



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

February 18, 2025
10:00 a.m.

ADOPTED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at The Joint Forces Building located at 3423 N Martin King Jr Blvd, Building 30, Room 231 Lansing, Michigan 48906.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance Roll Call

Chair Henry called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: David Henry, Brad Slagle, MaryAnne Shannon, Barry Walter, Nancy Susick.

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) staff present: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Ryan Engle, Jason Geissler (AG)

Virtual Guests: David Rutledge, Leon Bauer, Brian Love, Steffany Muirhead, Ron Oja, Carly MacDonald, Jennifer Manning, Melissa Velie, Mark Wolf, et. al.

Chair Henry welcomed the newest board member, Nancy Susick.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Slagle motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated February 18, 2025, seconded by Shannon. Discussion to add an update of legislative impacts to the Executive Director's report. The motion was carried.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes

Slagle motioned to adopt the minutes from the September 24, 2024, meeting, seconded by Walter. There were no modifications, and the motion was passed.

6. Executive Director's Report

a. Update on the Replacement Facility for MVH D.J. Jacobetti

- i. Zerbe reported the purchase of the property for the replacement facility for MVH D.J. Jacobetti was completed approximately 10 days ago.
- ii. There are ongoing discussions with the road commission regarding requirements for re-routing the road. MVH will bear the cost of the construction of the road, while the county will bear the cost of ongoing maintenance.
- iii. The project (with the exception of some initial tree removal) is out for bid, due February 27. The BABAA (Build America Buy America Act) standards are expected to increase the cost of construction, but that expectation has been built into the budget. There are no other concerns leading into the final grant period.
- iv. The target date for a groundbreaking ceremony is May/June. We hope to coordinate with the MVAA-hosted Statewide Veteran Leadership Summit.

b. Update on the Status of Board Appointments

- i. Zerbe stated there is currently a full board, although there are four board members coming up for reappointment.
- ii. Discussion about the number of expiring appointments. Due to some members covering partial appointments, and even though appointments are staggered as much as possible, the multiple expiration dates could not be avoided.

c. Update on MVHCT – Jennifer Manning, Administrator

- i. The current Director of Nursing (DON) Courtney Tweedale is relocating (returning) to Marquette to assume the same position upon retirement of the current MVHDJJ DON, Cary Lincoln. Adrienne Schultz, a nurse manager since the MVHCT inception, will assume the DON position at MVHCT.
- ii. MVHCT is within survey window for CMS, and is it projected that VA survey will be within a proximity of days to weeks of CMS.
- iii. Mock survey was completed and has helped to identify areas for improvement.
- iv. Discussion about the waiting list for Chesterfield, which is approximately 2 years long and depends on the veteran's VA healthcare priority level.

d. Update on MVHDJJ – Ron Oja, Administrator

- i. The current census at MVHDJJ is 106 with one admission planned for today.
- ii. There are currently 2 staff out with covid at this time. From Mid-October to Thanksgiving, DJJ endured the worst covid outbreak to date, with a total of 57 members and 48 staff Covid-positive. Three of those members passed away. The low number of vaccinated members indicated on the last quarter report largely has to do with the 90-day waiting period for those who have had Covid before they can be vaccinated.
- iii. The Iron Mountain VA declined to enter into a sharing agreement with Jacobetti for mental health services. Jacobetti has a transition plan and is in full compliance with VA certification.
- iv. The CMS annual survey resulted in 1 citation in kitchen area. There were also 3 life safety citations which are now compliant.
- v. Oja thanked Cary Lincoln for his service and welcomes Courtney Tweedale back to Jacobetti.

b. Update on MVHGR – Carly MacDonald, Administrator

- i. The census at MVHGR is 117, with 8 admissions and 8 deaths since January 1, 2025.
- ii. The construction project to house the housekeeping and laundry area, a pharmacy, and the business office space is moving along. The floors and rooftop units are being done now, and the project is on-target for completion.
- iii. The VA survey resulted in 4 areas of concern with no life safety issues. The thermometer sanitation issue in the kitchen has been addressed. The other 3 concerns resulted from one incident involving a fracture. The incident was submitted to CMS who did a desk review. A plan of correction was put into place upon the incident, so substantial compliance is expected within the next month.
- iv. There have been 3 nurse aides with influenza recently, but no significant Covid trends.

c. Update of Operations – Steve Rolston, Chief Operations Officer

MVH will begin developing a transition plan for Jacobetti to the new building as it is a lengthy process.

d. Legislative Branch Changes – (This section was added to indicate impacts the new administration may have on the MVH Homes so that a proactive approach can be taken to address any potential issues.)

- i. It is too soon to identify any impacting changes at this time, however Zerbe expressed that it was critical to finalize the construction grant before or in case any changes to the budget are put into place.
- ii. If there are hiring freezes, there could be further delay in obtaining pharmacy sharing agreement, which has been attempted for the past 3 years. There was discussion about the possibility of working with another medical center to accomplish the needs for pharmaceuticals. The board members expressed they would like to be notified of any changes or when a final agreement is put into place.
- iii. Discussion about issues with mental health sharing agreements as the VA at Iron Mountain does not have the ability to provide those services for Jacobetti. Chesterfield is experiencing the same type of issue. This affects the pricing available to veterans. Other options will be explored for both areas.

7. Committee Updates

a. Executive Committee - David Henry

- i. Nancy Susick was introduced early in the meeting.
- ii. Four board members' appointments expire April 15. Those members will be contacted. The board is encouraged to submit the names of any candidates they feel would serve the board well.
- iii. Shannon shared an attendance roster showing member appointment dates and attendance at meetings in 2024.
- iv. The board discussed the Executive Director's performance evaluation.
 - a) Slagle stated the improvements under her direction are evidenced by the 5-star ratings for the 3 homes. Henry stated that the homes' quality has improved by the leadership team holding people accountable. Zerbe's goals have been met, and legislative reporting has improved.
 - b) Opportunities for development include additional communication with the board so it can provide support for the leadership.
 - c) The performance evaluation will go to the Governor upon conclusion of this meeting. Walters moved that the performance evaluation report be submitted to the Governor's office. The motion was seconded by Shannon. There was no further discussion, and a roll call vote was taken:

David Henry	Yes
MaryAnne Shannon	Yes
Brad Slagle	Yes
Nancy Susick	Yes
Barry Walter	Yes

The motion carried.

- d) A review was given of NASVH Conference held in Arlington, VA, from February 9-13, 2025. Walters and Turner attended with several of the Leadership Team. The team was divided into groups for the Hill visits where

they had 7 drop-in meetings with elected officials there, with an additional 4 meetings with legislative staff. This included 2 congressmen who are on the House Veteran Affairs Committee.

- v. Board Effect Implementation Update – Beth Simonton-Kramer
Implementation of the system is in a holding pattern waiting for security review. There is currently no timeline for that process, but once approved, implementation and use will begin.
- vi. Annual Bylaw / Policy Review
 - a) Staff are not recommending any changes at this time. The board can review the bylaws and policies, which will be adopted at the next meeting.
 - b) A Confidentiality policy and Conflict of Interest policy will be presented at the next meeting.

b. Budget and Finance – Brad Slagle

- i. The last fiscal year has been closed out by the Financial Services. However, it has not yet been closed by the State.
- ii. Appropriations for the new fiscal year have been received and, with the budget changes made FY25, appear to be on target. Issues to be resolved yet involve the source of funds for land acquisition.
- iii. There has been no response on the wage pass-thru letter submitted in January.
- iv. The status of the OAG performance audit was shared. Three areas being reviewed are related to legislative reporting, the Executive Director Evaluation and related policies, and policies and procedures for Central Leadership, which are being currently being worked through. At this time, there are only preliminary audit findings (PAFs). Next step is the OAG finalizing its audit and an opportunity for MVH to respond. This is not expected before May or June.

c. Quality and Compliance Committee – MaryAnne Shannon

- i. Chair Henry has requested that Nancy Susick participate on this committee, and Susick agreed.
- ii. See the board packet for survey information and legislative reports. The committee continues working with staff to develop a summary reporting tool.

d. Administrative Operations Committee – Barry Walter

- i. David Rutledge has been working on an opportunity to have a meeting with all the legislators, particularly the Veteran Affairs Committee. He is seeking sponsorship for the event.
- ii. Engle shared that videos have been completed that focus on the homes in general, on development, and on recruitment. They have been shared on YouTube and other social media accounts. Next the videos will be formatted to 30-second spots for other uses such as video boards at the Secretary of State offices, and the like.
- iii. Walters asked staff about their willingness to speak at the Veterans State Convention at the end of May or early June.
- iv. Slagle reported that he and Engle attended the Marquette Dog Sled Races where they were able to lunch with elected officials. They then attended an informal dinner where they were also able to speak with the Lieutenant Governor, met ambassadors to the Marquette City Council, and the Mayor.

- v. The Board discussed adopting a new name for the committee that is more descriptive of its purpose. The committee will be renamed as the Strategic Engagement committee.

8. New Business

a. VA & Pace Partnership

This program is essentially the VA's version of adult day care. If it does move forward, it would make sense for MVH to form a relationship with the contractor used as veterans who are no longer able to remain in the PACE program will need skilled nursing care.

b. Change in Asset Limit for Medicaid and Medicare – Melissa Velie

Michigan Medicaid has increased the asset limit for Medicaid beneficiaries. As of February 1, 2025, asset limits for qualifying for Michigan Medicaid are \$9,660 per person and \$14,470 per couple, compared to \$2,000 and \$3,000 respectively. Velie is amending the related policies to reflect the increase as well as increases in surety bonds.

9. **Public Comment** – Ryan Engle presented a plaque to the Board which was gifted from MVAA Director Brian Love. The plaque commemorates the first female board member, Colonel Mildred Irene Clark Woodman, US Army retired. Col. Clark Woodman served on the Board of Managers from 1981 to 1987 and was the Chair of the Board from 1986 to 1987.

10. Board Comments

- a. Walters thanked the board for giving him the opportunity to attend the NASVH Conference and shared what he experienced and learned.
- b. Shannon is continuing to gain current standing for the new cemetery in Grayling. She is also getting involved with the No Member Dies Alone project.
- c. Slagle suggested the May board meeting be held in Marquette as it coincides with the MVAA event in Marquette, and possibly the groundbreaking. Slagle thanked Cary Lincoln and Ann Barsch for their excellent service upon their retirement. He also congratulated those who changed positions and welcomed Nancy to the Board.
- d. Susick enjoyed meeting everyone today and looks forward to working with the Board.
- e. Henry thanked everyone for their participation.

11. Adjournment

Slagle motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Walters seconded the motion. The motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Minutes certified by:

MaryAnne Shannon _____
MVFA Board Secretary

Date: _____