State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 8, 2015

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David A. Schwarz

Jonathan Shapiro

Sumi Sousa

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

For Additional Information Contact:
Carole D'Elia
Executive Director
(916) 445-2125

NOTICE OF MEETING

On Thursday, October 22, 2015, the Little Hoover Commission will conduct a public hearing on the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to assess the progress that CalVet has made implementing recommendations from the Commission's 2013 report, *An Agenda for Veterans: The State's Turn to Serve*. The Commission also will use this hearing to begin a new review of the department's veterans homes and home loan programs, in response to a request from Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs. The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. in Room 437 of the State Capitol in Sacramento.

At the hearing the Commission will hear from a panel including staff members from CalVet, featuring the deputy secretaries from the Veterans Services Division, the Farm and Home Loans Division and the Veterans Homes Division. They will provide an update on the 2013 Commission recommendations to reduce the claims backlog and expand outreach to veterans, as well as information on the current operations of the home loan programs and the veterans homes.

Next, the Commission will hear from the chair of the California Veterans Board, who will share knowledge of the experiences of veterans in California, including their interactions with CalVet and the role of the board.

The Commission also will hear from the director of veterans services in Solano County, to share the perspective of county service officers who interact with thousands of veterans and also with CalVet. The final panel will feature a graduate student researcher at University of California, Berkeley, who authored a study earlier this year for the California Assembly that examines and provides recommendations on improving California's veterans homes program.

There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the hearing. The Commission also encourages written comments. Immediately following the hearing, the Commission will hold a business meeting at 925 L Street, Room 175, in Sacramento.

All public notices for meetings are on the Commission's website, www.lhc.ca.gov. If you need reasonable accommodation due to a disability, please contact Commission Executive Director Carole D'Elia at (916) 445-2125 or littlehoover@lhc.ca.gov by Thursday, October 15, 2015.

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Public Hearing on CalVet
Thursday, October 22, 2015
State Capitol, Room 437
Sacramento

Public Hearing: 9 a.m.

CalVet: Veterans Services, Homes and Home Loan Programs

1. Vito Imbasciani, Secretary, CalVet (invited)
2. Keith Boylan, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services Division, California Department of Veterans Affairs
3. Theresa Gunn, Deputy Secretary, Farm and Home Loan Division, California Department of Veterans Affairs
4. Coby Peterson, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Homes, California Department of Veterans Affairs

The Role of the California Veterans Board

5. Charlene Taylor, Chair, California Veterans Board

County Service Officer Perspective

6. Ted Puntillo, Director of Veteran Services, Solano County

A Comparison of Veterans Homes Costs and Quality

7. Marina Fisher, Graduate Student Researcher, Berkeley Center for Health Technology

Business Meeting
Thursday, October 22, 2015
925 L Street, Room 175
Sacramento, CA 95814

(The Commission will consider agenda items I-VI at approximately 12:30 p.m. The precise time will vary depending upon the testimony of witnesses and will be determined at the discretion of the chair). Members of the public will have an opportunity to make comments about Commission agenda items during the meeting.

I. Business Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2015
II. Draft Report – Californians' Interaction with State Government
III. Project Selection
IV. Civil Service Reform Update – Dave Rechs, Deputy Secretary for Human Resources, California Government Operations Agency
V. Implementation
VI. Reports from the California State Auditor's Office