



Kerrie Bacon
Kancare Ombudsman
Email: Kerrie.Bacon@kdads.ks.gov
Phone: (785) 296-6207
Toll Free: 1-855-643-8180
TTY: 771

**April 22nd, 2015
12:00 pm-1:00 pm
Lunch and Learn Call for HCBS Consumers
(17 Participants on the call)**

Facilitated by Kerrie Bacon

- **Introductions Kancare bi-weekly conference calls.**

Speaker and Topic: KS Commission On Veterans Affairs with Greg Burden, Director & Wayne Bollig

Greg is a native Kansas and in the military for 26 years and active duty for 8 of those. Wing Commander then started with the federal veterans and then this opportunity came up. Wayne, I have been with this commission for about 18 years. And I have worked with in the commission in several capacities. I was in the air force for 7 years. Mostly I oversee the field offices.

Today we will talk about our agency and what we do.

Kansas is home to about 250000 veterans and 18000 female veterans and 45000 disabled vets. WWII, Korean War and many Vietnam veterans. We try to get the veterans what benefits they have coming to them.

The state get many benefits from the federal government due to the military are pretty significant. Our agency mission is to get advice and direction, economic security.

In Topeka there are 10 in the office and about 300 throughout the state. To help obtain these benefits, the KCVAO provides Veteran Service Representatives (VSRs) free-of-charge to assist veterans and their families with applying for benefits. State VSRs are available in strategic locations across Kansas or through grants provided to National Service Organizations, such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The KCVAO Veteran Services Program can help you file VA claims for:

- **Education Benefits**
 - **Non-Service Connected Pension Benefits**
 - **Service-Connected Disability Compensation Benefits**
 - **Spouse and Dependent Benefits**
 - **State VA Benefits**
 - **VA Health Care Benefits**
-
- **Our smallest program is the cemetery program. This includes many services. They can have a military service. Many veterans don't realize that this is available.**



Kerrie Bacon
Kancare Ombudsman
Email: Kerrie.Bacon@kdads.ks.gov
Phone: (785) 296-6207
Toll Free: 1-855-643-8180
TTY: 771

- **The difference between the federal VA and the state VA. Everything we do is complimentary to the federal VA. Veteran Services Program has 13 field offices, and are staffed by veterans that are trained and we cover the state pretty well. We also have two mobile offices. We advocate for the veteran. We help with claims and getting the compensation that is due them. In addition for helping them apply for these we also help with education benefits. If the claim is denied, we help with the appeal process; Right now we have a 90% chance that they will be approved. Some new programs are the:**
 - **Choice Act, which allows veterans that are not near a local VA it allows them to utilize their local medical help.**
 - **V-CAP Grant program (Veterans Claims Assistance, Service Grants program.) 2008 it allows us to get grants to veteran's service organizations so that they can help.**

If you have any questions, we can assist with that. We can make sure and help advocate for the veteran. We can make sure that the paperwork is done correctly. We can do DD14. We are knowledgeable and veterans, so there is passion. Our two veteran nursing homes. One is in Winfield. The Kansas Veteran Home. One is in Fort Dodge. There are quite a few in the domiciliary, and the long-term care. We have cottages out there.

Q. My name is Helen. I am asking for someone from your facility, to help me. (The Ombudsman asked that her discussion continue off line, and Greg Bollig supplied her with his phone number.)

Q. Are there any programs for veterans that have children with disabilities?
A. Only those diagnosis' that are attributed to service (Agent Orange, etc.)

Q. So they would need to contact a veteran service program for help with the process.
A. Yes, our office and we would get them to the nearest one to you.

This is Greg again, I encourage you to go to; www.kcva.org you can gets lots of information and resources. Each case is different, and these guys are the experts.

- ✓ **Next Lunch and Learn will be; Working Healthy with Steve Curtis and Mary Ellen Wright.**