

Utah Veterans Advisory Council  
Minutes of Monthly Meeting  
April 15th, 2020

**Place:** Zoom online meeting

**Members Present:** Marti Bigbie, Mark Eddington, Gary Harter, Jack Kammerer, Bob Pagnani, Paula Stephenson, Shella Stovall

**Excused:** Frank Maughan, Dave Phillips, Darryl Root

**Secretary:** Alan Ferner

**Guests:** Jerry Estes, Jeff Hanson, Mike Miller, Cory Pearson, Jennica Gruver

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Bob Pagnani. Bob introduced and welcomed those in attendance.
2. The minutes of our 18 March meeting were reviewed and approved by the members of the Council.
3. VA Regional Office: Jack Kammerer reported on the responses to both the Covid-19 and the recent earthquake. He noted that 99% of the employees are working from home and that 100% of the claims service is open and working claims.
4. VA Medical Center: Shella Stovall advised that several tents have been set up on the VAMC campus to assist with drive-thru testing and triage. The staff is teleworking as much as possible.
5. Utah Dept. Veterans & Military Affairs: Jeff Hanson mentioned that good progress is being made on projects at the Veterans Cemetery. He also updated us on the Nursing Homes, adding that each of the homes has extensive plans to deal with the possible unintentional introduction of the COVID-19 into one or more of the homes. Cory Pearson advised that the virtual claims process has been activated and virtual hearings for appeals is moving forward. Meetings with working groups are continuing online. Gary Harter announced results of the survey that was recently sent to Veterans. Two thirds are worried about getting the virus, one half concerned about the financial impact and 30% are experiencing some mental impact. Gary advised that a “virtual” event is being planned for Memorial Day. Gary Harter provided information on additional Covid-19 actions.
6. Paula Stephenson announced that the Boys State and Girls State programs for this year have been cancelled.

7. Mike Miller reminded us that we can keep up to date on the pace of unemployment at:  
[jobs.utah.gov](http://jobs.utah.gov)
8. The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm. Our next monthly meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20th, at 4:00 PM, via Zoom online (due to the Coronavirus Precautions.)