



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

February 20, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**PROPOSED MINUTES**

A meeting of the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted at the DTMB State Facilities Administration Building, 3111 W. St. Joseph Highway, Lansing, MI 48917.

**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, MaryAnne Shannon (via telephone), Brad Slagle, Barry Walter, Leon Bauer Ken Robbins (via telephone), David Rutledge (via telephone).

Excused Absence: Brian Love

Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Executive Leadership Team: Beth Simonton-Kramer, AAG Jason Geissler, Lynne Myszak

Virtual Guests: Steve Rolston, Ryan Engle, Tiffany Carr, Erica Bobrowski, Sara Brys, Mike Hassan, Carly Lincoln, Carly MacDonald, Jennifer Manning, Ron Oja, Linda Smith, Courtney Tweedale, Melissa Velie.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

*David Henry recommended moving the Governance and Advocacy Committee Report on the agenda to precede the Executive Director's Report. Henry, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept change of agenda item order. The motion passed 5-0.*

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Approval of Proposed Minutes**

*Slagle, seconded by Walter, motioned to adopt the minutes from the September 19, 2023, meeting. The motion passed 5-0.*

### **Governance and Advocacy Committee – David Rutledge**

- Chair David Rutledge reported that the Board Packet includes a complete listing of the Board's bylaws and policies, and other introductory information helpful for new members. As changes are needed, they will come before the committee to be reviewed and then recommendations regarding any requested change will then flow to the board. Items that need to be signed annually will be included in this board packet at the first meeting of the year. At the second meeting, the board will ratify the bylaws and policies.
- Mr. Rutledge reported that he enjoyed the opportunity to attend NASVH and the Executive Committee Meeting. Mr. Engle shared a slide show highlighting the advocacy efforts of the team on the Hill.

### **6. Executive Director's Report, Ryan Engle reported on behalf of Executive Director Anne Zerbe who was absent.**

- Mr. Engle discussed the status of replacement of the DJJ home. This year's federal grant priority list has not been released. Negotiations with the City of Marquette for property are ongoing. The Environmental Response Action Plan is being submitted to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs for review and/or approval. When released it will be made public and posted on our website for comment.
- There are two remaining vacancies on the board. The Speaker of the House and the Office of the Senate Majority Leader are both aware of the vacancies. Staff has communicated with those offices and the Governor's Appointment Office.

### **Update on MVH Operations, Steve Rolston – MVH COO**

- MVH conducted a Board of Appeals hearing regarding an admission decision at MVHGR. The Board of Appeals overturned the denial of admission on 1/12/2024. The member was admitted on 1/24/2024.
- An inventory management system has been fully implemented at all three homes. A follow-up in March 2024 will be conducted to see how effective it has been and if changes are needed.
- Construction plans for the new home reflect numerous design and analysis meetings to keep the project within budget.
- All three homes are now five-star facilities under CMS. MVHGR and MVHCT are under CMS staffing audit due to higher levels of staffing being reported.
- The incumbent of psychiatric services in all three homes were reviewed. The incumbent was renewed in two of the homes for environmental services, and we are currently evaluating narcotic dispensing systems.
- We have ADR audits at MVHCT and MVHDJJ, where Medicare reaches out and requests additional documents to make sure the billing for services were appropriate, and their requests are being processed.
- A mock survey was conducted at MVHGR, and another mock survey is underway at MVHDJJ. The MVHCT mock survey is scheduled for May. Life safety code compliance and physical plant visits have been completed at all three homes.

**Update on MVH at Chesterfield Township – Jennifer Manning, Administrator**

- The current census is 124 members. Staffing remains consistent with one CNA contract company. The home is due for a CMS survey.

**Update on MVHDJJ – Ron Oja, Administrator**

- A CMS survey was conducted in September, and the home received 1 citation on the health side, for Hospice coordination of care. The life safety team received 5 citations for door closings, smoke penetrations, etc. CMS did a desk review, and MVHDJJ is back in compliance. The health survey rating increased from three-star to a five-star, and quality measures and staffing are also five stars.

**Update on MVHGR – Carly MacDonald, Administrator**

- The census is currently 116. A VA annual survey was conducted in January with positive reaction. There were three areas of concern: falls, weight loss, and care plans. MVHGR also received a citation for pharmacy sharing agreement. MVHGR are awaiting CMS state survey.

**7. Committee Updates**

**7.1 Executive Committee – Chair David Henry**

- Chair Henry welcomed new MVFA Board Member Leon Bauer.
- Chair Henry has assigned Leon Bauer to the Outreach and Fund Development Committee. Mr. Bauer accepted the assignment.

**Proposed 2024 Board Meeting Dates**

- March 19, 2024
- May 21, 2024
- July 23, 2024
- September 24, 2024
- November 19, 2024

*Walter, second by Slagle, motioned to adopt the 2024 meeting calendar. The motion passed 5-0.*

**Update on Office of Auditor General (OAG) Performance Audit**

- The OAG is auditing the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority (MVFA), looking at the performance of the board, its governance, and monitoring of the homes. The OAG is generally meeting onsite on Wednesdays in Lansing or Grand Rapids. The OAG may talk to board members regarding participation in board meetings and what governance looks like. This is the first survey since the reorganization and will last approximately six months.

**7.2 Budget and Financial Oversight Committee -- Ken Robbins**

- The veteran homes requested and was approved 14.5 million in supplemental appropriations for FY2023.

- The charitable support fund for FY 2023 ended with a balance of \$2.7 million which was an increase of \$297,558 over fiscal year 2022; there were offset expenditures of \$409,000.
- The fiscal year 2024 is estimated to have a shortfall of about \$4.2 million. That is a decrease of the \$6 million with the offset by a carry forward of \$3.5 million from 2023.
- The support fund reflects a balance of \$2.8 million plus \$1 million, with revenues for 2024 so far of \$167,900.
- The \$104.2 million in state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 was included in the governor's budget recommendation and that is an increase of \$15.9 million over 2024 budget.
- The annual comprehensive financial report includes the OAG's opinion and is located on the Michigan Veteran Homes website under legislation.
- The number of service-connected disabled veterans that are rated at 70% or higher being admitted continues to increase.

#### **7.4 Outreach and Fund Development Committee – Barry Walter**

- Mr. Walter complimented Ryan Engle and Tiffany Carr for their schedule of activities and bringing the public face to the facilities.
- Mr. Engle recommended that given the cost estimates in excess of \$2.6 million for a columbarium, Michigan Veteran Homes should not pursue a capital campaign at this time. Mr. Walter would like the Board to consider making an official position statement about the columbarium.
- MVH has been unable to secure CRM software to manage donorship communications.

#### **8 New Business**

- Chair Henry reported that Appeals Board Member Harold Mast recently passed away. Board Secretary MaryAnne Shannon will send a card to the family to express appreciation for his many contributions and long service with the board.

#### **9 Public Comment**

- None

#### **10 Board Comments**

- **Leon Bauer** – Requests more information about the admissions process/criteria. Mr. Slagle stated that he will assist Leon on the process.
- **Barry Walter** – Pleasure to see everyone in person and welcome to Leon. The Board should consider making a policy statement regarding the columbarium.
- **Brad Slagle** – Encourages the Board to consider having meetings at the other Homes. We need to continue to encourage the VA to address the problem of the service-connected disabled veterans with high-cost drugs and the burden that is being placed on the state veteran homes. This was discussed at NASVH and this needs to be a priority. The VA also should increase the standard per diem to pay up to 50% of the cost. And welcome to Mr. Bauer.

- **Ken Robbins** – Welcome Leon Bauer to the board. He looks forward to seeing everybody in person at the next board meeting. Thank you to everybody who helped with the Finance committee meetings. Thank you to the MVH team for covering so well during Anne’s absence.
- **MaryAnne Shannon** – Welcome to Leon to the board as a fellow nurse. There is a real value in having meetings at the different facilities and she hopes the board will consider that option again.
- **Chair Henry** – Echoes the Board’s comments and will put Mr. Walter’s request on the agenda.

#### **11 Closed Session**

- Motion to enter closed session offered by Mr. Slagle. Discussion of number of members required to go into closed session. Motion withdrawn by Mr. Slagle due to insufficient number of members present to meet the 2/3 member statutory requirement.

#### **12 Adjournment**

*Motion for adjournment by Walter. Second by Slagle. Motion passed 5-0.*  
At 11:38 a.m., the meeting was adjourned.

MaryAnne Shannon,  
MVFA Board Secretary