



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

March 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 requested a roll call of members present. The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: David Henry, Brad Slagle, MaryAnne Shannon, David Rutledge, Nancy Susick.

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

Virtual Guests: Kenneth Robbins, Leon Bauer, Steve Rolston, Ron Oja, Carly MacDonald, Jennifer Manning, et.al.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Henry requested a motion to motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated March 18, 2025. The motion was made by Shannon and seconded by Rutledge. The motion passed.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments made.

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes

Chairman Henry offered to entertain a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 18, 2025, meeting. The motion was made by Slagle and seconded by Henry, and the motion passed with no discussion.

6. Executive Director's Report

6.1. Update on the Replacement Facility for MVH D.J. Jacobetti – Anne Zerbe, Executive Director

Contractor bids for the Jacobetti replacement project are in and being reviewed with anticipated selection with within the next 1-2 weeks. Final bid documents are being submitted to the VA in that timeframe as well.

We estimate that costs have escalated as much as 15% since the original budgets were developed, due to the Buy America Build America Act and other economic changes. The board decided to change the May meeting to Thursday, May 22, in Marquette, in anticipation of a Friday, May 23, ground-breaking. Staff will organize a dinner and an open house.

All 3 homes currently have a 5-star rating. Of the 421 nursing homes in Michigan, Grand Rapids and Chesterfield are tied for 11th in the state, and Jacobetti ranks 13th.

6.2. Update on the Status of Board Appointments – Ryan Engle, Director of Development and Strategic Engagement

There are currently no vacancies on the Board. However, there are 4 appointments reaching expiration in April 2025. Mr. Bauer will not seek reappointment, and he was thanked for his time and service to the Board. The remaining 3 have committed to continue their positions.

6.3. Update on MVHCT – Jennifer Manning, Administrator

The current census at Chesterfield is 125 of 128, leaving availability for any necessary movement or urgent admissions. There is one admission scheduled for April 1. There was a Covid outbreak affecting 18 members across 3 households. All members have recovered with no negative impact. Paxlovid was given at that time. Chesterfield is currently in their CMS expected survey window and anticipate the visit in late May or early June. The VA survey is expected sometime in July.

6.4. Update on MVHDJJ – Ron Oja, Administrator

The census at D.J. Jacobetti is currently 108 plus one admission scheduled for 3/19/25. There was a brief flu outbreak recently, and they have all since recovered. The DON transition is going well. The home expects their VA survey in April. On a final note, Ron shared that Ann Barsch retired last week after 30 years of service.

6.5. Update on MVHGR – Carly MacDonald, Administrator

The census at Grand Rapids is 117 with one more admission today. The home has gained 5 members over the past 45 days, but they lost 7. For the VA survey, MVHGR submitted POC which was accepted. They were awarded the provisional license certificate and are in full compliance with VA. The home expects the CMS survey in April.

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

Rolston reported that preparations for the move in Marquette include the challenges of trying to staff two buildings at one time. The Board discussed the challenges, such as the lack of nursing schools in the area now, the inability of the state to compete with corporate incentive programs, and the need to be proactive with 2027 budget development and staffing plans.

6.7. Legislative Branch Changes – Anne Zerbe

To date, there have been no direct operational impacts from legislative policy changes, nor has MVH experienced any interruption with the State Home Per Diem program or the construction grant program as that funding was established in 2024. Staff will monitor member services to identify any interruption in their care due to changes. This topic will remain on the agenda going forward. A bill addressing the high cost of medications (House Resolution 1970) is not supported by the VA. The NASVH president recently testified in front of the Subcommittee on Health for the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

7. **Committee Updates**

7.1. Executive Committee - David Henry

7.1.1. The bylaws and board policies were shared last meeting for review. Chair Henry called for a motion to adopt which was made by Shannon and seconded by Slagle. The motion passed with a roll call vote.

Henry:	Yes
Rutledge:	Yes
Shannon:	Yes
Slagle:	Yes
Susick:	Yes

7.1.2. New Policy MVFA-GEN 007 - Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Confidentiality was introduced. This policy addresses honesty, transparency, and confidentiality and includes an acknowledgment affirming compliance. A motion was made by Slagle to approve the policy and was seconded by Shannon. Chair Henry requested a roll call vote, and the motion passed.

Henry:	Yes
Rutledge:	Yes



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Shannon: Yes
Slagle: Yes
Susick: Yes

7.1.3. Henry has tasked Slagle to lead the Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation Committee with up to 3 more board members (to volunteer or be appointed). Zerbe added that the auditors have also requested a policy providing a broad outline of the board's expectations for the Leadership Team's role in oversight and management.

7.2. Budget and Finance – Ken Robbins

The Financial Oversight Committee meeting was held on March 5. Reports revealed trending in the right directions for FY25, focusing on occupancy and expenditure control/monitoring. The team is waiting for legislation to close FY24. Projections for FY2025 also anticipate approval of the land supplement. If the legislation is not passed, the risk level becomes moderate.

The Charitable Support Fund of \$3.2 million increased about \$59,000 from November, mostly resulting from receipts taken in. Audits for the MVFA and the performance audit are still ongoing with no update. T

7.3. Quality and Compliance Committee – MaryAnne Shannon

The statement for the purpose of this committee was approved by the committee members and shared with the Board. There is no change in the quarterly information at this time, but there will be new quarterly information in April. Staff are currently working on additional reporting to support that goal. Finally, Board Effect is still in the review process, so the status remains unchanged.

7.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Ryan Engle

The committee plan to meet next month. The purpose of this committee is outreach, advocacy and development. With the warmer weather will come events focused on get the members outside which also creates opportunities to connect the community to the work of MVH: March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, May 20 is flag placement at the cemetery in Grand Rapids, May 23 is the tentative date for the groundbreaking of the new home in Marquette, June 7 is the annual Walk, Run and Roll event at the veteran home in Chesterfield, which is an event for people of all abilities. Jacobetti is having a pancake breakfast on June 14, to name a few. A monthly e-newsletter is available for subscription delivered to inboxes the first of every month. Articles highlight events such as those listed above as well as career opportunities at each of the homes.

Some of the recent legislative events include a bipartisan bill, HR785, which was introduced in Congress to allow NASVH to have a seat on the Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee. This group advises the Secretary of the VA on matters with respect to aging veterans. HR1970 creates a methodology for high-cost medication reimbursement to stay at veteran homes, which was discussed earlier. Director Zerbe testified to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee sharing some insight to MVH's work. Immediately following this meeting, Director Zerbe will meet with the House Policy Standing Committee to share MVH's work and provide introduction to the homes.

MVH has been the recipient of ongoing generosity in various forms. Yesterday, the DAV donated \$10,000 to the Charitable Support Fund, with similar gifts shared in Grand Rapids and Marquette.

Finally, last week was Long Term Care Administrator's Week, and Engle stated that MVH is fortunate to have incredible administrators. Also, March is Social Workers month.

The Board discussed ways that it contributes to the mission with funding gifts as well as their donated time. Some also dedicate donations to the memory of loved ones.

8. New Business

Discussion of fiscal year close and performance audits. MVH is waiting on fiscal year close to finish the financial audit. MVH has received preliminary audit findings for the performance audit, consisting of three reportable findings and no material findings.

Chris LaJoie provided an update on his AHCA Future Leaders program.

The board received a letter from a member asking them to consider raising the personal care allowance. This will be addressed in the Financial committee with recommendation reported to the full board.

9. Public Comment – There were no public comments.

10. Board Comments

Shannon commented that she hopes the board chairs consider committee descriptions so when Board Effect is activated, that information will be ready to share.

11. Adjournment

Brad Slagle motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Nancy Susick. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Minutes certified by:

MaryAnne Shannon: _____

MVFA Board Secretary

Date: _____