MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES

MICHIGAN VETERANS' FACILITY AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 16, 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 Michigan Veteran Homes at Grand Rapids, 2950 Monroe Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Attendance Roll Call**

   Chair Henry requested a roll call from members present. The following MVFA Board of Directors were present: Chairman David Henry, David Rutledge, MaryAnne Shannon, Brad Slagle, Nancy Susick, Barry Walter, Carla Wilson-Neil, Brian Love. There was a quorum present.

   Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) staff present: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Jason Geissler (AG), Ryan Engle, Niki Wheeler, Chris LaJoie, Tiffany Carr, and Lynda Wagner.

   Virtual Guests: Shawn Turner, Mike Hassan, Erica Bobrowski, Ron Oja, Melissa Velie, et.al.

3. **Adoption of Agenda**

   A motion was made by Slagle to adopt the agenda dated September 16, 2025, as presented, and it was supported by Rutledge. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**

   Henry welcomed visitor Terry Holecek, Superintendent of the Ohio Veteran Homes, who toured MVHGR with Engle and LaJoie to gain a better understanding of MVH's operation.

5. **Approval of Proposed Minutes**

   Henry proposed approving the minutes of the July 15, 2025, meeting as presented. Approval was unanimous.

6. **Executive Director's Report**

   Zerbe explained that preparation has begun by MVH Leadership who submitted 7-day and 30-day plans to ensure the homes operate efficiently in the event a state shutdown occurs due to a possible legislative impasse of the FY26 State budget.

   Zerbe also announced that BoardEffect is ready for use. Agendas and supporting documents for this meeting will be added to the libraries in BoardEffect for all to review. Training will take place in the coming days, and board members are encouraged to use this platform to submit documents for board meetings going forward.

   The OAG performance audit is complete and has been released to the public with no notable feedback from same. The IT audit is underway with Velie managing the field work.

   6.1. <u>Update on the replacement project for MVH DJ Jacobetti</u>
   Hassan presented a deck highlighting the current status of the new construction project, photos of progress, and a projected timeline for completion. Zerbe added that the only anticipated impact, should a shutdown occur, would be the timeliness of payments processed with expected minimal

essential staff in that case. Zerbe also clarified the difference between BABA (Build America Buy America) and BAA (Buy American).

6.2. Status of Board Appointments

Engle shared that the Governor appointed Carla Wilson-Neil to the MVFA Board on July 21, 2025. One vacant seat remains with a viable candidate in current discussions.

6.3. Operational Status of MVHCT

Manning reports a nearly full capacity in the low 120's. At this time, there are no members positive for Covid with two having been resolved this week.

The VA and CMS Surveys are complete for the year with no life safety concerns, no clinical concerns, and 1 operation concern which is currently being corrected.

MVHCT is rated the number one home in the state by CMS. A celebration is planned for the employees. Henry encouraged board members to assist with monetary donations.

6.4. Operational Status of MVHDJJ

MVHDJJ has a census of 108 and is currently in their CMS survey season. Oja reported that a provisional certification from the VA is in place with full certification expected by December 1.

One staff has tested positive with Covid which they expect will have little impact on the members as the contact was minimal. Follow-up infection control measures continue to protect the members and staff.

6.5. Operational Status of MVHGR

MacDonald reported a census of 126 with a couple more admissions upcoming.

MVHGR recently achieved a 5-star rating, though the recent CMS top-line report did not include the latest survey information for MVHGR.

MVHGR is focusing on their laundry vendor as they struggle with staffing. The survey season does not begin for MVHGR until December, so they are taking this time to address those issues prior to the next survey.

6.6. Operational Status of MVH – Steve Rolston

The current project involves moving all three homes to a more consistent admissions process. One of the first steps will be a visit from the Chesterfield admissions coordinator with the Jacobetti admissions coordinator. Zerbe will research the impact of a possible shutdown on the admission process but expects that we will hold admissions, except for emergency admissions.

7. Committee Updates

7.1. Executive Committee - David Henry

7.1.1. The proposed CY26 MVFA meeting dates and locations were presented. Henry proposed that the schedule be accepted and published as written with the May meeting being held in Chesterfield, July in Grand Rapids, and September in Marquette. Rutledge moved to approve and publish the dates and locations, seconded by Shannon. The motion was carried unanimously.

The NASVH Winter Conference is February 3-5, 2026. Henry encouraged board members to consider attending as it affords the opportunity to advocate for MVH and support Engle who will become president in Summer 2026.

7.2. Budget and Finance – Brad Slagle, Chair

The committee met September 3, and the report data was explained. The census has increased, especially with service-connected veterans. Though there has been a decrease in the monthly assessment revenue, the VA revenue continues to rise, increasing the budget overall. The year will close with a balanced budget. There is a request for a transfer of funds for the land acquisition in Marquette, but there are funds to cushion that impact if the request is not approved.

July has seen $140,000 in charitable donations, mostly from a couple of large estates. There are several fundraising events upcoming including Wreaths Across America in December. Henry encouraged the group to think about ways to increase fundraising including corporate opportunities for participation.

The OAIS Financial Audit is ongoing, and an outside auditing firm, Andrews Hooper Pavlik PLC, has been contracted to undertake the task.

Slagle proposed approval of the methodology of the monthly assessment rates stated in the CY26 Monthly Assessment Rate memo of a 2.7% increase which would be applied once the COLA and VA per diem rates are made available. Rutledge seconded the proposal. A vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously carried.

7.3. Quality and Compliance Committee – MaryAnne Shannon, Chair

The committee met August 20 and discussed the quality improvement software called "Interact," is a tool that will help get a better understanding about Member visits to the emergency room from our facilities. The project is currently in the introductory phase at all three homes.

Family Satisfaction Surveys will be conducted in the Fall rather than Summer as in previous years.

Shortly after the August committee meeting, the new CMS guidelines were released and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Wheeler explained the purpose of the Bronze and Silver Awards. Jacobetti will need to reapply for awards once they are in the new location.

7.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Barry Walter, Chair

Walter encouraged board members and the community to participate in the upcoming Veterans Day programs in the homes.

MVHCT and MVHGR are hosting the Thrive training for suicide prevention in partnership with World Makers International. The company services the gap with mental health, fitness, and suicide prevention. The training provides CEU's for staff as well as support for the clinical therapists and mental health workers. Volunteers and family members have participated as well.

Chesterfield will be hosting the National VFW Auxiliary President on Thursday, September 19, providing an excellent opportunity to showcase the homes and services provided.

7.5. Executive Director Performance Review Committee

The new committee was formed with Slagle as chair to meet the requirements of a policy created as a corrective action plan related to an audit finding that one year a performance review of the Executive Director was not done. The group hired a consultant to assist with the procedure. The first meeting with the consultant was September 15, and the process is now underway.

8. New Business

Henry welcomed Wilson-Neil, the newest MVFA Board Member, an Air Force Veteran herself, who shared highlights of her career and experience with veterans.

9. Public Comment

Engle shared that at the Summer 2025 NASVH Conference, LaJoie was nominated and elected to be the networking chair to serve on the NASVH Executive Committee.

Zerbe gave kudos to the MVH Team for their interest and willingness to serve NASVH.

10. Board Comments

Susick had nothing to discuss.

Wilson-Neil had nothing to discuss.

Shannon said she continues to follow the development of the veteran cemetery at Grayling (as does Board Member Walter) that gives greater access for veteran burials in the north. Hopefully it will align cemetery costs/maintenance plans to include our cemetery in Grand Rapids.

Walter commented that this was a great meeting.

Rutledge offered thanks to the group that provided the MVH Notebook to each board member. The display of the logo on the front raises awareness of who MVH is and what they do. He also believes there should be more of that type of advertising.

Slagle again welcomed Wilson-Neil and thanked her for joining the Board. Slagle than asked LaJoie to comment on his role with AHCA, which will be shared after the meeting.

Henry shared that the meeting was great, and he is happy to see everyone present.

Turner welcomed Wilson-Neil, apologized for being virtual vs. in person, and praised the meeting adding that he looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Love shared that there is a great team/department collaboration with our board members.

Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was made by Wilson-Neil and seconded by Susick. The motion was carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Minutes certified by MVFA Board Secretary:

MaryAnne Shannon _____ Date: _____

MVFA Board Secretary