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REPORT TO THE VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION (VSF) June 24, 2020

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) held an electronic meeting on June 10.

To prepare for the next in-person BVS meeting (August 20), the June 10 meeting focused on:

- The role of the BVS (as a board), to include its powers, duties and the responsibilities of BVS members in ensuring that the BVS fulfills its role;
- A review of how the BVS is structured, with Points of Contacts (POCs) assigned to each of the major service areas/programs of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) and work groups formed to address specific issues or new initiatives;
- An overview of the BVS ByLaws and the adoption of minor changes of the ByLaws to bring them current with the Code of Virginia and other updates;
- The role of the BVS in shaping state veterans policy and priorities, which can be through a variety of means, including budget, legislation, the DVS strategic plan, and engagement with DVS leaders; and
- Initial discussion of state veterans services in a (post) COVID-19 operating environment. As part of this discussion, VDVS Commissioner John Maxwell reviewed VDVS' current operating posture and anticipated changes in the weeks and months ahead.

The BVS greatly values its links to and coordination with the other boards that are represented *ex officio* on the BVS, including the Veterans Services Foundation, the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, and the Virginia War Memorial Foundation. Reports were received from each of these boards.

The BVS also received an update on an issue of vital importance for all Virginians: the work of the cross-agency Virginia team that is part of the Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans, and Families.

Important updates were also provided by the legislative members of the Board. Their service on the BVS reflects the importance that both the legislative and executive branches of our state government place on ensuring that Virginia is and remains the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

Our next meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on August 20, 2020, at the Virginia War Memorial.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Dick
Chairman