

MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes January 19, 2010

Council Members Present: Kathryn Roberts, Chair; Dr. Kenneth Hughes; Julie Eszlinger-Jensen; Ronald Sanford; James Bircham; Diane Windham; Michael Tripple; Brad Bennett

Council Members Absent: Tom Mullon

MDVA Staff Present: Gilbert Acevedo, Pam Barrows, Robin Gaustad, Dennis Devereaux, Anna Long, Sherry Kromschroeder, David Salchow, Dan Steen, Amy Rudolph and Patty Ryan

Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm and adjourned at 3:10pm.

Subject	Discussion	Follow Up/Link to Info
Welcoming Remarks	Kathryn Roberts, Chair Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. She thanked everyone for attending. There are 3 Council Members whose terms expire at the end of January. Chair Roberts thanked each Council Member for their service and encouraged each of them to re-apply for another term through the Secretary of State's office. Deputy Commissioner Acevedo provided applications as well.	
MN Veterans Homes Updates	Gil Acevedo, Deputy Commissioner Deputy Commissioner Acevedo began by introducing the new administrator at the Minneapolis Home, Dan Steen. Mr. Steen shared a bit of his background and that he is looking forward to serving Minnesota's veterans.	
CRIPA Update	The CRIPA revisit at the Minneapolis home was completed in November, however we are still waiting for the final report. The CRIPA team seemed to be satisfied with their review and one of the members commented that "the Mpls home is not the kind of home we would be concerned about."	A copy of the final report will be sent out to Council Members.
Construction Update	Deputy Commissioner Acevedo reviewed the construction updates on the handout provided. Also discussed was the Federal VA's Priority List for construction grants and how funds are awarded.	

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OLA Update		Deputy Commissioner Acevedo briefly explained the recent OLA surveys. The findings show that the Department would greatly benefit from an internal auditor. Gil then introduced the department's new Internal Auditor, David Salchow.
Quality Council Project Overview	Robin Gaustad, Director of Quality Assurance	Ms. Robin Gaustad gave an overview presentation on the Quality Council's current projects. A hand out was reviewed.
USDVA and MDH Survey Updates		<p>The USDVA recently completed their survey of the Minneapolis Home. Their findings were much improved from a year ago. Their concerns were about less critical issues like handwashing techniques etc. The Hastings Home was also recently surveyed and had very similar findings. The Minneapolis Home is preparing for their MDH Survey which is expected very soon.</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner Acevedo reviewed the Executive Summary of the final report from Affinity Health Services regarding the feasibility of Medicare/Medicaid at the 5 MN Veterans Homes. The concerns that came from this study are in regards to admissions rules at the homes and the time involved in changing the rules. There was also discussion regarding if the Veterans Community will support the changes needed.</p>
Medicare Update		
Centralized Pharmacy		The Homes are actively pursuing a centralized pharmacy. The outstate facilities currently have very limited pharmacy services available to them.
Department's Bonding Requests		Deputy Commissioner Acevedo reviewed a few of the bonding requests for the department.
Wrap-Up		Chair Roberts closed the meeting at 3:10pm.
Next Meeting		The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th, 1:30pm-3:30pm on the 5th floor of the Veterans Services Building in St Paul.