

**MN Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Care Advisory Council Monthly Meeting minutes June 17, 2008**

Present: Kathryn Roberts, Chair; James Birchem; Diane Windham; Micheal Tripple; Tom Mullon; Ronald Sanford; Dr. Kenneth Hughes; Brad Bennett; Julie Eszlinger-Jensen

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MDVA Staff Present: Clark Dyrud, Gilbert Acevedo, Michael Pugliese, Pam Barrows, Reggie Worlds, Christine Kiel, Anna Long, Michael Bond, Carol Gilbertson, Jon Skillingstad, Charles "Chip" Cox, Nancy Dahl, Dennis Devereaux, Patty Ryan

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

Subject	Discussion	Follow Up
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Welcoming Remarks

**Gilbert Acevedo, Deputy
Commissioner Veterans
Health Care**

Deputy Commissioner Acevedo welcomed and thanked the Council Members for attending the first meeting.

Clark Dyrud, Commissioner

Commissioner Dyrud addressed the Council and welcomed and thanked them each for their service to MN veterans. He gave a brief history of the homes and explained how extraordinary the history of the Minnesota Veterans Homes.

Kathryn Roberts, Chair

Ms. Roberts introduced herself and welcomed each of the Council Members. She had each council member give their name and describe briefly why they applied for this council.

**Duties,
responsibilities and
expectations**

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**Gilbert Acevedo, Deputy
Commissioner Veterans
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Deputy Commissioner Acevedo reviewed the Veterans Advisory Council Position Description with the Council Members and then asked them to be sure to sign 1 copy and keep the other copy for their records.

Kathryn Roberts, Chair

Ms. Roberts explained how she would like the meetings to be held. She would like an agenda for every meeting and would like timelines adhered to. Ms. Roberts explained the Open Meeting Laws Minnesota Statute Chapter 13D to the Council Members. As an Advisory Council this body is not subject to the Open Meeting Laws statute; however, we are choosing to have all our meetings open to the public. The Council is here to meet with each other and the public is allowed to attend but not participate unless specifically asked by a council member. All information will be shared and discussed with all members.

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Strategic Planning direction	Gilbert Acevedo, Deputy Commissioner Veterans Health Care	<p>Deputy Commissioner Acevedo gave a power point presentation on the MN Veterans Homes and outlined the MN Department of Veterans Affairs strategic planning goals and objectives. The Department plan is nearly complete and the Veterans Homes will be starting their strategic planning in the next couple months. He explained that at the next Advisory Council meeting he will have a few topics that he would like the Council's advice on. The Deputy Commissioner than opened up the meeting for questions from Council Members. Mr. Tripple asked about the availability of documentation from the Governor's LTC Commission. Patty Ryan will find the information and e-mail out a link. Ms. Eszlinger-Jensen asked about the nurse to resident ratio. The Deputy Commissioner will get this information to the Council.</p>	<p>Patty will send out a link to the Governor's Commission website. Deputy Commissioner Acevedo will get the nurse to resident ratio information together for the Council Members.</p>
Future Meetings	Kathryn Roberts, Chair	<p>Ms. Roberts proposed that the Council meet on a quarterly basis. She asked that Patty work with Council Members on availability and location.</p>	<p>Patty will coordinate the next meeting.</p>