompson
 Anastasia Travers
 Janet Turner
 Daniel Valdez, Brilliant Corners
 Larry Vasquez
 Durrah Wagner, Office of Councilmember Mike Bonin at City of Los Angeles
 Maggie Walsh (ERPi)
 Christa Zimmerman (ERPi)

March 23, 2021

Call to Order, Attendance, Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Opening Remarks	Lt. Gen. (R) John D. Hopper, Chair Eugene W. Skinner Jr, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) The meeting was held using Webex video conferencing platform. There were a total of 45 registered attendees, with 15 requesting time for public comments.
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	<p>Due to time constraints, the meeting was restricted to 10 public comments (selected by those who first registered for the event).</p> <p>Mr. Skinner, DFO, welcomed all to the meeting, introduced himself and alternate DFO Chihung Szeto. He covered guidelines to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speakers will be given a five-minute time limit • If time expires and/or you were not registered to submit a public comment, your comments can be submitted via email to veofaca@va.gov for inclusion in the official record <p>Rules of Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mute desktop microphone, phone and lines, silence cell phones • Allow the DFO and/or the Chair to acknowledge and yield the floor to you prior to speaking • Please turn on your camera if you speak • The Chair will ask for questions or comments throughout • Please hold all questions until the end of the respective presentations • Please identify yourself prior to asking questions or commenting • After speaking please mute your microphone and turn off camera • Please minimize background noise when speaking • A role call vote will be used for all proposed recommendations <p>This session is being recorded.</p> <p>DFO Skinner turned the meeting over to Chair Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper welcomed all and thanked the new Veterans Experience Officer, John Boerstler, Dr. Braverman, and Jim Wartski for their continued support.</p> <p>Recited the Pledge of Allegiance.</p> <p>Reviewed the full agenda, presenters and a number of recommendations.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper introduced John Boerstler, Veterans Experience Officer.</p>
Veterans Experience Office Update	<p>Chief Veterans Experience Officer John Boerstler</p> <p>Mr. Boerstler thanked the Chair and Mr. Mangano for their time briefing him on the committee's activities and recommendations being reviewed to effectively represent Secretary McDonough on the committee and its mission.</p> <p>Recognized his predecessor Dr. Lynda Davis, for her leadership during her tenure as the executive sponsor for this committee and as the second Chief Veterans Experience Officer, hopes to bring his own perspective and service as a complement to her contributions.</p> <p>Thanked the committee leadership, Lt. Gen. Hopper and Philip Mangano for their expertise and Dr. Braverman. Excited to learn from all the experts on the ground to effectively collaborate to accomplish the objectives of the Draft Master Plan.</p> <p>Thanked board and committee members for their continued service as "special government employees doing important and impactful work for the Los Angeles community and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.</p> <p>Thank you to today's presenters and subject matter experts, we take the information you present back to the Secretary for thoughtful decision making. My mission is to do everything we can from the office of the Secretary and the Veterans Experience Office to ensure we accomplish the objectives of the Draft Master Plan and hope to meet in person very soon.</p>
COVID-19 Update	<p>Dr. Steven E. Braverman, M.D., Medical Center Director</p> <p>Dr. Braverman provided a COVID 19 Update:</p>

Not seeing much activity for the last month, there was a single digit in-patient hospitalization. There are two long-term Veterans who remain in the hospital. There was a low outpatient and employee positivity rate. The larger L.A. community is seeing similar trends.

This allows for some changes:

1. Removed restrictions on procedures and operations-communicating with patients who may have had delayed procedures due to pandemic
2. Re-expanding ambulatory care- continuing virtual care with waiting room distancing space requirements
3. Meeting later this week to identify other areas we can decrease restrictions
 - To include land use- reopening golf course, barber shop and other VSO utilized services
4. Reinstated in-person visitation in in-patient ward
5. Later this week, nursing home in-person visitation will be reinstated

COVID vaccination efforts are large focus and encompass much of our workforce

- Testing sites continue- brought in from dedicated locations of tents to employee health and emergency department
- Vaccinations-two things
 - Vaccinations are available at larger sites- West LA, two ambulatory care centers and periodically at the CVOPS
 - Vaccination outreach- goal is to get Vaccination to the areas where vaccination rates are typically low in the community at large
 - 700 people vaccinated on Santa Maria on Saturday
 - Vaccination event in Watts on Wednesday
 - Partnering with American Legion and VFW to hold a vaccination event in San Gabriel Valley with West Covina and Del Monte
 - Similar events in East L.A.
 - 45,000 vaccinations given to date- includes 22,000 Veterans first doses, 15,000 second doses
 - Last week vaccination eligibility was expanded to all eligible enrolled Veterans
 - No longer general prioritization but a prioritization “fast-track” for those in high-risk category to get vaccine as soon as they wish
 - Pfizer is the primary vaccine distributed
 - Limited supply of Janssen-Johnson & Johnson vaccine
 - Utilized in Santa Maria effort- minimize trips to location
 - Will be utilized in Watts vaccination effort
 - 82% of staff have vaccinated
- Overall impact on decreasing restrictions and bringing more patients into the Domiciliary, CTRS initiative and other programs

On Friday, the Secretary announced Mr. McKenrick as the new Deputy Director for the healthcare system.

- Reassignment but portfolio will not change

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A new position, transition from his previous position ■ Will continue as Executive Director of CERS and master plan strategic planning ■ Additional duties as deputy in my absence ■ Appreciate his work, potential more than performance <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if staff are required to be vaccinated.</p> <p>Dr. Braverman responded that staff are required to get the flu vaccine unless they have a religious or medical exemption. It could be required for COVID once it is fully authorized, currently under emergency authorization so it cannot be mandated for staff. Compliance has been good, numbers are similar to the 88% compliance with the flu vaccine.</p>
<p>Overview of Active Land Use Agreements: Specifically, VAGLAHS / UCLA Second Lease Amendment for baseball practice infield (Branca Family Field)</p>	<p>Mr. Robert McKenrick, Community Engagement and Reintegration Service (CERS)/Master Plan</p> <p>Slide #3: List of Active Land Use Agreements</p> <p>Section references West L.A. Leasing Act public law</p> <p>Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) Authority under 38 U.S.C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subsection of the West L.A. Act- surface use authority ■ General easement authority also included West L.A. Act <p>Revokable License (RL) – West L.A. Act Section 2(k)</p> <p>Lease to California Regents- Section 2(b)(3)</p> <p>Section 2(e)(1)(a) Local and Regional Public Transportation Authority easements- not listed on slide</p> <p>Land Use Advisory Committee- discussions from previous meetings regarding review process for individuals engaging from the website for the DMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applications are submitted, reviewed by committee, committee makes proposal to the director- suggest to grant or deny a land use ■ Some applications are not recommended- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID- many applications did not go further than the committee due to impracticality in the pandemic environment ○ Expect land use activity to increase as pandemic restrictions release <p>Slide #3: Website: Different tabs, color coded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Leases and Easements- Blue, RL-Red, Activities in negotiation- Purple ■ National Cemetery- Columbarium on West L.A. Campus ■ Campus Boundaries ■ Interactive- snippet of activity of that land use when clicked ■ Periodically updated ■ Has been stagnant over last year ■ Service providers are well-defined, particular areas provide particular services ■ COVID has decreased a lot of the requests for land use <p>Slide #5: Thirty-four land use activities listed- Mr. McKenrick offered to provide information at the end of the presentation if there are any questions on any of these activities.</p> <p>Slide #6: EUL Buildings 205 & 208- under renovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Cal Trans easement- State of California Department of Transportation- easement for the 405 Freeway on/off ramps will be on the VA property

- A Bridge Home activity
- Encampment outside fence on San Vicente Boulevard, outside Eisenhower Gate area
 - Easement allows for dumpsters and trash removal
 - Easement with VSO partner for restrooms and handwashing station

Slide #7: Department of Homeland Security-

- Firefighter response training-helpful to housing development for sensors and ability to obtain entry to buildings to find individuals, i.e. handicapped
 - IG responded that it was not Veteran-centric “enough”- could be done elsewhere for all of the area community
- Service providers for transitional housing
- UCLA lease- 10 acres at Jackie Robinson Stadium

Slide #8:

- Other UCLA activities on campus- Veteran-centric as part of lease agreement
- Access agreements for California Edison services
- Building 207 EUL
- Building 500 Main Medical Center Desert Pacific Credit Union

Slide #9:

- Building 209- EUL is active
- Wadsworth Chapel Heritage Partnership- lease just signed- renovation of the chapel
- Westside Food Bank- dormant for COVID-produce market- annex at downtown L.A. Ambulatory Care Center

Slide #10: UCLA Lease Amendment

- Second Lease amendment allows building a synthetic practice infield on a parking lot portion of the current leased land.
 - No change to lease hold or lease period
 - VA would work with UCLA to develop a program for joint use by UCLA baseball team and Veterans during off-season, etc.
 - Synthetic field is more durable than the other field
 - Use as soccer field and other activities
 - For GL.A. this would recover 500 parking spaces lost in the principal developers housing concept for North Campus
 - North Campus- Two new construction housing buildings are planned for existing parking lost
 - Parking is scarce due to development, utility construction and second phase of columbarium
- First amendment in 2017- set more formal boundaries after survey
- Financing- VA is not responsible for any aspect of the practice infield construction

Slide #11: Website addresses

GL.A. West L.A. Los Angeles Healthcare System: www.losangeles.va.gov

West L.A. Draft Master Plan: www.westladraftmasterplan.org

- For Land use agreements go to subsite on DMP website: land-use-partnerships

Questions

	<p>Mr. Allman asked if there was anyone for OGC in attendance for this portion of the meeting. Dr. Braverman responded that we may be able to get Megan on the call to answer a particular question.</p> <p>Mr. Allman had a question regarding the OGC memo published on February 23, 2021, regarding VCOEB's ability to provide pre-decisional input with respect to land use matters at VA West LA. IS the memo a clarification to existing policy or a change in the policy? The memo does not specify which VA Secretary in it's reference to the secretary.</p> <p>Mr. McKenrick replied that they had received no additional or clarifying guidance beyond this official guidance and the initial posture. He believes their position has not changed since he or his predecessor were in the position.</p> <p>Dr. Braverman agreed with Mr. McKenrick's response.</p> <p>Mr. Allman followed stating the Federal Advisory committee had previously adopted a recommendation for the easement for the L.A. Metro Purple Line exemption station on campus that the Secretary concurred with. Mr. Allman thought it was a clear example of pre-decisional input as the easement with Metro has not been executed. Since the Secretary concurred with that recommendation Mr. Allman does not understand the current memo as it stated.</p> <p>Mr. McKenrick replied that he would have to do additional research to provide an opinion and engage with legal and the Office of General Counsel to prepare an answer to the question.</p> <p>Mr. Allman mentioned that the OGC memo references a recommendation that was made about reviewing applications made for campus land use. He recalled during the discussion referencing the fact that recommendation had nothing to do with land use leases because of congressional oversight of leases on campus and it was specific to short-term permits and revokable licenses. The OGC memo expanded beyond short-term permits and RLs to leases. If the FAC is not able to provide pre-decisional input to leasing on campus and the primary instrument for executing the DMP is VA leasing authority than what is the purpose of the VCOEB FAC? Does the FAC need to exist?</p> <p>Mr. McKenrick concurred that the dialogue was important but the appropriate materials and people need to be present for the discussion. He would like review the details of the prior recommendation and compare it to the guidance in the memo.</p> <p>Dr. Braverman commented that the biggest issues regarding pre-decisional input are to insure that the committee is not discussing issues regarding contract requirements based on a discussion with Megan and Mr. McKenrick at the last meeting. There may be more specific than general limitations to help define the line that the committee cannot cross.</p>
Strategies to house homeless Veterans (37:30)	<p>Perlita Carrillo, Associate Director, Brilliant Corners</p> <p>Daniel Valdez, Housing Acquisition Manager, Brilliant Corners</p> <p>Ms. Carillo and Mr. Valdez introduced themselves.</p> <p>Brilliant Corners will talk about their Cornerstone Program, the flexible housing subsidy pool and their successes in housing the most vulnerable. Will provide details on their process for housing homeless Veterans using HUD vouchers and county rent subsidies.</p> <p>Ms. Carillo:</p> <p>Homelessness in L.A. is a very serious problem.</p> <p>The need for supportive housing models in California has expanded alongside Brilliant Corners role in the community.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Rents are increasing across the state ■ Assumption the barriers to housing are lack of inventory and landlord reluctance <p>Brilliant Corners has access the wide range of available housing units through dedicated landlord engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Their pace of growth in L.A. County over the past six years demonstrates their ability to rapidly scale a housing platform in a difficult rental market ■ Community equity and partnerships with providers provides available units ready to lease. <p>Who is Brilliant Corners and what is their solution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A statewide supportive housing non-profit providing innovative housing and housing services for individuals at risk of or transitioning from homelessness. ■ Liaison between housing and multiple social service programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developmental services ○ Homeless services ○ Public health ○ Managed care ○ Veteran Services ○ Criminal Justice ■ Wherever supportive housing offers a platform for systems change, inclusive community, and personal well-being ■ Deeply held belief that the solution to homelessness is simple- providing housing and supportive services that help people thrive is getting people housed. ■ Supportive housing is a proven effective combination of subsidized housing and supportive services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supportive housing removes the barriers that keep people from accessing ○ Stability, safety, and community ○ Temporary shelters or bridge housing perpetuate the cycle of homelessness by providing only temporary relief ■ Pooled housing approach matched vulnerable individuals with many options in real-time ■ Brilliant Corners locates units, streamlines matching of tenants with housing options, pair them with wraparound services and leverage local and federal subsidy programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Professionalizes housing locator and tenancy support services ○ Housed 9,323 individuals since 2015- 200 per month ■ Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (Flex Pool) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launched in 2015 ○ partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services ○ system changing innovation ○ unlocks a range of housing options ○ dedicated landlord engagement ○ ensure housing stability ○ rent subsidy administration
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ variety of tenancy support for client ○ L.A. Flex Pool has housed 8,500 since 2015 <p>Brilliant Corners approach creates system level change as well as benefits tenants, landlords sector leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ L.A. County Housing for Health credits BC with doubling the number of people housed annually ■ 2017, Rand Corporation study found for every dollar invested in LA's Flex Pool the county saved \$1.20 in healthcare and other costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Among the largest savings ever in homelessness ■ In L.A. Flex Pools first 2.5 years- across all public services costs declined nearly 60% from an average of \$30,000 to \$15,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 20% total savings after factoring expenses for providing housing <p>Brilliant Corners model is applicable to all populations- business approach is applied across all the services in their portfolio- flexibility and streamlining the process, professionalized function of three branches of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing Acquisitions team- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ find units in community ○ cultivate relationship with property provider ○ source new units and maintain inventory (portfolio) ■ Tenancy Supports team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing retention services ○ Facilitate move-in ○ Liaison between client, case manager and landlord ○ Beneficial support to landlord- resolving issues and communication with tenant client ■ Operations Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Streamlines the rental process ○ Administer all payments- rent subsidy, deposit ○ Process applications ○ Move-in assistance ○ Overall administrative and financial support for Housing Acquisitions and Tenancy Support teams <p>All three teams partner with Intensive Case Management (ICMS) providers, providing wraparound support in tandem with Tenancy Support team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Clients have two levels of direct support between ICMS and BC Tenancy Support team <p>BC does the work for partner agencies, potentially VA- finds the units, streamlining matching and wraparound services.</p> <p>Since 2014 BC has housed 9000+ in supportive housing through professionalization of different roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Social worker is not a real estate rental agent ■ Housing acquisitions team- landlord relationship, portfolio of units
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Units are reserved for BC referrals- available for immediate match/occupancy for BC client- reduces time to get housed ■ Partners in case management agencies refer clients to BC to be assigned a unit from their exclusive pool ■ BC recognizes the benefit of understanding the motivation of their clients. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Client choice is major factor- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ narrative of homeless individual being “service-resistant” ■ BC matched client needs and preferences from the beginning to expedite matching process ■ What type of housing, amenities, community resources, public transportation, etc? ○ Targeting client needs leads to better and faster matching with units ○ If matches are not successful, Tenancy Support team contacts case manager for further exploration ○ Focus on those most in need- low income, at-risk ■ Client and Landlord are supported through move-in process by Tenancy Supports team <p>Intensive Case Management services are community partners working with the three teams within BC.</p> <p>Landlord Motivation- Mr. Valdez:</p> <p>Flex Pool success is due to the business model, based on the motivations of the landlords and investors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Objective is to reduce risk and maximize their return on investment ■ Factor Analysis consists of four drivers <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rent- reliable, secure, sustainable, on-time, program pays directly 2. Vacancies- turnover, vacant units expensive, frequent move-out increase operations costs. Profitability increases when vacancies are reduced. 3. Damage Mitigation- mitigation as part of agreement with partner offsets risk, rental assistance is added security for landlord. 4. Support- key account management/customer service is most important to landlords. Housing Acquisition specialist supports landlord as an account manager. <p>Housing Acquisition Approach- based on relationship with Landlords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Based on Three components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Acquisitions- team of specialists engage in outreach, work with private landlords and large real estate investment corporations ○ Service- key account management, represents the landlords’ interests, involved in property life-cycle ○ Retention- 80% of repeating business is 20% of the key accounts- high contact customer service approach, provider cultivation and retention <p>Flex Pool Incentives for Landlords</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Customizable legal and financial tools
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unit Holding Agreement- funding holds vacant units for client match, would be financed by partner (VA) ○ Streamlined Inspections- quality inspections are conducted more quickly than most traditional housing authorities ○ Move-in Payment- double security deposit, first and last months' rent- reassures landlords providing financial cushion ○ Move-in Assistance-funding for household needs, furniture, bedding, cookware, utility activation fees. ○ Property Provider Incentives- encourages provider participate, signing bonus, damage mitigation, inspection repair funds ○ Flexible Financial Assistance- fund to maintain tenancy- past due rent, unit repairs and modification. Connect landlords with contractors who are ADA compliant to assist with client needs. ○ Rent Subsidy Administration- ongoing rental payments- can issue payments within seven days of acquiring units. Landlords must often wait 30-45 days to receive first payment from traditional housing authorities. <p>Key Account Management focuses on developing and maintaining long-term relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing acquisitions team provides data-driven analysis ■ Frequent check-ins with landlord providers ■ Create a property prospectus, proforma financial report focused on quantitative and qualitative data- cash flow, growth, value, etc. ■ This program has received positive feedback from landlords and management companies- sets us apart from other housing programs. <p>Brilliant Corners and VA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strong relationships with VA in San Francisco since 2011- two programs for Veterans in need of housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ San Francisco HUD-VASH program. BC San Francisco Veteran Services team support Veteran clients <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Voucher application, housing search, move-in support, retention services through wraparound and case management services ■ Second contract cycle- serve 209 clients, increased from 150 in first contract ■ 99% clients are currently housed ○ From 2011 to 2016, BC partnered with SFVA Community Based Outpatient mental health providers to develop a Housing First Pilot Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Team based case management approach for acuity complex cases ■ Chronic homelessness, substance abuse, mental and physical health, other at-risk behaviors ○ Colma Veterans Village- opened 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bay area 66-unit affordable housing community ■ Serves low-income Veterans ■ BC involved since proposal ■ Partnership with Mercy Housing and SFVA
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ BC Veterans Services team provides on-site wraparound support services <p>San Diego Flexible Housing Pool- identifying and securing permanent housing in SD area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Launched Fall 2020- diverse portfolio of units ■ Receives referrals from VASH ■ BC provides housing locator, tenancy supports and operations services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Housing unit identification and placement ○ Move-in coordination ○ Housing retention services ○ Partnership with VA case management ■ SD Flex Pool stats: 26 referrals in pipeline, 11 placements <p>BC serves 100 additional Veterans across the state using locator services, tenancy support, and wraparound case management services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Began working with L.A. County in 2013 to service 100 Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That contract did not provide tenancy supports and social workers provided housing locator services ■ The three teams of locator, tenancy and case management are key to success ■ Professionalizing these functions impacts client service, results, partners and the ability to rapidly scale placement ■ Homelessness is an inequity that requires strategic alignment of cross-sector entities ■ Housing is the key to ending homelessness- Our effective evidence tested strategy demonstrates that supportive services keep people housed. <p>Questions:</p> <p>Dr. Bamberger thanked the speakers for the informative presentation. He recognizes that landlord relations is key to success with trust and established relationships. He asked about the process and policy for holding the units when they are vacant. Where does the funding come from that pay rent for an empty unit?</p> <p>Ms. Carillo replied that BC has an Agreement Regarding Vacant Unit (ARVU) that is a holding agreement for the unit that commits to holding the unit up to four months (timeframes may differ for different providers). If there is no successful placement after four months, the team will reassess keeping the unit in the portfolio. These are a vacancy cost line item in the budget. They are billed to the funder for that four months against a proportion of how many units were seen that month by that funder's client. If the client saw 50 of 60 total unit showings that month, it would be portion of that cost. Vacancy costs vary each month as it depends on the total number of units under the contract and how many of your clients are actively seeing units that month.</p> <p>Dr. Bamberger would like to learn more and opened up the questions to others on the committee and VA Leadership.</p> <p>Mr. Mangano thanked the team from Brilliant Corners and stated that the professionalization of the services is important. A lot of the services are provided but not professionally, often the responsible provider does not have the capacity to take it on. He mentioned that there are programs like Brilliant Corners, same model but similar principles. One is greater Boston began in early 1990s, San Bernadino's inland empire and others around the country have been flourishing. He asked the BC team their experience</p>
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	<p>with the statement that in California there is a lack of affordable housing and homeless people do not want housing and if these two objections could be characterized as myths. Mr. Valdez stated that he believes those statements are a myth. BC is often contacted by landlords in the L.A. area looking for support marketing their units. Investors purchasing buildings often have real estate attorneys and consultants reaching out to BC asking for clients because they understand the business model of BC. Key account management approach is a business strategy that includes operations etc. On any month we have 30-80 units available and marketed through case management services.</p> <p>For the clients, Mr. Valdez does not have the best context or experience as he deals with the landlords but he is not seeing resistance from clients. Clients are often grateful and through the landlord communicate to BC that they have been searching for and it is a model that works.</p> <p>Ms. Carillo agreed with Mr. Valdez and said there are always some outliers but within the Flex Pool model and the relationships with landlords, they are reaching out to BC when they have vacancies. Also, for the clients, getting the most current specific preference information is key to the client buy-in and obtaining satisfactory housing as well as connecting the client's case manager with Tenancy Support services.</p> <p>Mr. Allman stated that he is not sophisticated on this topic but wants to know what BC experience working with landlord. He has heard that the L.A. affordable housing market is so tight that section 8 vouchers are not as effective as they would be elsewhere. Should VA consider alternatives to incentivize landlords to participate in the program?</p> <p>Mr. Valdez experience with landlords is that they want to help Veterans, may be for public recognition landlords believe in BC. Investors are literally holding the key to change peoples lives.</p>
Services and Outcomes Subcommittee recommendation brief discussion and vote	<p>Services and Outcomes Subcommittee Chair (Dr. Joshua Bamberger)</p> <p>Two Recommendations (1:14:27)</p> <p>VCOEB's task is to write recommendations and have them presented to the Secretary to concur.</p> <p>Housing homeless Veterans at a more rapid rate to decrease the unacceptable situation on the streets.</p> <p>VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-01 -read by Dr. Bamberger</p> <p>WHEREAS, Permanent supportive housing is the best solution to end homelessness for the approximately 39021 veterans experiencing homelessness in LA county; 1 Source: Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count</p> <p>WHEREAS, As of March 2021, housing authorities in Los Angeles County have been issued 7,665 HUD-VASH vouchers and 5,115 are being used to support rent leaving <i>at least</i> (not including newly awarded vouchers and re-allocations) 2,550 vouchers that have yet to be used to support the rent for homeless veterans;</p> <p>WHEREAS, VAGLAHS is averaging approximately 120 new housing placements each month;</p> <p>WHEREAS, At the current pace of utilization, the <i>existing</i> allotment of HUD-VASH vouchers will not be utilized until January, 2023;</p> <p>WHEREAS, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and other veteran focused community partners have successfully contracted with and utilized housing locator services from community-based organizations to efficiently utilize Housing Choice Vouchers for people experiencing homelessness.</p>

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE:

RECOMMENDED, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs instruct the leadership at VAGLAHS to use all available agencies and resources to increase the pace of placement into permanent supportive housing units for veterans experiencing homelessness by increasing the average monthly voucher utilization to at least 212 vouchers to successfully utilize all existing HUD-VASH vouchers by May, 2022.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as of March 23, 2021.

Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion, hearing none he asked for a motion to vote.

Mr. Allman motioned to vote on the first recommendation 12-01.

Mr. Mangano provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say “aye”.

Recommendation 12.01 was unanimously approved.

VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-02 -read by Dr. Bamberger

WHEREAS, As of March 2021, there are approximately 86 vacant staff positions at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) to serve veterans experiencing homelessness in the HUD-VASH program;

WHEREAS, As of March 2021, 66 of the 86 vacant HUD VASH positions are case management positions;

WHEREAS, VAGLAHS has initiated contracts in the past with local community-based organizations to provide additional case management and social work services for homeless veterans;

WHEREAS, As of January 5, 2021, Section 4207 of Public Law 116-315 (H.R. 7105 - Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020) requires the VA to enter into contracts with eligible entities to provide casework management of HUD-VASH vouchers upon a determination by the Secretary one or more case manager positions have been vacant for at least nine months.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE:

RECOMMENDED, as of October 1, 2021, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs take immediate steps to implement the new authority outlined in Section 4207 of Public Law 116-315 requiring that VAGLAHS contract with eligible entities to provide casework management for HUD-VASH vouchers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as of March 23, 2021.

Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Allman motioned to approve recommendation 12-02

Ms. Stanley provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say “aye”.

Recommendation 12-02 was unanimously approved.

Lt. Gen. Hopper explained that it was decided that although the recommendations appeared on the screen they should also be read aloud to get them in the record. He advised all on the

	<p>call to look at the full recommendation as there is a lot of research and exhibits that accompany and support each recommendation.</p> <p>Dr. Bamberger commended the service subcommittee for the work involved in crafting the two recommendations. The lack of discussion during the voting process is not indicative of the work but has been a constant communication since September to get to this point.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper concurred and offered the same explanation for the Master Plan Subcommittee.</p> <p>These recommendations are a distillation of research and intense work.</p>
<p>Master Plan Subcommittee recommendation brief discussion and vote</p>	<p>Master Plan Subcommittee Chair (Mr. Anthony Allman)</p> <p>VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-03 - read by Mr. Allman</p> <p>WHEREAS, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) is the largest VA Medical Center in the nation;</p> <p>WHEREAS, enhanced dialogue between VAGLAHS and veterans is essential to fostering a greater level of trust and transparency;</p> <p>WHEREAS, VA Form 10-10EZ (Application for Health Benefits) Field 10H (E-Mail Address) captures the veteran's electronic contact information upon enrollment in healthcare Benefits¹</p> <p>WHEREAS, VA Form 10-10EZR (Health Benefits Update Form) Field 9 (E-Mail Address) captures the veteran's electronic contact information upon possible relocation to a geographic area²</p> <p>WHEREAS, Field 10H and Field 9 are optional and providing such contact information during enrollment in healthcare benefits, or updating health benefits, should be considered a form of consent for the purpose of e-mail communication between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran;</p> <p>WHEREAS, as of 2/14/2019 there were only 7,679 subscribers to VAGLAHS' GovDelivery distribution network³</p> <p>WHEREAS, currently veterans may largely be unaware that Medical Centers develop and maintain their own e-mail communications strategy regarding the provision of healthcare and other related services; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, keeping veterans up-to-date on such activity could encourage more veterans to access services from their assigned Medical Center.</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE:</p> <p>RECOMMENDED, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs create a pilot communications initiative at VAGLAHS to automatically include veterans upon completion of VA Form 10-10EZ or VA Form 10-10EZR as part of their assigned Medical Center's communications network via GovDelivery; and recommended that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs encourage at least quarterly data information sharing between relevant VA offices to ensure information provided in both past and future VA forms are included in the pilot communications initiative;</p> <p>IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.</p> <p>¹VA Form 10-10EZ</p> <p>²VA Form 10-10EZR</p> <p>³VAGLAHS GovDelivery Bulletin Detail Report, 02/14/2019</p>

	<p>Mr. Allman summarized the recommendation. It is proposing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA uses email addresses captured during enrollment in healthcare or relocation- and automatically includes that information in GLA’s email distribution network. • Currently Veteran has to go to Losangeles.va.gov, must know there is an email distribution list they can sign up for • Missed opportunity for Veteran engagement <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion</p> <p>Dr. Bamberger asked Mr. Allman to inform the committee on how this will not result in Veterans getting overwhelmed with extraneous information in their email boxes.</p> <p>Mr. Allman believes that Veterans may currently receive a lot of information that they did not request and cannot remove themselves from the mailing lists. The .gov delivery network operates like any other distribution where you have the option to unsubscribe at any point.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if there was any further discussion, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.</p> <p>Mr. Zenner motioned to approve 12-03</p> <p>Ms. Stanley provided a second motion.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say “aye”.</p> <p>Recommendation 12-03 was unanimously approved.</p> <p>VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-04A- read by Mr. Allman (attachments enclosed)</p> <p>WHEREAS, Article 6 Item 23 of the lease agreement between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) executed on December 23, 2016 requires an annual audit to obtain third-party verification of the Lessee’s compliance with lease obligations¹;</p> <p>WHEREAS, Section 2 Item F of the revocable license permit between VA and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (City) executed on September 1, 2016 requires an annual audit to obtain third-party verification of the City’s compliance with the revocable permit ²;</p> <p>WHEREAS, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) has provided a third-party auditor, BCA Watson Rice LLP, with an undisclosed list of veteran stakeholder e-mail addresses ³;</p> <p>WHEREAS, VCOEB believes unsolicited emails from a third-party auditor to veteran stakeholders is not an effective communications strategy to obtain veteran feedback;</p> <p>WHEREAS, this claim is supported by the underwhelming quantity (two) of respondents to the FY17 UCLA Lease Audit (no additional UCLA Lease audits are available to the public at this time)⁴;</p> <p>WHEREAS, VCOEB submits the third-party auditor’s method of obtaining stakeholder feedback is overly burdensome which is diminishing veteran participation in annual audits; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Secretary of the VA concurred with previous VCOEB recommendations to include broad electronic notification of Draft Master Plan public notices and events through VAGLAHS’ GovDelivery e-mail marketing platform.</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE: RECOMMENDED, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs instruct leadership at VAGLAHS to include all notices of annual audits on campus as Draft Master</p>
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Plan public notices for the purpose of distribution through VAGLAHS' GovDelivery e-mail marketing platform;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.

Lt. Gen. opened the floor for discussion

Mr. Allman added that the significance of the recommendation is that many Veterans may receive an email from a party they have never heard of and they are expected to trust the party, download, print, fill out, scan a form and attach it to an email and send it back. It is a complicated process that should be streamlined. This recommendation is intended to increase Veteran participation in these annual audits.

Reference to the Brentwood school is not included in this recommendation because no annual audit requirement was found. It may be missing, in a different cycle but will be addressed in an additional recommendation.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if there was any further discussion, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Dr. Bamberger motioned to approve 12-04A

Mr. Zenner provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion.

Mr. Zenner mentioned that he had done exactly as Mr. Allman had said, printed off the form, sent it in and received an email the next day from the agency stating they created a different type of form. I did not fill out the second one and there was no indication in the email if my previous submission was counted with this new mid-course change that was implemented. I think this is a very important recommendation to consider.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say "aye".

Recommendation 12-04A was unanimously approved.

VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-04B - read by Mr. Allman. (attachments enclosed)

Mr. Allman omitted reading the preamble as this recommendation is based on the previous recommendation.

WHEREAS, Article 6 Item 23 of the lease agreement between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) executed on December 23, 2016 requires an annual audit to obtain third-party verification of the Lessee's compliance with lease obligations¹ ;

WHEREAS, Section 2 Item F of the revocable license permit between VA and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (City) executed on September 1, 2016 requires an annual audit to obtain third-party verification of the City's compliance with the revocable permit²;

WHEREAS, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) has provided a third-party auditor, BCA Watson Rice LLP, with an undisclosed list of veteran stakeholder e-mail addresses³;

WHEREAS, VCOEB believes unsolicited emails from a third-party auditor to veteran stakeholders is not an effective communications strategy to obtain veteran feedback;

WHEREAS, this claim is supported by the underwhelming quantity (two) of respondents to

the FY17 UCLA Lease Audit (no additional UCLA Lease audits are available to the public at this time)⁴

WHEREAS, VCOEB submits the third-party auditor’s method of obtaining stakeholder feedback is overly burdensome which is diminishing veteran participation in annual audits; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the VA concurred with previous VCOEB recommendations to include broad electronic notification of Draft Master Plan public notices and events through VAGLAHS’ GovDelivery e-mail marketing platform.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE: RECOMMENDED, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs instruct leadership at VAGLAHS that future opportunities to participate in annual audits take the form of an online survey reducing barriers to veteran participation in critical stakeholder feedback regarding performance of various land use agreements on campus; IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.

¹VA / UCLA Lease, pg 16

²VA / City of LA Revocable Permit, pg 7

³Email from BCA Watson Rice LLP dated 01/28/2021

⁴UCLA Lease Year 1 Audit FY17, pgs 11-12

Mr. Allman added that this recommendation addresses Mr. Zenner’s point from the previous recommendation that this could be as easy as VA sending an email notifying Veterans that there is an annual audit, click on a link and input your feedback.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked if there was any further discussion, hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Ms. Serrano motioned to approve 12-04B

Mr. Zenner provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say “aye”.

Recommendation 12-04B was unanimously approved.

VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-05A- read by Mr. Allman.

Mr. Allman added a correction before reading the recommendation. Reference to Title 38, Section 101 is an error, it should be corrected to Public Law 114-226 Section

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2021, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) Office of Public Affairs released an announcement indicating that it had already entered into a “Second Lease Amendment” between VA and the Regents of the University of California (UCLA) to permit construction and operation of a synthetic practice baseball infield¹

WHEREAS, at no point in time prior to the announcement, did VAGLAHS advise the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (VCOEB) of its intention to amend the existing lease with UCLA for its baseball complex;

WHEREAS, VCOEB has since received public comment and criticism from veterans or members of the community regarding the appropriateness of adding additional baseball facilities on campus as inconsistent with the Master Plan;

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021 the VCOEB leadership received a briefing from the VAGLAHS leadership, and expressed concern that the lease amendment was made without any prior briefing or input from the VCOEB and, further, without any veteran input whatsoever.

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) distributed a memorandum claiming that the VCOEB could not provide *any* “pre-decisional input” on West L.A. Campus land use matters²;

WHEREAS, the OGC memo further claimed that even though VCOEB is authorized to provide input/recommendations to the Secretary, and the Secretary then provide input to the VAGLAHS, that such an approach is not permissible because “such a process would impermissibly impede critical leadership decision-making by VAGLAHS officials.”

WHEREAS, the effect of the combined claims of the OGC memo is that VCOEB may allegedly not provide *any* input to leasing decisions prior to the time that they are made, notwithstanding the VCOEB’s Congressionally-mandated role to “provide advice and recommendations on the implementation of the draft master plan approved by the secretary on January 28, 2016, and on the creation and implementation of any successor master plans.” 38 U.S.C. §101 (2)(i)(1)(C).³

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE: RECOMMENDED, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs terminate the UCLA “Second Lease Amendment” on the grounds that it is not consistent with the Master Plan; does not sufficiently benefit veterans and their families; and disproportionately favors UCLA’s interests on campus, without proof of any expansion of UCLA’s services to the campus to justify enlargement of the Regents’ rights; Veterans currently have priority access to (two) recreational baseball fields located on Veterans Barrington Park per Section C Item 2 of the September 1, 2016 Revocable License agreement with the City of Los Angeles⁴

Veterans currently have access to (three) additional recreational baseball facilities as part of the November 4, 2016 lease agreement with Brentwood School⁵

The existence of six baseball facilities on campus does not merit the construction of an additional baseball facility on campus;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.

¹Email from VAGLAHS Office of Public Affairs, dated 2/10/21

²VA Office of General Counsel Memo, Subj: West LA Campus FAC, dated 02/23/21

³The VCOEB’s Congressional-mandated role in providing “advice and recommendation on the implementation of the draft master plan” is **not** limited, by its terms, to advice to the Secretary. The OGC memo mistakenly assumes that it is; but that appears to be based on a misreading of the statute. The immediately prior provision -- 38 U.S.C. §101 (2)(i)(1)(B) -- makes clear that when Congress intends that VCOEB’s advice be limited to the Secretary, it says so: “[p]rovide advice and recommendations **to the Secretary** to improve services and outcomes for veterans, members of the Armed Forces, and families have such a veterans and members.”

⁴VA / City of Los Angeles Revocable Permit, pg 4

⁵VA / Brentwood School Lease Agreement, pgs 6-8 and “Exhibit B”

Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion.

Dr. Bamberger pointed out that the issue is not with the baseball field but with the lack of consulting the VCOEB as our congressionally mandated function is undermined by this decision being made without seeking counsel from this board. Mr. Allman started with this question this morning and it should be reiterated in the public record that it is critical as the boards’ public function, to provide input or advice that this board is included in the

discussions. This board does not make decisions in how the VA spends its' money but should be consulted or there is no point to the board's existence. The baseball issue is secondary to the existential function of the VCOEB.

Mr. Allman added that there are more baseball facilities than permanent supportive housing on campus which does not look good or make sense. Regarding access to this baseball field, Veterans might say they have trouble accessing the baseball field at the City of L.A. Veterans Park or Brentwood School for recreational purposes.

Mr. Zenner stated that in his work with homeless Veterans over the last eleven years, a lot of the work is about building trust and this is a transparency problem, creating a rapport that builds trust in the Veteran community.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion or comments on the recommendation. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Ms. Marshall motioned to approve 12-05A

Ms. Stanley provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say "aye".

Recommendation 12-05A was unanimously approved.

VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-05B read by Mr. Allman.

Mr. Allman did not read the preamble as this recommendation is an addition to the previous one.

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2021, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) Office of Public Affairs released an announcement indicating that it had already entered into a "Second Lease Amendment" between VA and the Regents of the University of California (UCLA) to permit construction and operation of a synthetic practice baseball infield¹ ;

WHEREAS, at no point in time prior to the announcement, did VAGLAHS advise the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board (VCOEB) of its intention to amend the existing lease with UCLA for its baseball complex;

WHEREAS, VCOEB has since received public comment and criticism from veterans or members of the community regarding the appropriateness of adding additional baseball facilities on campus as inconsistent with the Master Plan;

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2021, VCOEB received a briefing from VAGLAHS leadership, and expressed concern that the lease amendment was made without any prior briefing or input from the VCOEB and, further, without any veteran input whatsoever;

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) distributed a memorandum claiming that the VCOEB could not provide *any* "pre-decisional input" on West L.A. Campus land use matters²;

WHEREAS, the OGC memo further claimed that even though VCOEB is authorized to provide input/recommendations to the Secretary, and the Secretary then provide input to VAGLAHS, that such an approach is not permissible because "[s]uch a process would impermissibly impede critical leadership decision-making by VAGLAHS officials."

WHEREAS, the effect of the combined claims of the OGC memo is that VCOEB may allegedly not provide *any* input to leasing decisions prior to the time that they are made, notwithstanding the VCOEB's Congressionally-mandated role to "[p]rovide advice and recommendations on the implementation of the draft master plan approved by the secretary on January 28, 2016, and on the creation and implementation of any successor master plans." 38 U.S.C. §101 (2)(i)(1)(C).³;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE: RECOMMENDED, that before VAGLAHS is authorized to enter into or modify any existing leases with the Regents of the University of California, that VAGLAHS must make a presentation to VCOEB establishing its due diligence to assure itself that the lease is consistent with the Master Plan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.

¹Email from VAGLAHS Office of Public Affairs, dated 2/10/21

²VA Office of General Counsel Memo, Subj: West LA Campus FAC, dated 02/23/21

³The VCOEB's Congressionally-mandated role in providing "advice and recommendation on the implementation of the draft master plan" is **not** limited, by its terms, to advice to the Secretary. The OGC memo mistakenly assumes that it is; but that appears to be based on a misreading of the statute. The immediately prior provision -- 38 U.S.C. §101 (2)(i)(1)(B) -- makes clear that when Congress intends that VCOEB's advice be limited to the Secretary, it says so: "[p]rovide advice and recommendations **to the Secretary** to improve services and outcomes

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for discussion on the recommendation.

Mr. Perley commended Mr. Allmans' efforts, the strategic effectively planned recommendations.

Mr. Tucker commented on Mr. Allman and his team's commendable work.

Mr. Allman added that the intent for the FAC is not to make decisions on behalf of VA, but the FAC is asserting it's role in the West L.A. Leasing Act to provide advice and recommendations with respect to the execution of the Master Plan. The board can offer input and has the ability to comment but VA makes the decisions. To be clear, the FAC is not advocating to take the role of making decisions on behalf of VA.

Lt. Gen. agreed with Mr. Allman's point. The board is not making the decisions but providing oversight and recommendations to the Secretary and must be part of the discussion, particularly in regard to land use.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Mr. Wellisch motioned to approve 12-05B

Ms. Stanley provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say "aye".

Recommendation 12-05B was unanimously approved.

VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-06- read by Mr. Allman.

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2019, the Veterans Oversight and Community Engagement Board (VCOEB) adopted a recommendation "that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Office of Real Property approve mutually agreeable plans for development and operations of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Purple Line Extension station at VA West Los Angeles.";

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2019, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs concurred with VCOEB's recommendation and endorsement "of VA's ongoing efforts to reach mutually-agreeable

terms with LA Metro for the construction and operation of a Purple Line extension station on the VA West Los Angeles Campus”¹

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) distributed a memorandum claiming that the VCOEB could not provide *any* “pre-decisional input” on West L.A. Campus land use matters²

WHEREAS, as of March 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has not executed an easement agreement with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the construction and operation of a Purple Line extension station on the VA West Los Angeles Campus.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the VA both received and concurred with VCOEB’s pre-decisional input regarding land use at VA West Los Angeles on June 26, 2016;

WHEREAS, VCOEB’s continued input with regard to land use matters at VA West Los Angeles is appropriate under Federal Acquisition Regulations, Section 1-602(2)(c), which states that “[c]ontracting officers shall- [r]equest and consider the advice of specialists in audit, law, engineering, information security, transportation, and other fields, as appropriate;³

WHEREAS, VCOEB’s input with respect to land use at VA West Los Angeles shall be considered appropriate per Section 2(i)(1)(c) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (PL 114-226)⁴

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE: RECOMMENDED, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs instruct Office of General Counsel to develop a legal process by which the Department can comply with existing contracting laws while allowing VCOEB to fulfill its duties established in the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (PL 114-226).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.

¹5th VCOEB Response Packet dated June 26, 2019, pg 4

²VA Office of General Counsel Memo, Subj: West LA Campus FAC dated 02/23/21

³FAR Section 1-602

⁴West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (PL 114-226)

Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion on this recommendation.

Mr. Allman added that the VCOEB has provided pre-decisional input in the past and the Secretary has concurred with those recommendations. This should not have changed. Under the West L.A. Leasing Act states that the FAC role in providing advice and recommendations, regarding the Master plan and the creation and execution of successive master plans is clear and appropriate.

Dr. Bamberger stated that the error has been highlighted by Mr. Allman but he has also provided a solution by asking the General Counsel to give a recommendation or solution to support the Board doing its job supporting the VA ultimately.

Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Ms. Stanley motioned to approve 12-06

Dr. Bamberger provided a second motion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion.

Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say “aye”.

Mr. Tucker stated that he is not opposing but abstaining from voting as he is a Human Resource Director at L.A. Metro

Recommendation 12-06 was approved.

VCOEB RECOMMENDATION 12-07- read by Lt. Gen. Hopper.

WHEREAS, VA Secretary Bob McDonald appointed a Special Advisor to develop and execute the Draft Master Plan as well as streamline placement of homeless veterans into permanent supportive housing throughout Los Angeles County;

WHEREAS, the appointment of a Special Advisor led to a comprehensive outreach and communications effort which yielded unprecedented input (1,002 public comments)¹ from veterans, veteran service organizations and community stakeholders throughout development of the Draft Master Plan;

WHEREAS, the Draft Master Plan set forth a potential phasing timeline of “490 units within the first 30 months, 280 additional units within 4 to 5 years, and 430 additional units within 6 to 10 years” of receiving authorization from Congress²;

WHEREAS, the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 became Public Law 114-226 on September 29, 2016;

WHEREAS, as of today, there are only 54 permanent supportive housing units for homeless veterans at VA West Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, the Draft Master Plan identified “Female Veterans with and without Dependents” as a target population for deserving particular use of the campus³;

WHEREAS, Female Veterans with and without Dependents are excluded from housing programs at Building 257 (46 beds) and A Bridge Home (80 beds) on campus⁴

WHEREAS, the Draft Master Plan established that “VA will periodically review and reevaluate the Draft Master Plan every three years, to ensure the plan continues to meet the evolving needs of Veterans.”⁵;

WHEREAS, the Draft Master Plan is overdue for a reassessment; and

WHEREAS, there are still at least 3,904 veterans who remain homeless throughout Los Angeles County;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE: RECOMMENDED, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs appoint a new Special Advisor for the express purpose of executing a successor master plan, overseeing land use agreements on campus, increasing emergency shelter capacity on campus with a special emphasis on female veterans and redoubling VA’s effort to streamline placement of homeless veterans into permanent supportive housing throughout Los Angeles County;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board adopts this recommendation as March 23, 2021.

¹Greater Los Angeles Campus Draft Master Plan Executive Summary, pg 6

²Greater Los Angeles Campus Draft Master Plan Executive Summary, pgs 15-16

³Greater Los Angeles Campus Draft Master Plan Executive Summary, pg 4-5

⁴11th VCOEB Quarterly Meeting Deck, Slide 7

⁵Greater Los Angeles Campus Draft Master Plan Executive Summary, pg 18

Lt. Gen. Hopper opened the floor for discussion. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the recommendation.

Mr. Zenner mentioned that he was working in non-profit when the special advisor was in L.A. in 2013-2014. We were able to provide a lot more input into system pain points and

	<p>streamline the processes to get Veterans off the streets and into TPE and HHP housing. A lot of good work was done through West L.A. VA with the special advisor and I am excited about voting on this one.</p> <p>Mr. McGahran referred to the comment that building 257 is being developed for female Veterans. The contract for transitional housing has ended and a transitional housing program for all women with 20 female beds is being planned.</p> <p>Dr. Bamberger commented that this is the recommendation he is least excited about. He mentioned that working in government for many years and adding another layer of bureaucracy into the system can be complicated and may not provide the desired results. Under President Obama we had this opportunity and we met with the special advisor as Mr. Zenner mentioned. Things happened and there was a place to bring the problems that needed to be addressed. Dr. Bamberger is ambivalent about this recommendation but given the extent of the homeless problem in L.A. County among Veterans, something has to happen.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper agreed that many who have government experience are reluctant to add what might be interpreted as more layers. But since losing that focus things have lost intensity in the push forward and there is not much that will get us back on track. There is no question that this model with an advisor works, it needs to be implemented in a way that brings back that previous focus and collaboration and stays true to the DMP and this 390 acres and the legacy of supporting our Veterans.</p> <p>Mr. Mangano mentioned that he was working on homelessness when there was a special advisor and recommends there was an unprecedented action and movement on behalf of homeless Veterans in relation to the L.A. campus but also in general by virtue of the special advisor. To overcome the bureaucracy the model we want to replicate is that the advisor is a direct report to the Secretary.</p> <p>Mr. Zenner mentioned that the bureaucracy appeared to be decreased as there was a lot of contact in the community, not only with providers but also with homeless Veterans in shelters. A lot of information was communicated to the secretary and a lot of changes were coordinated with West L.A. VA. It was a bureaucracy buster not creator.</p> <p>Mr. Mangano agreed with Mr. Zenner and added that there was unprecedented Veteran input from individual Veterans- town halls, meetings, across the county.</p> <p>Mr. Mangano motioned to approve 12-07</p> <p>Mr. Zenner provided a second motion.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper asked for further discussion.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper asked those in favor to say “aye”.</p> <p>Recommendation 12-07 was approved.</p>
Public Comments Session	<p>Chi Szeto (Alternate DFO)</p> <p>Public Comment #1: Ryan Thompson</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p> <p>You know I actually jumped on this call a few minutes late so I am assuming it wasn’t said before I was on the call. I haven’t heard much about housing development for homeless Veterans at all throughout this conversation. I do want to add a couple of comments about that. Actually, not comments, facts.</p>

There was no competitive process by which the principal developer was selected as far as prevailing authorities governing these procedures go. Public laws that are in place for VHA to abide by in terms of selecting developers for the West Los Angeles VA were just not followed, plain and simple. There was no legitimate process by which service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses were included in any of the master planning to redevelop the West Los Angeles VA Soldiers Home, and that would go back as far as all the master plans privatized since 1988. Amid claims there are no EULs in existence for Buildings 205, 207 and 208. If we were to trust the Freedom of Information Act and other VA records of Land Use agreements, the latest one being satisfied through December 30, 2020, reports no Enhanced Use Leases whatsoever for principal developers or anybody else involved with those buildings. I do want to mention too, that the draft master plan website is a privately managed and operated website that is not a VA website. So I think, you know, the information on that website has been suspect if not false because it reports that there are EULs for those buildings.

Overall, I want to say it's difficult to ascertain the value of a project developer if they are given land free of rent and tax for 75 to 99 years, ultimately entirely financed by public funds, are guaranteed tenants entirely subsidized by public funds, have little to no liability for default on the deal, and will make multi-million dollar fees on the deal, which will be authorized to manage all accounts receivable and invoicing throughout the term to carry title on the public land. What benefit does a third-party private developer have? Because I don't really see what they're actually doing there. Prevailing authorities and public law require, public hearings, public notices, Veteran service organization participation, Veterans participation, congressional procedures, VA Secretary reporting and the VA Secretary's personal execution to engage in Land Use agreements for the West LA VA Soldiers Home. If most or all the prevailing have never legitimately occurred as abundantly evident on record.

The biggest atrocity that I see is that all non-compliant land use deals of the West LA VA Soldiers Home are presented as Open Green Space throughout the master plan of these private third parties that are attempting to privatize the West LA VA Soldiers home. In accordance with the West LA Leasing Act as amended, VA is prohibited from entering into Land Use agreements and new leases since September 28, 2018. Because none of the VA OIG recommendations have been satisfied since they found approximately 60% of all third-party land use deals for the West LA VA Soldiers Home non-compliant with public law.

Since January 28, 2014, the purported master plan for the West LA VA Soldiers Home, land use reforms have not significantly reduced Veteran homelessness in Los Angeles whether they had a special advisor to the Secretary, whether they had principal developers that were proposed by developer. It has but no matter how theses vouchers have been presented to ask landlords in the local communities of LA County to house the Veterans instead of the VA, it hasn't done anything for to reduce Veteran homelessness, in what is now our nation's capital of Veteran homelessness. So these ideas have truly failed.

I want to get into these developers here that have been proposed for buildings 205 and 208 because on record the VA has never mentioned them whatsoever in any of these meetings or the master plan or anywhere. And that would be essentially Vivian Ming Lum, BlueGreen Preservation, Figueroa Economical Housing, and others. Step Up on Second is involved with this. Mr. Mangano knows a lot about Step Up on Second because he is on their Board. These developers proposed for buildings 205 and 208 are currently facing trial with the City of Los Angeles, are currently facing trial for fraud, deceit, ---title, and other causes for what the city claims is using the homeless housing programs and public land as their personal bank account. Beyond that, Congressional registration proved the only apparent positive of Blue Green Preservation legal agreements with VA is approximately \$80,000 allotted to the White House prior administration. So, you know, I will conclude here by saying, even though I have

	<p>more to say, there is a lot of fraud riddled throughout this entire process and it has never even feigned to try to follow what it should have in terms of it's mandates for Veterans participation in this.</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p>
	<p>Public Comment #2: Robert Reynolds</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>My concerns with the West Los Angeles VA, everything going on the property, specifically the mistreatment of homeless Veterans, the way I see it. I personally went through an experience, arrived at the West LA VA 2018 to try to get services from the VA. I was forced to sleep on the sidewalk. And that sidewalk that I am speaking of was San Vicente Boulevard. There are currently 51 unhoused Veterans out there. Thirty-nine are healthcare eligible. Eleven are not healthcare eligible. Fifteen are combat Veterans, 3 females and we have one that's there with his mother and his wife. There are some serious issues that need to be addressed within the West Los Angeles VA. I think first and foremost the CTRS program needs to extend its' hours of operation. The way it works right now is when Veterans arrive at CTRS to get inside a camping location they are sent to building 402 to get a referral, than sent to building 500 for a negative COVID test and never make it back in time by the 2:30pm cutoff time. Then the VA police tell them they have to leave the property and they end up out on the street with us. These are the things that need to change. There needs to be a focus on same-day services. When people come in there needs to be a location they can go to where they can get everything done. The Welcome Center has been falling behind on this. We have received over 350 Veterans since April of last year when we set up the tents outside the West Los Angeles VA. There needs to be a staging area on the property where homeless Veterans can arrive and while they're going through the process of trying to get registered and get accepted into these programs they need to have a place to stay. They need to be offered a bed and a cot. Very easily they can set up the mobile medical units. I saw that CTRS did that yesterday with the social workers. They could set up one of those units and put cots in it for Veterans so they don't end up on the street.</p> <p>I know I would like to see definitely more engagement from the executive leadership team at the West LA VA. For about two months now we have been having outreach events every Thursday at 8:30am in the morning. We have every agency there- FSVF, P--, AMVETS, Saint Joseph, Salvation Army, VA Researchers, VA Peer Support, county agencies and we have yet to have the VA Executive leadership or anyone who can make decisions to make things happen come to these meetings and that definitely needs to happen. There needs to be a better line of communication between Veterans and leadership at the West LA VA. Their input needs to be taken. I think it's really important that, you know, input needs to be taken from the Veterans that are actually going through this process. Veterans show up at the West LA VA trying to get help are constantly denied consistent services. That is where it stands today. They are constantly denied consistent services and now we have a quarter-mile of tents stretching down Brentwood in Los Angeles. We've had a vehicle accident crash into a tent. We almost had two Veterans killed two weeks ago. We had a suicide attempt with grave bodily injury from a combat Veteran last week. We have Veterans with their family members showing up at the VA looking for help with nowhere to go. This is really concerning to myself and many others. It's also concerning to the people in Brentwood that want to see something change here. Until plans are put in place where there can actually be a same-day service that happens, the same-day rarely happens. I want to reiterate that. Same-day services rarely happen. We are going to continue to have a problem with Veterans being out on the sidewalk</p>

	<p>with nowhere to go. That's something that the VA needs to take seriously. We don't need people on a busy street. They need to be on the other side of that fence. The majority of the Veterans out there are healthcare eligible. The majority are healthcare eligible. I hear a lot of misinformation that they're not healthcare eligible out there but that is not the case. We've essentially been running the homeless Veteran Welcome Center. More Veterans come to us outside on the sidewalk and we come up with care and we treat them with respect than go to the Welcome Center or go to other places on the property. That's where I think that having input of the Veterans on the ground, the boots on the ground, is going to help fix this for the future instead of ignoring it. I can say I am not personally happy with VCOEB meetings. I have been attending them since they were in-person back in 2019. I haven't been happy with a lot of the things are working on that have been going on with this property and there's time for change. I am glad to see that there is a recommendation against the UCLA baseball fields and I hope we continue to make progress to make sure that the Veterans are taken care of and you know I really want to get this resolved before any more die out on that sidewalk. In the past there have been Veterans that have passed away out there. It's absolutely unacceptable. This needs to be fixed. These Veterans need to get inside and need to get housed and the line has to be drawn somewhere and this is something we can't tolerate any longer.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
	<p>Public Comment #3: Anastasia Travers</p> <p>I want to thank all the members of the Board for giving us this time to speak. Basically, my only comments are to encourage Mr Boerstler to have himself and his team further investigate on their own and create their own due diligence to see that what is really happening at the West LA VAa.</p> <p>It's interesting sitting here as a third-party kind of listening to this community engagement. It reminds me very much of when I was in the military and as an enlisted person and you would have all these officers making all these decisions without the engagement of the enlisted. Which I can understand in some cases has to happen. But these pie-in-the-sky ideas and what the reality is of what can happen, can be or is doable, is something completely different. I hear a lot of these recommendations that were taken, that I don't know what happened in 2013 and 2014 but in recent history there has been almost no Veteran, VSO or Veteran engagement or any kind of feedback. The decisions have been made and as you can see with some of these recommendations that are being backtracked because they were already made clearly without any input of the Veterans, possibly with the community. I do understand that a lot of times the community is directly engaged with National and doesn't engage with the VSOs and the Veterans who are helping other Veterans on the ground.</p> <p>I think there needs to be a better communication with some of the organizations and third-parties that are in Brentwood and part of the community and actually having a dialogue with the people that are there outside of the West LA VA encampment and not bypassing them. I have to say I do feel a bit cynical that this is all done not necessarily in the best interest of the Veterans as is stated as part of the Remit of the Veteran: 'Veterans living on or visiting a campus will be able to experience superior care, support, convenience and customer service. So far we have had none of that.</p> <p>If you look at the Land Use Agreements there's only one VSO that's there and that's AMVETS. Everybody else is a third-party special interest. As somebody who tried to sign up, for example, with the Brentwood sports facilities, it was very, very regulated so I can only, I'm going to exaggerate to make a point- it was, you know, on the third Sunday of the full moon when mercury was in retrograde that I was actually allowed to use the facility. So I do feel that</p>

	<p>there is a lot of lip service provided quote-unquote Veteran-centric uses from these third-party interests but they're not really there.</p> <p>So I would respectfully encourage the Department of VA and National to look at this and to read the IG reports, to read the OGC reports, to find out what is actually happening.</p> <p>I do appreciate that everybody has given their time and their commitment to this but one must question the viability of what is in the interest of Veterans and not of third-party interests.</p> <p>I know I am becoming very repetitive, there is so much to unpack and I have made so many notes and I just don't even know where to begin to address it. There's no engagement with the community third-party interests. I still don't understand.</p> <p>I know I am going all over the place. Why is there, why are they drilling oil on this land? I mean it started out 800 acres as a soldier's home and it was separate from the soldiers homes that were in other parts of the country. This was specifically deeded as a home and it was utilized as such and it no longer is so why are we talking HUD vouchers and keeping the Veterans outside of the community where they should be?</p> <p>I'm sorry I am not more articulate. I feel very impassioned about this and I appreciate everybody's time. But it just seems such a shame to not get proper Veteran interest.</p> <p>I don't know why there's at metro station that's already started getting built on the land. Why there's a shell game of this parking lot becomes this baseball field? And then we'll take away from this baseball field and this parking lot and we'll do this parking lot and it's you know, there's 300 acres of land and the government and the courts have found that it should be used a housing and it's really not.</p> <p>I do thank you all for your time. Thank you so much.</p>
	<p>Public Comment #4: Francisco Juarez</p> <p>Thank you very much for the opportunity to let you know about the lack of opportunity with the VSOs. When I say VSO or lack of representation of VSO I include the VSOs of course but I also include volunteers that are actively participating in the care of the residents of Veteran row and the rank and file who are up in their years and just can't be there but give us moral support.</p> <p>Recommendations passed today indicate that you are listening but you still are not acknowledging the hard work and research of others. So are there hidden agendas still? Is there a takeover of the land? There is still that direct? Will the home be completely dismantled and become a venue for the 2028 Olympics? Will Brentwood City encroach? Will indicted developers outbid Veteran-owned developers?</p> <p>Here it was asked, "Who doesn't want to help a Veteran?" Well, who doesn't want to help a Veteran? Veterans do. VSOs do. They've proven it out on San Vicente Boulevard and the formal Veteran Service Organizations exist for that purpose. However, there has not been any significant VSO here. In fact the VSO had elected representative meetings that used to be are no longer. The roundtable of VSOs that used to be is no longer.</p> <p>Regarding the yearly audit issue that was discussed earlier, that is one thing. But the VSOs are monitoring the situation daily. They should be relied upon more as the voice of the stakeholder and important information. VCOEB has not publicized any input from the VSO.</p> <p>The last and only attempt to get VSOs to voice an opinion was the VBA from Washington DC, officials flew in to try and convince us to sell the land, that was a weird move and that was it.</p> <p>VSOs will tell you that Veteran Row is the unofficial official welcome center now because the VA has closed its' welcome center. VSOs will tell you to take out both baseball fields despite</p>

	<p>that “oh we are not going to do this smaller baseball field, we’ll keep the big one.” That big one doesn’t belong there either.</p> <p>VSOs will tell you that there are leases there that are not consistent with this master plan by recommendation to date, but with the Veteran master plan either and the master plan must be consistent with VSOs meaning that if the federal government is going to rely on this FACA board, this FACA board must rely on input, continual input and dialogue, back and forth dialogue th the VSOs. So that you see the input on behalf of the VA.</p> <p>A successful master plan is one that should be brought to you by Veterans and the Draft master plan has failed miserably. There’s still 3,900 Veterans who are homeless in the LA county. It’s been said over and over again but there’s no urgency on the part of this board to do anything about it to date, yesterday. Because that’s, people are dying ok? This is not new to us . now we hear dialogue that is splitting hairs. We’re bringing in female Veterans with children. Well that’s beautiful, they belong there but so do any other Veteran that are disabled. Because this was set aside for disabled Veterans. The only model that should exist should totally bring back the intended use of the land and the management of the healthcare center is violating the stewardship of the mandated permanent land use that also included beach front property in Santa Monica. What is FACA going to do about that? The sense of urgency, you heard Rob Reynolds, is here. People have died out there. People are living in tents as if it was 1932 bonus army. This is 2021. Finally, I’ll tell you that I encourage you to seriously consider our VA whistleblower information. We can provide you with more detail that we want to work with you. Please work with us.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
	<p>Public Comment #5: Beatriz Camarena</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me this time. The upcoming housing for Veterans, this property is coming up soon in University Park in the city of Los Angeles. This community is for Veterans who served in the active military naval or air service. The Veterans home is for chronically homeless. This property is offering childcare, free for tenants. Basically it is focused on father or mother with dependent children including those in the process of obtaining custody. It is a little bit unique in the sense of it’s serving this type of population, single parent with dependent children but we have separate provisions for Veterans who are homeless and chronic homeless. We are focused on 20% and 30% AMI, it is a very low income population. I know that I wish I could work with Brilliant Corners, this property has 18 units for VASH with VASH vouchers but we also have 18 units that are non-subsidized. We need referrals for the non-subsidized as well due to the very low-income limits from Veterans not having the income to pay for the rest of the non-subsidized units. If anyone wishes to contact me I know that there are a lot of issues with homelessness through everything that I heard during this meeting there is a lot of focus on homeless Veterans so if anyone wishes to contact me, I don’t see a chat box on Webex but I can provide you with my phone number to call me directly. My direct line is 323-629-9496, I will have that information shared with everyone when the ---- is distributed. That is my phone number. You can share it on flyers, and with anyone with this panel, please let me know and I can email them to you. If you have any questions, please call me and let me know. Thank you for your time.</p>
	<p>Public Comment #6: Janet Turner</p> <p>Good afternoon. Janet Turner with Congressman Ted Lieu’s office. I am going to be brief. I just want to express our appreciation to the Board of the VCOEB for your thorough and diligent hard work on behalf of our Veterans. Keep it up. We really do appreciate you.</p> <p>Thank you so much.</p>

	<p>LTG Hopper thanked Ms. Turner for her input and support in attending all the VCOEB meetings.</p>
	<p>Public Comment #7: Kyle/Jerry Orlemann Thank you very much. First of all I would like to thank the VCOEB. I think they are doing a magnificent job. I have been in attendance since just shy of the very beginning and have been briefed in what's been going on all along. I have something else I wanted to address. However there have been things that have come up in this meeting that I would prefer to address rather than what I had planned on. First of all, reference was made to a group of individuals coming out from DC to pressure VSOs and those supporting the sale of the property to Brentwood schools. That was the first week in October in 2019. I have to say that as a VBA VSO representative I never felt pressured in the least. I also know that the individual from the APVA did not feel pressured in the least, nor did the representative from the VFW, nor from VAB, nor from the American Legion, nor from Jewish War Veterans. So I am not sure where all this pressure to sell property came from. It didn't come from any individuals at those VSOs. The other thing I would like to address is concerning the two recommendations that Mr. Allman made regarding the VCOEB advising the decisions in relation to the baseball infield to be put in. The second one of those that Mr. Allman had for recommendation, clearly to me, very clearly made that it was not clear that the purpose of the VCOEB having to a must-have role in recommendations on this. Because that was clearly not evident that made the second recommendation a must-do. However, because it was clearly not understood then the first recommendation, I think should have been voided. I don't think with any kind of misunderstanding of what the situation was that the baseball field should have been...I should say the second amendment to the UCLA agreement should never have been voided. I always hear all this stuff about this property is supposed to be a home for the homeless VA Veterans. Strictly according to the agreement, this is a home for disabled Veteran soldiers. That's disabled, not homeless, those are two different things. Soldiers are in the army. At the time of this agreement there was a sailor's home. Marines were part of the sailors. There was no Air Force or anything else. So by strict agreement it becomes talking about this property only being made for soldiers, American Army, disabled not homeless and volunteer not drafted. I think it's ridiculous to keep referring to this as having to be a home for homeless Veterans. Let's get away from this and get back to what we are trying to do now, which is going with the settlement agreement making this place an area that is a home for homeless Veterans, all homeless Veterans. I think that's being done with the current Master Plan as it is and I think it will continue being done when that Master Plan is reviewed. That's all I have. I thank you very much.</p>
	<p>Public commenters scheduled but not present: Mathew Millen: N/A Patricia Jackson Kelly: N/A Maureen Elias: N/A</p> <p>LT. Gen. Hopper asked those who had comments to submit them to the email address and thanked all of those who commented for their valued input.</p>
	<p>Public Comment received via email: Howard Hernandez, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of Veterans Affairs CalVet Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises Council Member Los Angeles Region</p>

	<p>Community Veterans Engagement Board Member Chairman Vets Advisory Committee NEAT</p> <p>I would like to THANK and acknowledge the leadership of Dr. Steven E. Braverman, M.D., Medical Center Director and the entire Staff at the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital for their leadership and focus during the current pandemic. The efforts to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccinations beyond the confines of the Medical Center and onto the GLAZA community have been monumental and deserving of recognition by the entire Veteran Population catch basin.</p> <p>Congratulations to Robert McKenrick, for his appointment as the new Deputy Medical Center Director.</p> <p>Overview of Active Land Use Agreements: Specifically, VAGLAHS/UCLA Second Lease Amendment for Baseball Practice infield (Branca Family Field).</p> <p>The initial proposal disseminated to the registered Veteran Population indicated the purpose of the amendment for the development of a physical fitness program and field for the Veteran population at the West Los Angeles Veterans Home Campus Community.</p> <p>However, it now appears the real purpose of the proposed amendment is in fact for the purpose of providing another practice field for the athletic department and the student population at UCLA.</p> <p>On its face it appears to be another improvement to the property under the guise of benefiting the Veteran population at the West Los Angeles Veterans Home Campus Community for the purpose of putting a price tag on charity by the administration of UCLA and the California Board of Regents.</p> <p>The amendment would disproportionately benefit the athletic and intramural sports programs at UCLA and student population at the expense of the West Los Angeles Veteran Community population.</p> <p>Since the 1960s the UCLA administration, The California Board of Regents (and the Brentwood School) have benefitted financially from Land Use Agreements negotiated by previous Medical Center Directors with agendas other than the well-being of the Veteran Community at the West Los Angeles Veterans Home Campus.</p> <p>The amendment to develop “another” Veteran Community physical fitness program would create a duplicity of services competing with the Brentwood School recreational facilities, who along with the UCLA Land Use agreement, seek to reduce their respective financial obligations under the guise of “in-kind contributions” to the West Los Angeles Veterans Home Campus Community.</p> <p>UCLA Administration, the California Board of Regents, and The Brentwood School proposals are disingenuous and merely seek to limit, extricate, reduce, and/or discount their financial obligations under the existing Land Use Agreement by allowing the continued incursion onto the West Los Angeles Veterans Home Campus Community.</p> <p>Future focus:</p>
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	<p>The development of a West Los Angeles Veterans Village Board, (CVOEB, CVEB, residents of the West Los Angeles Veterans home) to develop criteria to independently evaluate the “in-kind contributions” by the programs administered by the UCLA Administration, and the California Board of Regents (and the Brentwood School);</p> <p>Establish criteria to evaluate, audit and transition the sports media contracts executed by and between UCLA, the California Board of Regents and the sports broadcasting stations to develop revenue sharing for the benefit of the West Los Angeles Veterans Home Campus Community; and,</p> <p>Perhaps the better issue to discuss is the exit strategy of UCLA and California Board of Regents from the current revocable lease slated for expiration or renegotiation in 2026.</p> <p>I Thank You for your indulgence, And Remain Respectfully Yours, Howard Hernandez</p>
Wrap up & Adjourn	<p>Lt. Gen. (R) John D. Hopper Jr., Chair</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper commented that appreciated the hard work of the board members. Their work is evident in the number of recommendations and their accompanying exhibits. This was some of the best work the committee has had an opportunity to do.</p> <p>He thanked the attending members of the public for their input. He gave special thanks to the West L.A. GLA staff for their superb ongoing response during the COVID crisis. He added thanks to the VA staff and VEO attending and offered Mr. Wartski an opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Mr. Wartski thanked Lt. Gen. Hopper and the DFO and the team from the Veterans Experience office. He mentioned that Chief Veterans Experience Officer John Boerstler apologized for leaving early as he was called out to a meeting with the Secretary. He commented to Ms. Travers that she was heard loud and clear and he would personally speak with Mr. Boerstler as she requested and has been recorded for the record. He thanked all of the public sector for adding their comments.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper offered some closing comments to the VCOEB thanking them for their patience and hard work and complimented them on the depth, breadth and focus of the recommendations that were generated for this meeting. He would like good follow through to keep things moving in the right direction.</p> <p>He mentioned that he had not asked GLA when the next in person meeting on campus might be, but asked Dr. Braverman if he had any closing words.</p> <p>Dr. Braverman said that an on-campus meeting would be dependent on the size of the delegation due to COVID physical distancing restrictions. He anticipates potentially May or June for an area large enough for possibly combined virtual and in- person meeting. The VA still has travel restrictions that require FCS approval.</p> <p>He appreciates the important feedback and is committed to reviewing available hours for CTRS and others and increasing communication with the VCOEB.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper thanked Dr. Braverman and mentioned that Fall may be the earliest that the Board would be able to meet in-person again. He invited Vice Chair Mangano to offer closing comments.</p>

	<p>Mr. Mangano is appreciative of the hard work of the recommendations. The VCOEB ability to comment on and make recommendations is a critical element of what the VCOEB is, so establishing that is very important. The recommendation to return to the model instituted by Secretary McDonald with a special advisor assigned to L.A. to support initiatives in this region is also outstanding along with the others. He appreciates Lt. Gen. Hopper's continued leadership for the VCOEB. At a later date he may need to rectify a statement made with the board.</p> <p>Mr. Allman commented that the DFO did a great job with the new virtual format.</p> <p>Lt. Gen. Hopper adjourned the meeting a 5:52 PM ET.</p>

**Eugene W
Skinner 686906**

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Eugene W. Skinner JR, DFO

/s/ John D. Hopper, Jr.

Approved

Lt. Gen. (R) John D. Hopper, Chair