

**MINUTES
of the
FIRST MEETING
of the
MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**May 31, 2022
State Capitol, Room 307
Santa Fe**

The first meeting of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee was called to order by Senator Harold Pope, co-chair, on May 31, 2022 at 1:02 p.m. in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

Present

Rep. Harry Garcia, Co-Chair
Sen. Harold Pope, Co-Chair
Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon
Sen. Brenda G. McKenna
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Debra M. Sariñana
Rep. Luis M. Terrazas

Absent

Sen. Craig W. Brandt

Advisory Members

Rep. Rachel A. Black
Rep. Randal S. Crowder
Rep. Stefani Lord
Sen. Michael Padilla
Rep. Randall T. Pettigrew
Rep. Jane E. Powdrell-Culbert

Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Meredith A. Dixon
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson
Rep. G. Andrés Romero

Guest Legislator

Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Staff

Jeret Fleetwood, Project Coordinator, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Nancy Martinez, Research Assistant, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for the agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Tuesday, May 31

Welcome and Introductions (1:02 p.m.)

Senator Pope welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Veterans' Services Department (VSD) Update (1:09 p.m.)

Sonya L. Smith, secretary, VSD, gave committee members updates on the department and the proposed closure of four community-based outpatient clinics in New Mexico. She also discussed a proposal to move posttraumatic stress disorder services from New Mexico to Arizona. Secretary Smith said that the New Mexico Women Veterans Conference will take place in June and that United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough, will visit New Mexico on June 27-28, 2022.

Office of Military Base Planning and Support Update (2:42 p.m.)

Dorella Molina, chief financial officer, Office of Military Base Planning and Support, Economic Development Department, told committee members that the director's position at the office has been vacant for the past nine months. However, she noted that there are two contracts in motion: one for a centralized website and the second for an economic impact study to be conducted by the University of New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/MVAC%20053122%20Item%202%20OMBPS%20Update.pdf>.

2022 Proposed Work Plan and Meeting Schedule (2:57 p.m.)

Mr. Fleetwood presented the proposed work plan and meeting schedule for the 2022 interim of the MVAC. The work plan can be found here:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Publications/Work_Plans/MVACworkplan22.pdf.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the proposed work plan and meeting schedule were approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.