



A G E N D A

Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission

Friday, August 9, 2024

9:30 A.M.

www.officeonaging.ocgov.com

Location:

Easterseals

1063 McGaw Ave, Suite 100

Irvine CA 92614

The Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission shall not hold a meeting unless the number of members participating constitutes a quorum of the Orange County Older Adults Advisory Commission.

This agenda contains a brief description of each item to be considered. Except as provided by law, no action shall be taken on any item not appearing in the agenda. Members of the public who wish to speak on an item(s) may complete a Speaker Request Form(s) identifying the items prior to the beginning of the meeting. To speak on a matter not appearing on the agenda, but under the jurisdiction of this Commission, you may do so during Public Comments. Commission members may not discuss or take action on issues raised during public comment unless the issue is listed in this agenda. Speaker request forms must be completed prior to the beginning of the meeting, the reading of the individual agenda items and/or the beginning of Public Comments. When addressing the Commission, please state your name and place of residence for the record prior to providing your comments. Address the Commission as a whole, through the Chair. Comments to individual Members or staff are not permitted. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes.

Materials/handouts can be accessed up to 72 hours in advance of the meeting by visiting <http://www.occommunityservices.org/>. or calling (714) 480-6450.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair, Meredith Chillemi
2. INSPIRATION: Commissioner, Sandy Stang
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner, Nathan Steele
4. ROLL CALL: Secretary, Dave Tetzlaff
5. SECRETARY COMMENTS: Secretary, Dave Tetzlaff
 - A. Monthly Volunteer Service Hours
6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items within the subject jurisdiction, provided that no action is taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. (Comments shall be limited to three (3) minutes, unless the Chair pre-identifies a different time at the start of meeting for all public speakers).
7. INTRODUCTIONS: Chair, Meredith Chillemi
8. PRESENTATION:

General Benefits Information for Veterans and Dependents

Eric Ensley, County Veterans Service Officer
Orange County Veterans Service Office

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Commission Members Engagement on Social Media
 - B. Orange County Aging Services Collaborative – Review Report on Aging in Orange County
 - C. Review and Distribute new Office on Aging Brochure
 - D. Plan to Present the OAAC 2024-2025 Goals and Objectives to Board of Supervisors
 - E. Report on Email Campaign Outcome from Dave Wheeler
 - F. Does your senior center have a senior advisory committee?
10. SENIOR CENTER AND CITY LIAISON UPDATES: All Commission Members
11. CHAIR REPORT: Chair, Meredith Chillemi
12. OC OFFICE ON AGING UPDATES: Claudia Harris, Director, Office on Aging and Veteran Services or Designee
13. PRESENTATION SCHEDULE: Commission Members, Sandy Stang and Barbara Sloate

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS: All Commission Members

15. ADJOURNMENT

Next OAAC Meeting
September 13, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

DISCLAIMER: No member of OAAC shall sign a letter or make a statement purported to represent the position of OAAC as a body. Letters or verbal statements of support or opposition on any issue shall only be made or signed by the Chair of OAAC and shall be submitted to the Commission for pre-approval. The policy of the Board of Supervisors does not allow OAAC or its Chair to sign a letter of position on any matters pertaining to legislation. OAAC members may write personal letters or speak as individuals stating personal positions but may not do so as representing the position or opinion of OAAC or the County of Orange.



Orange County Veterans Service Office

GENERAL BENEFITS PRESENTATION

ABOUT THE ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE (OCVSO)

Our Mission:

OCVSO actively pursues the rights of Veterans of the United States Armed Forces, and their dependents and survivors, to receive U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. The OCVSO works collaboratively with the VA, nationally chartered veteran organizations, and others to assure that Veterans, their dependents, and/or survivors receive entitlements earned while serving in this country's military services.



ABOUT THE OCVSO (cont.)

Our History:

The County of Orange established the veteran's service program in 1929.

On August 17, 1945, it was established as an independent program known as the Orange County Veterans Service Office.



VETERAN LANDSCAPE

1%
WWII

5.6%
Korea

31.7%
Vietnam

21.6%
Peacetime

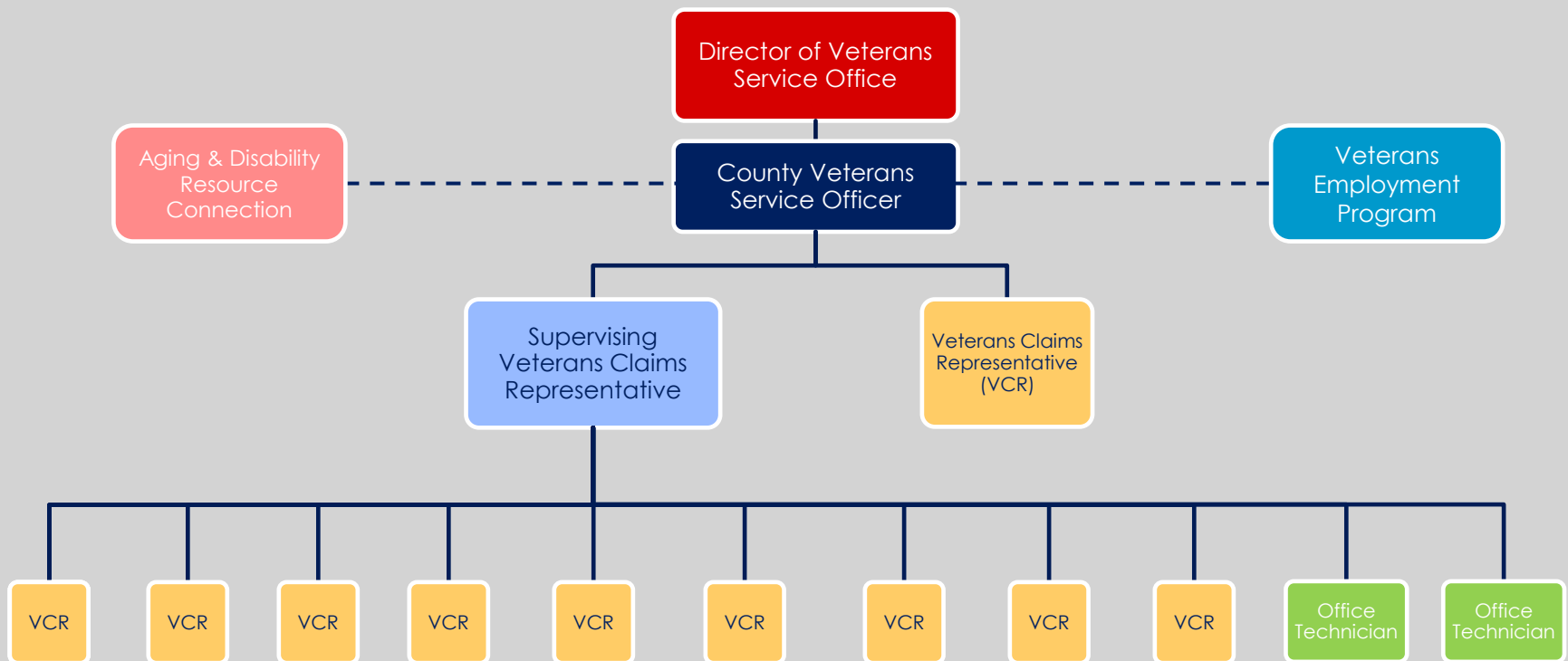
14.4%
Gulf War

28%
Iraq /
Afghanistan



- Veterans who are aging
- Veterans with disabilities
- Veterans who are students
- Veterans who are women
- Veterans who live in rural communities
- Veterans who are minorities
- Veterans who are members of tribal communities
- Veterans who are justice involved
- Veterans who are homeless





COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

- Appointed by the OC Board of Supervisors
- Oversees VSO's daily operations, Supervising Veterans Claims Representative, and all Veterans Claims Representatives
- Administrative liaison between the Federal VA, CalVet, and OCVSO

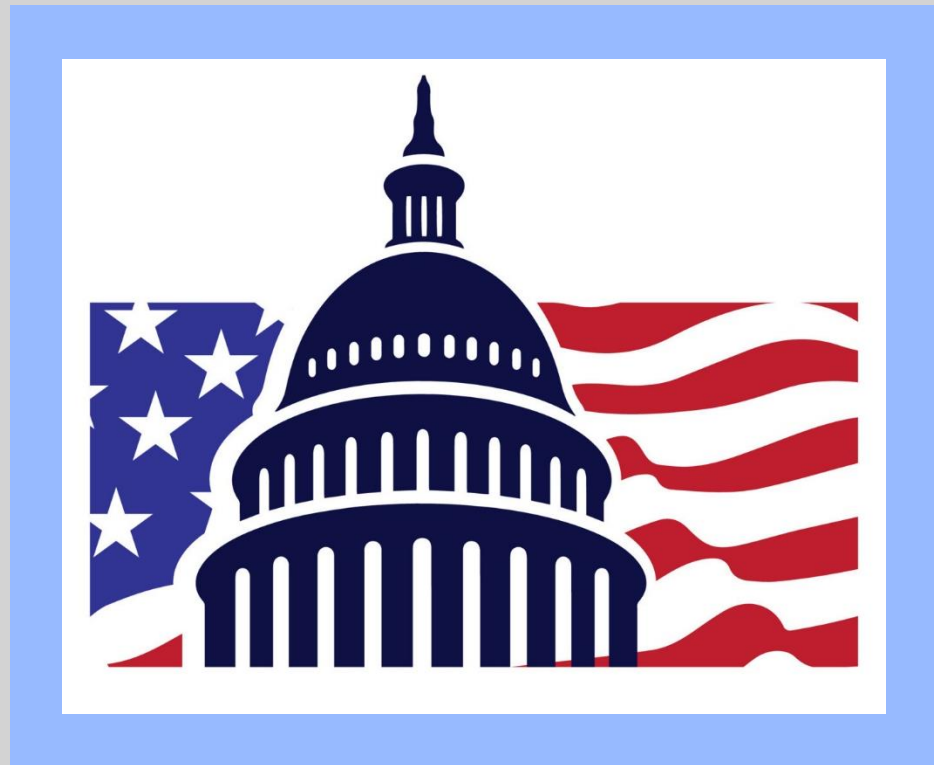
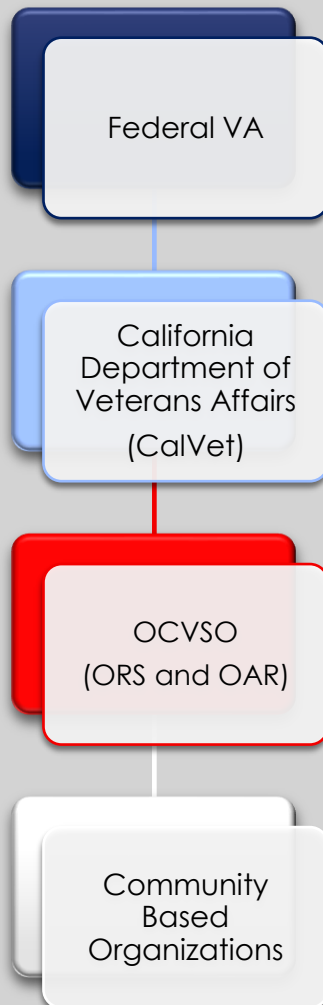


VETERANS CLAIMS REPRESENTATIVES (VCRs)

- Responsible for understanding laws and regulations pertaining to Veterans' benefits
- Accredited to represent at the Federal VA under "Powers of Attorney" through CalVet
- Explain eligibility criteria for benefits and help Veterans, surviving spouses, and children apply for benefits



VETERANS SERVICE SYSTEM



VETERANS SERVICE SYSTEM (cont.)

Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

County
Departments

Legal Services

Veterans
Organizations

Local
Community
Colleges and
Universities

Healthcare
Agencies

CA Dept of
Corrections and
Rehabilitation



VSO SERVICES & BENEFITS

Support includes:

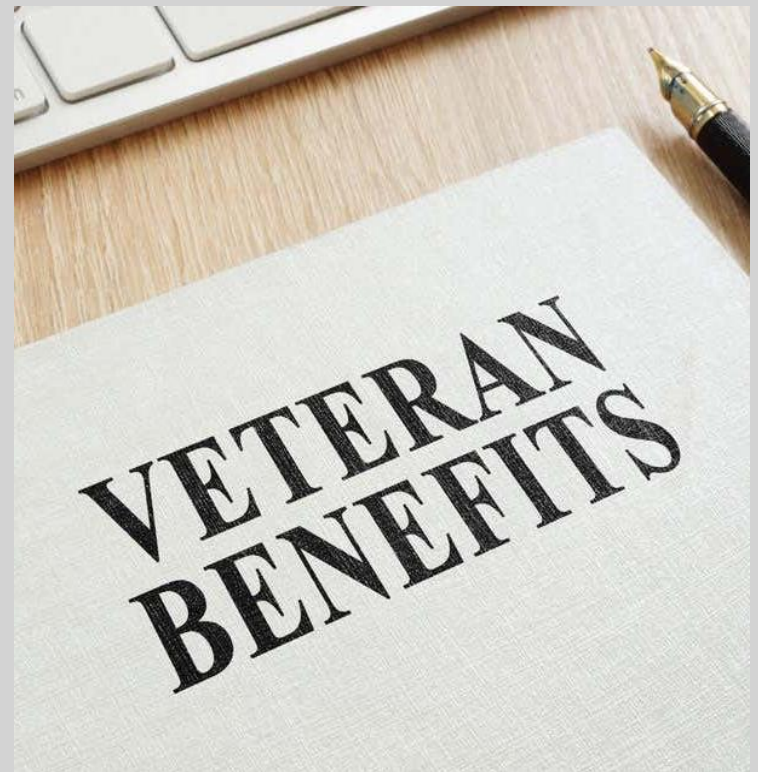
- Entitlement to Benefits
- CalVet Information:
 - College Fee Waiver Program
- Referrals:
 - Legal Aid
 - Behavioral Health
- Veterans Designation on Driver's License
- Veteran's Homes of California



VETERAN BENEFITS

Entitlement to Benefits include:

- Disability Compensation
- Dependency & Indemnity Compensation
- Veterans/Survivors Pension
- Burial Benefits & Gravesite Markers
- Education Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation



VETERANS EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (VEP)

VEP helps you navigate the process to access:

- Compensation and Pension
- Indemnity Compensation
- Educational Benefits
- Veterans Readiness and Employment
- DVA Life Insurance Policies and Premium Waivers
- CalVet Dependents College Tuition Fee Waivers
- Discharge Upgrades
- Home Loan Guarantees Eligibility
- Veteran's Home of California Admission



AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION (ADRC)

A partnership between OC Office on Aging and the OCVSO for those with disabilities:

- No Wrong Door Service Model
- Four Core Services
- Enhanced Information & Referral
- Short-Term Service Coordination
- Options Counseling
- Transition Services



FEDERAL BENEFITS: SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY

Service-Connected Disability includes monetary compensation for injuries incurred or aggravated in service, “secondary” conditions, “presumptive” conditions, and medical malpractice by the VA.

- Service-connected disability is a “key” that opens many other benefits.
- Service-connected Veterans with long-standing disability may want to apply for re-evaluation. OCVSO can help with this.



FEDERAL BENEFITS: MEDICAL CARE & BURIAL BENEFITS

Medical Care: Most honorably discharged Veterans are eligible, with priority determined by the VA Medical Center.

- Higher priority Veterans are more likely to receive medical care.
- Low-income Veterans may qualify for co-pays waiver.
- OCVSO can help apply for medical care.

Burial Benefits: Most honorably discharged Veterans can be buried in a national cemetery free of charge.

- Monetary reimbursement is available for some Veterans receiving VA benefits or who died of a service-connected disability.
- Honorably Discharged Veterans are also eligible for a free headstone and burial flag.



FEDERAL BENEFITS: PENSION

Pension is needs-based for Veterans who are unemployable due to disability or over age 65.

- Low income
- Wartime service
- Minimum length of service requirements
- Veterans may be eligible for a higher amount if housebound or requiring Aid and Attendance



AID AND ATTENDANCE

“**Aid and Attendance**” is a type of needs-based pension payable to certain Veterans and their surviving spouses. It is also known as:

- **Non-Service-Connected Pension** for living Veterans
- **Death Pension** for surviving spouses of Veterans



VA NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED PENSION

Low-income war era Veterans are eligible for this benefit if they meet these basic requirements:

- Must have low countable income (generally below the VA's)
- Maximum Annual Pension Rate and net worth below \$155,356
- Income-Based – dollar for dollar benefit
- Minimum time served on active duty



SURVIVOR'S BENEFITS

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Survivor's Pension (formerly Death Pension for Surviving Spouses)
- California Veterans Home



DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES

Dependency Requirements:

- **Marriage:** Married to the Veteran for at least one year immediately prior to Veteran's death OR had a child with the Veteran
- **Continuous Cohabitation:** Lived with the Veteran from marriage until the Veteran's death
- Has **not remarried**, with some exceptions



SURVIVORS PENSION

Survivors Pension (formerly Death Pension for Surviving Spouses):

- Veteran had an honorable discharge
- Veteran had wartime service
- Veteran met the length of service requirements
- Surviving spouse meets income requirements
- Surviving spouse meets dependency requirements
- Surviving spouse does not need to be disabled or over the age of 65



SURIVORS PENSION – HOW DOES IT WORK?

Three levels of pension:

- Basic
- Housebound
- Aid and Attendance

With each level, your total income is subtracted from the maximum allowable rate, and VA pays the difference.

Unreimbursed medical expenses are subtracted from income.



SURVIVORS PENSION EXAMPLE (MORE OR LESS)

- Ann is the widow of a deceased Veteran.
- Ann receives \$400 per month from Social Security.
- Ann pays \$100 per month for private insurance.
- Ann's countable monthly income is \$300.
- Ann's Maximum Allowable Pension Rate is \$624 per month.
- Ann's benefit is:

$$\begin{array}{r} \$624 \text{ (maximum pension)} \\ - \$300 \text{ (countable income)} \\ \hline = \$324 \text{ (monthly benefit)} \end{array}$$



VA HEALTHCARE

- Primary access is through Compensation or Pension claims adjudication
- New Veterans who served in a combat zone have five years free medical
- Allows few veterans in with very high income



QUESTIONS?



CONNECT WITH US!

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday:**
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday:
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT AT:

Website: veterans.ocgov.com

Call: (714) 480-6555

Email: OCVSO@occr.ocgov.com



**Or Scan
Here**



CONNECT WITH US!

Follow Us on Social Media:



/OCVeteransServiceOffice



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Older Adults Advisory Commission

2024 Presentation Schedule

9:30AM

Coordinators: Sandy Stang and Barbara Sloate

Meeting Presentations

Date	Presentation Title	Presenter <i>(Include Title, Organization and Contact Information)</i>	Presentation Coordinator
01/12/24	Aging & Disability Resource Connection	Ruth Cho, Director of Collaborative Programs Dayle McIntosh Center	Sandy/Barbara
02/09/24	Office on Aging and Brown Act Overview	Office on Aging Staff and County Counsel	OoA Staff
03/08/24	Caregiver Resource Center Orange County	Jack Light, Director St. Jude Medical Center	Sandy/Barbara
05/10/24	County Executive Office - Legislative Affairs Overview	County Executive Office - Legislative Affairs	OoA Staff
06/14/24	Elder Law and Disability Rights Center	Brooke Weitzman, Executive Director	Sandy/Barbara
JULY	DARK		
08/09/24	General Benefits Information for Veterans and Dependents	Eric Ensley, County Veterans Services Officer	Sandy/Barbara
09/13/24	OC Transit Master Plan	Diana Garcia, Community Relations Specialist Orange County Transportation Authority	Sandy
DECEMBER	DARK		



OC COMMUNITY SERVICES - OFFICE ON AGING

August 2024 Edition | Numbers Based on July 2023 - June 2024 Data

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

112,992

Non-Emergency Medical
Transportation Trips

100

Outreach
(Includes Health Education Classes)

8,695

Case Management Hours

995

Case Management Clients

9,061

Legal Aid Hours

2,764

Legal Aid Clients Assisted

507

Family Caregivers Provided
with Counseling/Support

14,021

I&A Phone Calls Received



122,893

Website Visitors

