



**MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

August 24, 2021

10:00 a.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at the DTMB State Facilities Administration Building – 3111 W. St. Joseph Highway, Lansing, MI 48917.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance Roll Call

Chair David Henry called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: Zaneta Adams, David Henry, Mary Naber, David Rutledge, Brad Slagle, Larry Yachcik.

Excused Absences: Henry Boutros, Ken Robbins, MaryAnne Shannon

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Executive Leadership Team: Anne Zerbe, Fred Schaible, Melissa Velie, Tiffany Carr, and Patty Altimore

Guests: Christine Apostol, Laura Birchmeier, Erica Bobrowski, Mike Hassan, Ryan Kastner, Michael Kroll, Chris LaJoie, Cary Lincoln, Jennifer Manning, Assistant Attorney General Donald McGehee, Ron Oja, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Linda Smith, Jodi Thompson, Courtney Tweedale, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz, Niki Wheeler, Mark Wolf, et al.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Slagle inquired as to why the proposed MVFA Policy #010 was not included on the agenda; this policy had been tabled at the last meeting. Rutledge stated that the committee did not meet to address the policy, but it will be addressed at the next board meeting.

Adams, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated August 24, 2021, as presented. The motion passed 6-0.

4. Public Comment

AAG Katie Waskiewicz announced that this will be the last board meeting where she will serve as the board's legal representative due to a shift in workload at the Attorney General's Office. She thanked the board for their work, stating that this has been a wonderful experience for her. AAG Waskiewicz introduced AAG Donald McGehee who will now serve as the board's legal representative along with AAG Jason Geissler.

Chair Henry thanked AAG Waskiewicz for her guidance during her assignment with the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority and wished her good luck in her new endeavor.

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes

Rutledge, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the proposed meeting minutes dated May 18, 2021, as presented. The motion passed 6-0.

6. Executive Director Report

Anne Zerbe introduced four new members of the Michigan Veteran Homes Leadership Team:

Beth Simonton-Kramer is the Interim Administrator at the MVH at Grand Rapids until the new administrator, Carly MacDonald, begins her tenure on September 7, 2021. Ms. Simonton-Kramer has worked for the Michigan Veteran Homes for four years and supported past administration.

Jodi Thompson is the new Director of Psychosocial Services and Quality of Life. Ms. Thompson has worked at the MVH at Grand Rapids as a social worker for 23 years and served as the Director of Social Services for the past five years. She also developed the "No Member Dies Alone" program which she plans to incorporate into all Michigan Veteran Homes.

Tiffany Carr is the new Community Engagement Coordinator. Ms. Carr served at the MVH at Grand Rapids for 22 years where she was the Director of Life Enrichment and Volunteer Services. She will continue her work with establishing community partnerships and fund development for all Michigan Veteran Homes.

Chris LaJoie is the new Operations Analyst for the Michigan Veteran Homes. Mr. LaJoie is the former scheduler at the MVH D.J. Jacobetti and is expanding his role to include operations of the new homes and CMS. He is a licensed home administrator and assisting Steve Rolston with statewide operations.

Administrator Jennifer Manning provided a summary of the operational status of the Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield Township.

- Completed the State Licensure Survey
- VA Recognition Survey was conducted July 12-14, 2021, with no deficiencies noted

- The Initial CMS Survey was conducted August 2-4, 2021, with 3 areas of health concern and 5 areas of life safety concern
- The current census is 31 members, with 27 in skilled nursing and 4 in memory care
- Another skilled nursing neighborhood will open September 14, 2021
- The average admission rate is 2-3 members per week
- There are currently 30 potential members on the waiting list and ready to move in; however, staffing needs must be addressed prior to admittance
- Recruitment in health care is challenging
- Next steps include another CMS Survey, with the anticipated award of certification

Interim Administrator Beth Simonton-Kramer provide a summary of the operational status of the Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids.

- Completed the State Licensure Survey on July 19, 2021
- The first eight members were moved to the new building the week of July 26, 2021; they are enjoying the new facility, especially the food
- The CMS application was accepted on August 5, 2021, with an anticipated CMS survey to be conducted in mid-September
- In September, the next 12 members will move to the new building and the member census will be 20
- The VA Recognition Survey planned for October 4, 2021
- The ribbon cutting ceremony is slated for September 2, 2021

Anne Zerbe presented an update on the COVID-19 status in the homes. Although two staff tested positive, no members are currently quarantined. The MVH Leadership Team continues to track changes in regulations and vaccinations.

Ms. Zerbe informed the board that a MVH Leadership Team Retreat will be conducted this week at Camp Grayling.

Ms. Zerbe conducted the MVH Strategic Plan review, summarizing areas to be addressed by the board. Ms. Zerbe and the board members discussed the following strategic goals, objectives, and key tasks.

- Strategic Goal 1 – Deliver High Quality Member-Centric Care
- Strategic Goal 3 – Increase Access to Care
- Strategic Goal 4 – Expand Availability of Care
- Strategic Goal 6 – Build Community Awareness and Support

Anne Zerbe will incorporate the board’s feedback and disseminate a summary of revisions to the strategic plan. At the November 16, 2021, the board will vote on the strategic plan revisions presented by Ms. Zerbe.

7. MVH Committee Updates

Executive Committee – Chair Henry stated there is a board action item which is the appointment of the MVFA Appeals Board.

Chair Henry stated that the Executive Committee recommends appointing the former Board of Managers to its Appeals Board since they meet the qualifications as set forth by the legislation:

- Robert Johnson representing the American Legion, Department of Michigan
- Shane Preston representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan Office
- James Ausdemore, who has had interactions/involvement at one or more veterans' facilities within the past two years
- Harold Mast, who has had interactions/involvement at one or more veterans' facilities within the past two years

Adams, seconded by Slagle, *motioned to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation, as presented.*

A discussion ensued following the motion, with Adams requesting diversity on the board and Naber requesting a member with a background in healthcare. Fred Schaible stated that the statute directed consideration of the former Board of Managers, but the Disabled American Veterans still has an opening available.

The motion was passed by a roll call vote 6-0, with members Adams, Henry, Naber, Rutledge, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.

Budget and Financial Oversight Committee – Chair Slagle reviewed a letter submitted by a member requesting an increase in personal allowance from \$100.00 to \$150.00 per month. The letter was submitted in January, but not acted upon until now due to the transition of governance from the Board of Managers to the MVFA Board; Chair Slagle apologized for the delay in response.

After discussion, there was no action taken by the board.

Slagle presented an overview of the Cost of Care Rates for FY'22, which would be implemented effective October 1, 2021.

Slagle, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the Cost of Care Rates for FY'22 per the committee's recommendation, as presented. The motion was passed by a roll call vote 6-0, with members Adams, Henry, Naber, Rutledge, Slagle, and Yachcik in favor.

Facility and Capital Improvement Committee – Chair Henry stated that Chair Boutros had to drop off the call; however, the board report is included in the board packet.

Mike Hassan presented a construction update summarizing the budget, VA reimbursement, construction activities, and art installation. During the CMS survey at the MVH at Chesterfield Township, the laundry facility did not meet infection control requirements; therefore, modifications will be made to the laundry area. Chair Henry asked if there is any recovery of cost from the design team regarding the laundry facility. Anne Zerbe will gather information and provide an update at the Executive Committee meeting.

Governance and Policy Development Committee – No report

Outreach and Fund Development Committee – Chair Yachcik addressed the funding for a proposed new home in Marquette, the new Community Engagement Coordinator position, and a review of strategic goals.

8. New Business

None

9. Public Comment

Tiffany Carr, MVH Community Engagement Coordinator, followed up on the MVH at Chesterfield Township's engagement efforts and increasing census. She stated that Ryan Engle from MVAA has been instrumental in making connections in the Chesterfield Township area and partnering with her. She added that there is also strong support for the home in Grand Rapids. Ms. Carr advocates making partnerships with the National Guard to serve in and around the homes. Lastly, she suggests tracking denials in admissions to look at the data to see how we have not been able to serve that population.

10. Board Comments

Zaneta Adams – a Veterans Gala will be conducted on November 6, 2021, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Invitations will be emailed to the board members. For more information, check the MVAA Facebook page or call the MVAA. For the first time in 11 years, Michigan has increased its veteran populations to 567,000+. The MVAA is identifying more veterans in Michigan and connecting them to their benefits.

Brad Slagle – no comment.

Larry Yachcik – he is in awe of the work completed post-pandemic.

David Rutledge – a special thank you to the keeper of the minutes who does a great job.

Mary Naber – expressed kudos to the team because it hasn't been an easy year to lead.

MaryAnne Shannon – is thankful for the discussion to move Marquette higher on the new homes' construction list. She is excited about the strategic plan work ahead, especially with veteran housing.

David Henry – The MVH at Grand Rapids ribbon cutting ceremony is September 2, 2021, at noon.

11. Adjournment

Rutledge, seconded by Adams, motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bradford Slagle".

Bradford Slagle,
MVFA Board Secretary