

# MN Department of Veterans Affairs

## Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes October 19, 2010

**Council Members Present:** Kathryn Roberts, Chair; Ronald Sanford; Diane Windham; Tom Mullon; Dr. Kenneth Hughes;

**Council Members Absent:** Julie Ezslinger-Jenson; Mike Tripple; James Birchem; Brad Bennett

**MDVA Staff Present:** Commissioner, Michael Pugliese; Deputy Commissioner, Gilbert Acevedo; Pam Barrows; Dennis Devereaux; Sarah Graves; Lavanh Lo; Ev Wright; Amy Rudolph; David Salchow; Patty Ryan

Meeting was called to order at 1:38pm and adjourned at 3:30pm.

Subject	Discussion	Follow Up/Link to Info
<b>Initial Comments</b>	<b>Kathryn Roberts, Chair</b> Kathryn opened the meeting with sharing the recent Star Tribune article on the Minneapolis Home. She congratulated Gil on all his hard work and the work being done at the Home.	<a href="#">Star Tribune Article</a>
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>	<b>Michael Pugliese, Commissioner</b> The Commissioner shared about the Governor's visit to the Mpls Home on October 14th. The visit was intended to commend the staff on all their hard work. The Governor also presented awards to the Awesome Admissions Team members for their kaizen work on the admissions process. The Commissioner has been able to visit all 5 homes in recent months and is happy to report that they all seem to be doing very well. We are always striving for excellence, we can always do more and we can not get complacent.	
<b>MN Veterans Homes Updates</b>	<b>Gil Acevedo</b> Gil thanked Kathryn for her accolades and shared that the Home has incredible people working with them and for them, from the Advisory Council members to the staff at each home. We have good hard working people and he couldn't do what he does with out all the staff.	
VA Foster Care	<b>Kathryn West and Bob Larson, VAMC</b> Kathryn West gave a presentation on the VA Medical Center's Medical Foster Home and Community Care.	Contact information: Kathryn West, Medical Foster Home Coordinator 612-467-2619

## MN Department of Veterans Affairs

### Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes October 19, 2010

TPT Video	<b>Sarah Graves, Communications Department</b>	<p>Sarah shared briefly about a TPT segment that the Homes are working on that will highlight the forward movement and changes at the MN Veterans Homes. It will include the history, past and present challenges and some of the amazing stories from the veterans we serve. The filming at Mpls and Hastings has been completed and the out state homes are being scheduled.</p>
Mpls Strategic Plan Update	<b>Pam Barrows, Administrator Interim</b>	<p>The Department Directors have been working hard on their strategic plan. A few highlights are: Quality Councils for each unit, Aging Services Falls Programs, Stratis Health resident centered care training, Certified Diabetes Nurse on staff, palliative care certifications, Care Planning teams, more productive meetings, working with Hastings on a DOMS Quality Team and the Admissions Team Kaizen, just to name a few. Pam has also recommended that once the new administrator starts the Home should redefine their goals and objectives to reflect their current situation.</p>
OLA	<b>Gil Acevedo and Dave Salchow, Internal Auditor</b>	<p>Gil gave a brief history of some of the OLA issues with the Mpls Home. Dave explained that the new report showed overall a tremendous improvement, most notably the remarkable improvement on the staff overtime. There were 13 findings in the end which the department partially agreed with.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Mpls 2010 OLA Report</a></p>
Mpls Administrator Salary	<b>Gil Acevedo</b>	<p>Gil explained that OLA feels that with all the risks and responsibilities of the administrator position we will have a continuous revolving door unless we can increase the cap. Kathryn spoke to this in adding that this was a similar recommendation that was made by the Governor's Long-Term Care Commission in 2007. She explained that this issue includes the Deputy Commissioner position as well. These positions are far more complicated than the private sector and the salary cap is a huge deterrence when recruiting and retaining.</p>
	<b>Action</b>	<p>Tom Mullon made a motion that the Advisory Council takes a firm position in support of an equitable salary structure for the MVH administrators; second was by Dr. Hughes; the motion passed unanimously.</p>

## MN Department of Veterans Affairs

### Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes October 19, 2010

	<b>Action</b>	<p>Ron Sanford made a motion that the department just as stridently look for an equitable salary structure for the Deputy Commissioner Veterans Health Care; second was by Diane Windham. Kathryn Roberts amended the motion to include providing the Advisory Council will regular updates on the progress. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>We have hired Larson Allen as consultants and they have been providing training. The goal is to submit our request in March 2011 to participate in CMS. Although Medicaid certification is being included in this process the Homes will not be forcing anyone to go this route. CMS require us to be ready before we submit paperwork. Pam gave a brief centralized pharmacy update. The consulting pharmacist has been working on improving operational efficiency and the billing processes for Medicare part D and 3rd party. The remote dispensing system is still being considered and would start in Hastings.</p>
CMS Certification	<b>Gil Acevedo and Pam Barrows</b>	
Bldg 4 Lead Issue	<b>Everette Wright</b>	<p>The bldg 4 construction project has moved along with no hold-ups. A letter has been sent to the Federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the lead based trim and the replacement of with an exact replication.</p>
Prodigal House	<b>Gil Acevedo</b>	<p>Gil explained the Prodigal House lease, originally from the 1970's, required a majority of tenants to be veterans. This requirement has been overlooked in recent years. The bldg 9 issues have left our DOMS residents in need of their own space so the department has decided to refurbish bldg 16 and move the DOMS population there. We have given Prodigal House leadership 12 month notice of our intentions.</p>
Wrap-Up		<p>Kathryn thanked everyone for attending and wished them all happy holidays.</p>
<b>Next Meeting</b>		<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th 1:30pm-3:30pm, 5th Floor Conference Room of the Veterans Services Building in St. Paul.</p>