



**MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

September 24, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**ADOPTED**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at Michigan Veteran Homes at Chesterfield located at 47901 Sugarbush Rd., Chesterfield Twp., MI 48047.

**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, Leon Bauer, David Rutledge, Brad Slagle, Shawn Turner, Barry Walter.

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Executive Leadership Team: Anne Zerbe, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Ryan Engle, Melissa Velie, Jennifer Manning, Jason Geissler, Don McGehee.

Virtual Guests: Brian Love, Ken Robbins, Steve Rolston, Mike Hassan, Mark Wolf, Steffany Muirhead, Ron Oja, Carly MacDonald, et. al.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Turner motioned, seconded by Slagle, to accept the meeting agenda dated September 24, 2024. The motion was passed.

**4. Approval of Proposed Minutes**

Slagle motioned, seconded by Walter to adopt the minutes from the July 23, 2024, meeting. The motion was passed.

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

**6. Executive Director's Report**

- 1) Zerbe reported that a meeting has been scheduled with the Marquette County Road Commission and the engineers next week regarding the relocation of Venture Drive. The Home is in the final stages of design. Feedback and lessons learned from the other two projects has proven to be helpful in this design. The Board discussed the VA priority list, the timeline for construction, and ways to incorporate public spaces into the new site.
- 2) Board Appointment Updates – Ryan Engle

- We still have one vacant seat on the board. Names have been provided to the Governor by the Speaker for consideration.
- 3) Update on MVHCT – Jennifer Manning, Administrator
    - Census is at 126 with capacity of 128. There is one more admission scheduled which leaves one room for movement if needed.
    - The VA Survey was in August, later than expected, with one area of concern. A POC was submitted and pending approval. All competencies, audits, and education documentation should be ready for submission for certification by the end of October.
    - The Annual Volunteer Appreciation dinner is being held this week.
    - The Chair asked if there are any challenges that have arisen now that the Home has been operating for two years. The Board recognized that the Chesterfield home has been operating three years now and has attentive staff and content members.
  - 4) Update on MVHDJJ – Ron Oja, Administrator
    - The census is currently at 104, with 10 admissions in process.
    - The VA Survey was later than expected, so the corrective action plan is still being developed. Most life safety issues have been completed, and the Sharing Agreement with VA Mental Health Services is still outstanding.
  - 5) Update on MVHGR – Carly MacDonald, Administrator
    - Preparation has begun for the CMS Survey which is expected any time now (slightly early this year). The census is 121 with one more admitting this week. There are 4 more admissions scheduled for next month. Two rooms are offline due to the straight-line wind damage that occurred over a year ago. The work is expected to start within the next few months.
    - The addition project has been approved for the pharmacy, business office services, and laundry services which are still housed in the old building.
    - Mock Survey starts next week to prepare for the VA Survey in December. CMS Survey is expected in March or April of 2025.
  - 6) Update of Operations – Steve Rolston, Chief Operations Officer
    - All Operational Items were reported above by the Administrators.

## 7. Committee Updates

### 1) Executive Committee - David Henry

Chair Henry stated that the Board sent a letter to the Governor's office regarding the wage pass thru. A copy is included in the board packet. There has been no response to the letter to date.

- i. Henry moved that the Board appoint Jason Bos to fill the vacant seat on the Appeals Board. Walter seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
  - ii. It was moved by Slagle to adopt the policy allowing an abbreviated evaluation process for the Executive Directory every other year with two corrections. The motion was seconded by Rutledge. The motion was passed.
- 2) Budget and Finance – Brad Slagle
- i. Slagle stated that the 2024 projections have improved since the last meeting. The projected deficit at the end of the year is just under \$6.5 million. FY25 budget has been passed and signed by the Governor. FY26 is being submitted to the DMVA this month. Notable about that budget is that it contains a request for funds for the demolition of the old Grand Rapids buildings understanding that if any funds are left in 2025, they will be used first for that effort. The Board discussed the timing of the demolition and the timing of the construction of the addition at Grand Rapids.
  - ii. The Charitable Funds Report indicates that for the year to date, the Homes have received over \$600,000 in donations with a balance of \$300,000 in the Charitable Funds. There is also an anticipated new donation at the MVHDJJ of \$600,000. The Board discussed how donations are solicited and the nature of charitable giving to the Homes.

3) Quality and Compliance Committee – Leon Bauer

The committee continues to meet on Teams and is creating a report that will focus on quality of care.

The board discussed the Abuse and Neglect Reports which are in the packets. Legislative Reports will be added to the agenda going forward.

4) Advocacy and Outreach Committee - Barry Walter

This committee discussed holding a legislative event in March or April. The Board discussed possibilities for public donor recognition.

Slagle stated that he and Ron Oja attended the Upper Peninsula State Fair.

The Board discussed the winter NASVH conference and highlighted that Steve Rolston is the Midwest Regional Director and Ryan Engle was elected Second Vice President and will become President in two years. Michigan will have a great influence in a group of 169 other state veteran homes.

## 8. **New Business**

- 1) The Board discussed that the November Board meeting may be cancelled if there are no critical action items on the agenda.
- 2) A motion to accept the MVFA Board Meeting schedule for 2025 as presented was made by Rutledge and seconded by Slagle. The motion was passed.

**9. Public Comment**

- 1) A member of the MVHCT discussed a need for flags for veteran memorial services. The member also expressed his appreciation for the Home, the community, and Jennifer Manning. He reminded the Board to use the men and women who live in this home for advocacy – they are their greatest asset. The member ended by thanking the board for their advocacy and support.
- 2) Ryan stated there are opportunities for the Board members to participate in the Veterans Day events and others being held in the coming weeks and months at each of the homes.

**10. Board Comment**

- 1) Walters thanked the board members for their input and the Chesterfield member for his attendance and comments.
- 2) Slagle expressed his appreciation for the administrators who have the toughest job second only to the DONs.
- 3) Turner thanked the board and stated that he is happy to be there.
- 4) Bauer stated he is very impressed with the way the homes are run evident by the results of each home's performance.
- 5) Love commented that in the eleven months he has served the MVAA, he has seen only consistent strong and thoughtful leadership from MVH leadership and staff and appreciates them along with what the board is doing.
- 6) Robbins shared his amazement with the success of Chesterfield. He congratulated all involved with that success.

**11. Motion**

Rutledge motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Turner. The motion was passed.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M.

*Braley Slagle For: Mary Anne Shannon*  
MaryAnne Shannon  
MVFA Board Secretary