

MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes April 20, 2010

Council Members Present: Kathryn Roberts, Chair; Ronald Sanford; James Birchem; Diane Windham; Michael Tripple; Tom Mullen

Council Members Absent: Brad Bennett; Julie Eszlinger-Jensen; Dr. Kenneth Hughes;

MDVA Staff Present: Michael Pugliese, Gilbert Acevedo, Pam Barrows, Mary Johnson, Dennis Devereaux, Sarah Graves, Sherry Kromschroeder, Ev Wright, Amy Rudolph and Patty Ryan

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

Subject	Discussion	Follow Up/Link to Info
Initial Comments	Kathryn Roberts, Chair	
		Kathryn called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. She opened with welcoming remarks and welcomed back the 3 Members that were recently re-appointed. She shared that she would really like to see the non-profit community step up and help serve the returning Veteran population. There is great opportunity to step up and start working towards being able to provide services TBI and other services to the returning Veterans.
Welcoming Remarks	Michael Pugliese, Commissioner	
		Commissioner Pugliese was introduced to the Council. The new Commissioner shared a bit about his past and his dedication to helping Veterans. He is looking forward to working with the Advisory Council and in working with the Veterans Homes to achieve the Department's mission and vision.
MN Veterans Homes Updates	Gil Acevedo, Deputy Commissioner	

MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes April 20, 2010

CRIPA Update

Gil shared the CRIPA news again. Although an e-mail sent out earlier he wanted to share again about how successfully the Minneapolis staff stepped up and took care of things.

OLA Update

The Office of Legislative Auditors (OLA) will be returning to the Minneapolis home this spring. The 2008 audit of the Minneapolis home was not good. The findings were similar to the findings of previous audits which indicates that no changes had been made. These findings are more serious than new areas noted. Gil is hoping this audit will go much better. They will also be auditing Silver Bay and Luverne.

Construction Update

The Silver Bay renovation is expected to be completed in December. Fergus Falls is also coming along however the wet weather has slowed progress a bit; they expect to open in January. The Minneapolis campus has several projects currently under way. The Bldg 4 Adult Day Center renovation is well underway and is expected to be completed early spring of next year. The new Bldg 9 contract has just been awarded and construction should begin

USDVA and MDH Survey Updates

The outstate homes have all recently been surveyed and the findings are consistent with 3-6 per facility. The Minneapolis home is currently in the survey window and should be surveyed soon.

Legislative Updates

Amy Rudolph, Legislative Director

Amy gave a brief review of all the current legislative items that affect the MN Veterans Homes. Amy sends out weekly legislative updates, if anyone is interested in adding their e-mail to the list they can sign up at www.mdva.state.mn.us/newsletter.htm

Quality Council Retreat Update and Aging Services Project

Gil shared an update on all the work the Quality Council has been doing. They will be presenting their falls project at the June VISN23 Conference. They have also entered into a quality competition with Aging Services. We have just completed our 2010 Quality Retreat. This year focused on education and was hosted by the Minneapolis home.

MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes April 20, 2010

Medicare RFP (part A, B and D)		<p>The Department is currently reviewing the proposals for implementing CMS certification at the 5 homes. A contract will be executed by mid-May. Gil took a moment to emphasize that although this is in response to Legislative action the Department will not be making any changes that will negatively affect the Veterans.</p>
MDVA Centralized Pharmacy	<p>Pam Barrows, Sr. Director and Mary Johnson, Pharmacist</p>	<p>Pam introduced Mary Johnson who is currently both working part time at the Minneapolis pharmacy and also doing some part time consulting for the Central Office regarding the development of a Centralized Pharmacy. Pam and Mary showed a short video on the Talyst dispensing system and explained that this is the type of system they are interested in moving to, although not necessarily Talyst as it would be put out for bid. They will be presenting to the Board of Pharmacy on May 12th.</p>
Council Comments and Questions		<p>Mr. Mullon recommended working on improving communication between Homes and USVA in areas such as accessing their medical records system etc. There was also discussion on the current Legislative Committee structure, how the merger has affected the MN Veterans Homes and some of the benefits and challenges the Department is faced with in this regard.</p>
Wrap-Up		
Next Meeting		<p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20th, 1:30pm-3:30pm in Bldg 2, Room 104 at the Minneapolis Veterans Home.</p>