



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

May 22, 2025
10:00 a.m.

MEETING NOTES

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 D.J. Jacobetti, located at 425 Fisher St., Marquette, MI 49855.

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, Nancy Susick. There was not a quorum, so no decisions will be made during this meeting.

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) staff present: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Beth Simonton-Kramer, Mike Hassan, Ryan Engle, Jason Geissler (AG), Don McGehee (AG), Tiffany Carr, Ron Oja, and Ryan Buck, RN.

Virtual Guests: Carly MacDonald, Jennifer Manning, Chris LaJoie, Jodi Visser, Melissa Velie, Niki Wheeler, et.al.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Henry stated we will proceed with the agenda dated May 22, 2025, as presented.

4. Public Comment

Ryan Buck, an RN, addressed the Board regarding the wage increase awarded to long term direct care workers statewide, excluding State of Michigan employees. A copy of the letter was shared.

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes

The minutes from the March 18, 2025, meeting will be presented at the July meeting for approval.

6. Executive Director's Report

6.1. Update on the replacement project for MVH DJ Jacobetti

The Groundbreaking will take place tomorrow, 5/23/25, at 9:30 a.m. Some funds have been released to start sitework over the summer to keep the project on track during the warm temperatures.

- 6.1.1. A large portion of the project is being put out for re-bid in 2 weeks considering recent adjustments that were made with an expected 30-day return. Funding for this project was appropriated in FY24 with no expectation of impact from current economic events. Construction is expected to take 24-30 months with completion and the final move of members expected in Spring of 2028, depending on the outcome of CMS certification. Mike Hassan was introduced and provided a slide handout summarizing the entire construction project. Zerbe explained that although the property has already been purchased, the funds appropriated for the purchase are no longer available. There is a supplemental request for general funds that was presented and has passed through the Senate which will be appropriated for the land purchase.

6.2. Status of Board Appointments

Engle reported that there are currently 2 vacancies on the board, and Turner has not yet been reappointed. Henry has been reappointed by the governor.

6.3. MVHCT

Manning reported that the census is currently at 126. CMS survey began Monday, May 19, and the surveyors exited Wednesday, May 21. No clinical citations are expected.

6.4. MVHDJJ

The census is at 101. MVHDJJ had the VA survey last week with no care citations expected. The fire marshal inspected as well; we are awaiting a final report.

6.5. MVHGR

The census is at 124. Construction on the roof damage was completed and the rooms damaged by the storm have been reopened. MVHGR is admitting at an average rate of 2 members per week. The CMS Survey was conducted last April with 2 infection control concerns about staff not following the new enhanced barrier precautions. There were no life safety code issues. The top line report from AHCA was recently received indicating that MVHGR is ranked 10th in the state continuing a 5-star rating.

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

The team is working on a transition plan with timeline for staffing changes. MVHDJJ was certified yesterday for the RCA training program. Training can now commence as they will be converting nursing positions to CNA positions in preparation for the need in covering 6 households instead of the current 5 units.

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. The only impact experienced has been a delay in receiving information for submitted grant requests or documents that require memorandums of understanding with the VA.

7. **Committee Updates**

7.1. Executive Committee - David Henry

7.1.1. Election of Officers

Officer elections cannot take place at this meeting. Slagle expressed that he is willing to take the Treasury position and is interested in being elected to the post. He also stated there is a need for 1 or 2 more board members to join the Budget & Finance Committee. Shannon expressed interest in remaining in the secretary role. Slagle asked for a couple board members willing to assist with the Executive Director Performance Evaluation Committee. Walter and Turner were suggested by Henry. The location of the July and September meetings was discussed. Hearing no preference, Henry stated the July 15 meeting will be held in Chesterfield, and the September 16 meeting will be in Grand Rapids. The administrators agreed.

7.1.2. The performance audit has been ongoing for approximately 18 months and continues.

Preliminary audit findings have been shared, but the final decision is still open. Based on those preliminary findings, there is not enough information shared to consider responses.

7.2. Budget and Finance – Brad Slagle



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When 2024 was closed, there was \$317,766 shortfall carried over to FY25, pending supplemental funds which have not yet been applied. The Charitable Support Fund is at \$3.3M and continues to grow. It was reported that the percentage of service-connected veterans continues to increase in each of the homes.

A letter from a member submitted to board requested individual allowance be increased. The VA and Medicare amount of allowance is exceeded currently, so the recommendation from the Finance Committee is not to increase allowance at this time. The vote will need to be deferred to the next meeting.

7.3. Quality and Compliance Committee – MaryAnne Shannon

A quarterly report was developed looking at trending. A copy was shared with the Board. There was discussion about the content of this report going forward as well as annual member and staff surveys. Engaging staff to respond in numbers that provide meaningful data has been a challenge.

7.4. Strategic Engagement Committee – Ryan Engle

The flag placement ceremony was held in Grand Rapids yesterday (5/21/2025). The Groundbreaking will be held at the new site for MVHDJJ on 5/23/25 at 9:30 a.m. June 7 is the Annual Walk, Run, Roll event at MVHCT. Jacobetti will hold the First Annual Community Pancake Breakfast on June 14.

MVHCT entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chesterfield local government to convert the back of the property into a park for members, their families, and the community alike.

A high-cost medication bill, The Essential Medication Act, was introduced early this year. NASVH has testified twice before Congress. The bipartisan bill has 14 co-sponsors including 3 Michigan Representatives and 3 Members of Congress.

Rep. Kathy Schmaltz visited MVHGR recently which was her first visit to an MVH home. Rep. Ron Robinson visited Chesterfield recently as well.

Members of the Board and MVH Leadership spoke on NMU Media. The discussion will air over the coming weekend and stream online. YouTube videos are available tools to view as well.

8. New Business

The BoardEffect system has been approved. The kick-off call has taken place, and the timeline will be 60-90 days to begin training board members.

Engle shared a timeline of the events for tomorrow's groundbreaking with 150-175 attendees expected.

9. Public Comment – Members were addressed by Henry. One member responded, "It's been great here."

10. Board Comments

Slagle encouraged the group to thank the legislators in attendance as they have provided support for grants for funding, co-sponsoring the high-cost meds bill, and Steve and Ryan who are active in NASVH whose efforts also assist with securing federal funds for construction, Jim Dunn and Jim Redford whose efforts got MVH to where is now.

Susick stated how impressed she is by all the work done on each of the sites, as well as the leadership team.

Henry commented that MVFA is sensitive to the wage pass through and advocated all the way to the governor's office. MVFA will continue to advocate, but the decision rests in the state budget and executive office.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

certified by:

MaryAnne Shannon: _____
MVFA Board Secretary

Date: _____