

MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes October 19, 2009

Council Members Present: Kathryn Roberts, Chair; Michael Tripple; Dr. Kenneth Hughes; Julie Eszlinger-Jensen; Tom Mullon; Ronald Sant

Council Members Absent: James Birchem; Brad Bennett

MDVA Staff Present: Gilbert Acevedo, Pam Barrows, Robin Gaustad, Dennis Devereaux, Sarah Graves, Ev Wright, Dan Thielman and

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am and adjourned at 11:40am.

Subject	Discussion
Welcoming Remarks	Kathryn Roberts, Chair Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:30am. She thanked everyone for attending and for being so accommodating with the recent meeting site change.
MN Veterans Homes Updates	Deputy Commissioner Acevedo Deputy Commissioner Acevedo thanked everyone for coming and gave a brief update on Commissioner Dyrud. The Commissioner is out on an extended medical leave and Gil will keep everyone posted.
New Administrator - Minneapolis Home	Deputy Commissioner Acevedo briefly explained the recent change in leadership of the Minneapolis Home. The previous administrator gave her resignation on Friday, October 2 and he accepted it. A new administrator by the name of Dan Steen will start on Monday, October 26th. Gil shared Mr. Steen's resume, Mr. Steen is coming from Iowa where he has built himself a solid reputation in the Iowa State Veterans Homes. Gil also shared that one of the Assistant Administrator's from the Minneapolis Home, Mary Zabel, has given her notice and will be retiring in December.

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Pinnacle Update	The Council Members were given copies of the Customer Satisfaction surveys from Pinnacle. Gil explained the criteria used in the surveys. The 2 areas the Veterans Homes are focusing on this year are the admission process and the response to problems. The Pinnacle results will be reviewed with the Advisory Council annually.
Construction Update	Gil shared the following construction updates: Fergus Falls 21-bed addition including CBOC extension is due to be completed in Fall of 2010; Minneapolis Bldg 9, 4 story 100 bed skilled nursing facility is due to be completed in Fall of 2011; Minneapolis Bldg 4, Adult Day Program, is due to be complete in Fall of 2011; Silver Bay renovation is due to be complete in Spring of 2011;
CRIPA Update	The CRIPA re-visit is scheduled for December 7-9.
Medicare Update	The Central Office has contracted with Affinity Health Services to complete a CMS Feasibility study. The final report is due on October 21.
Statewide Study Overview	The Council Members reviewed the executive summary and the ranked listing of communities that best fit the criteria for need of a MN Veterans Home. The final ranking provided by Engan Associates does not indicate any preference or that any of the sites are getting a Veterans Home. This study was done strictly for informational purposes.
Department Bonding Requests	Gil shared the current list of bonding requests.
Advisory Council Comments	The Council Members expressed their appreciation and support of Gil. All feel that Gil is heading in the right direction with the Veterans Homes and offered their support in any way needed in the upcoming legislative session.
Wrap-Up	Chair Roberts closed the meeting at 11:40am.
Next Meeting	The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 19th, location yet to be determined.

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ford; Diane Windham

d Patty Ryan

Follow Up/Link to Info

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Patty will e-mail the satisfaction results and an example of questions asked during survey.

The final report will be shared with the Advisory Council once it is received.

Link to Statewide Survey Report
<http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/VeteransHomes/advisory/index.htm>

Patty will e-mail a summary of the 2010 Capital Bonding requests.