

**MN Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Minutes July 20, 2009**

Council Members Present: Tom Mullon, Acting Chair; Michael Tripple; Dr. Kenneth Hughes; Julie Eszlinger-Jensen; Ronald Sanford; James Birchem

Council Members Absent: Kathryn Roberts; Diane Windham; Brad Bennett

MDVA Staff Present: Clark Dyrud, Gilbert Acevedo, Pam Barrows, Jon Skillingstad, Christine Kiel, Sherry Kromschroeder, Robin Gaustad, Laura Seleen, Anna Long, Dennis Devereaux, Carol Lynch and Patty Ryan

Meeting was called to order at 9:45am and adjourned at 11:40am.

| Subject | Discussion | Follow Up/Link to Info |
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The Fergus Falls Administrator, Jon Skillingstad, gave a presentation on the Home and then provided a tour.

Welcoming Remarks

**Acting Chair
Tom Mullon**

Mr. Mullon called the meeting to order at 9:45am. He opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the recently fallen MN soldiers. He welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He explained that he will be the acting chair in place of Kathryn Roberts. Ms. Roberts had a schedule conflict and was not able to attend this meeting. Mr. Mullon thanked Jon Skillingstad and all the Fergus Falls staff for breakfast, the earlier presentation on the home and the tour.

Commissioner Dyrud

Commissioner Dyrud welcomed everyone, thanked them for traveling to the Fergus Falls Home.

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Deputy Commissioner Gilbert Acevedo Deputy Commissioner Gilbert Acevedo also welcomed and thanked the Council, staff and guests.

Sherry Kromschroeder Finance Director Sherry Kromschroeder gave a PowerPoint presentation (attached) and explained the State of MN Budgeting Process and the MDVA Budget.

<http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/VeteransHomes/advisory/BudgetPresentation-ACJul-09.pdf>

Deputy Commissioner Acevedo Deputy Commissioner Acevedo handed out and briefly explained all the current construction projects at each of the homes (attached). He also gave an overview presentation on the Seven County Metro Study Report and it's findings (attached). This report is available on the MDVA website.

Construction Projects
<http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/VeteransHomes/advisory/ProjectsbySiteasof7-09.pdf> **Study Report**
<http://www.mdva.state.mn.us/reports/TCMetroAreaLocationStudy.pdf>

Christine Kiel Legislative Director Christine Kiel gave a brief summary of this years Legislative session.

MN Veterans Homes Updates Deputy Commissioner Acevedo

MVH- Minneapolis

The Building 9 demolition has begun. There was a cornerstone removal program held on July 7th where a time capsule was opened. There were many books and newspaper articles as well as some other memorabilia. Some of the items will be incorporated/displayed in to the new building. They are also working through the design phase for the new building, which is due to be completed in 2011. The campus is also gearing up for the renovation of building 4, which will be turned into an Adult Day Center. The CRIPA Report came back very positive with only a couple recommendations. The CRIPA Team will do a follow up visit in 6 months. The MN Dept of Health and the USDVA have both completely cleared the Mpls home of all deficiencies.

MVH- Luverne
 MVH- Fergus Falls
 MVH- Silver Bay
 MVH- Hastings

No new updates.
 Hosting facility, presentation and tour explained it all.
 The renovation of the Silver Bay home is well under way.
 No new updates.

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Other Updates

Deputy Commissioner Acevedo gave an update on the recommendations from the Governor's Long-Term Care Commission. All recommendations have been addressed and where appropriate included in our strategic planning.

**Comments/
Recommendations**

Domiciliary - Future
Care Model

Deputy Commissioner Acevedo asked the Council Members for any ideas or suggestions on what the future care model for Domiciliary might be for the MN Veterans Homes. We currently offer Domiciliary care at both the Mpls and Hastings Home and there has been many different suggestions and ideas on how this would best benefit Veterans.

Ideas shared included: using the Hastings Home for more of a drug/alcohol rehab center for Veterans; taking back Bldg 16 on the Mpls campus (which is currently being leased out) and turning it back into the domiciliary as well as an Assisted Living type care; Respite Care for returning Veterans; and also a suggestion to move all domiciliary care to the Hastings Home.

Wrap-Up

Mr. Mullon closed the meeting with a suggestion from the Council Members to hold the October meeting at the Silver Bay home if possible. He thanked all the staff present for their hard work and wonderful presentations. He also gave a special thank you to Christine Kiel the MDVA Legislative Director for all her work for the Department. Christine has recently accepted a promotion to another state agency and will start her new position on 7/22. She will be greatly missed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 19, location yet to be determined.