

COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MEETING MINUTES

1:30-3:00 p.m., Thursday, September 13, 2012

Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room
11 Mahaolu Street, Kahului, HI 96732

I. QUORUM, ROLL CALL

a. Chair Gaxiola called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

i. Commissioners Present: Gayle Burton, Cesar Gaxiola, Yolanda Mau, Paulo Sabado, Kevin Souza, Charlotte Smith.

ii. Commissioners Excused: Ramoda Anand, Joseph Felipe, Mikey Tomita.

iii. Staff Present: Dep. Corp. Counsel Gary Murai, Commission Staff Jan Roberson

iv. Guests Present: Tamicko Jackson, Tiffany James, George Reioux, Andrew Valentine.

v.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 9, 2012

a. Commissioner Burton MOVED to accept the minutes. Commissioner Mau SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

III. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON ALL AGENDA ITEMS

a. None

IV. Guest Speaker – Tamicko Jackson, State Office of Veterans Services. Ms. Jackson is originally from Texas and now serves as a counselor for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, Office of Veterans Services (OVS). Maui and Kauai have only one counselor each, while Honolulu has 3, and Big Island has two.

Ms Jackson works for the state, not work the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, which is a Federal agency. She and an assistant work on behalf of veterans to notarize documents

free of charge. They also help vets with name changes, filing claims with the VA for disability benefits including PTSD. They help vets appeal VA decisions and she can attend VA hearings via video conferencing, apply for discharge documents DD214, which are needed before vets can apply for benefits for themselves or their family members.

OVS also helps vets file for Purple Heart medals, birth certificates, home loans, grants, medical benefits, adaptive housing, etc.

It is now presumed that any veteran who served in Vietnam for one day who now has diabetes is considered to have a service connected disability due to agent orange.

There are over 12,000 veterans on Maui. Many receive benefits, but many do not because vets do not seek out the help they are entitled to.

To reach out to these underserved populations, on the last Monday of each month, representatives of veterans organizations and counselors gather at the Vet Center at 35 Lunalilo Street, Wailuku to meet with veterans and advise them of their benefits and coach them through the application process.

The Maui State Office of Veterans Services is located on the second floor of the office building at 333 Dairy Road.

The average time it takes to process a claim and receive a decision is 22 months. Hawaii is near the bottom in terms of services available to veterans. For instance Hawaii does not offer emergency rental assistance for homeless veterans even though a large percentage of homeless men are veterans.

To obtain a duplicate DD214, the form to file is SF180.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

a. None

VI. REPORTS

a. Video broadcast subcommittee – Paulo Sabado

- i. If and when the Commission broadcasts edited versions of its meetings, the effort will be made to have closed captioning and more accessible to people with disabilities.
- ii. Commissioner Sabado suggested that the Office on Aging sponsor him and Staff Jan Roberson to take video production classes at AKAKU.
- iii. Jan will follow up with AKAKU about the costs for video production classes and seek approval from MCOA before the next meeting.
- iv. Commissioner Sabado suggested that the agenda be projected onto a screen at the meetings for easier reading.
- v. Video PSAs are useful for people with disabilities.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Establish Legislative Committee - tabled

IX. AGENDA SETTING

- a. Legislative Sub Committee
- b. Mary Matsukawa to present on Disability Legislative Forum
- c. Possible presenters ARC of Maui and Dep. Director Public Works Andaya to present on Complete Streets

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Special Fair is sponsored by Hale Mahaolu and is set for September 21. Deadline to register is past.

- b. Next CPD meeting is set for 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., Thursday, October 11, 2012 at Hale Mahaolu Elima Community Room at 11 Mahaolu St., Kahului.
- c. MEO MCOA Maui County Senior Fair is set for 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday Oct. 28 at War Memorial Complex
- d. Jan distributed Better Choices Better Health flyers

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.