



MICHIGAN VETERAN HOMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 6, 2020
1:00 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Michigan Veteran Homes (MVH) Board of Directors was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair David Henry. The meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams due to Governor Whitmer's Stay Home Stay Safe executive order. This meeting was conducted in conjunction with the MVH Board of Managers meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Attendance Roll Call

Chair David Henry called for a roll call of members present.

The following MVH Board of Directors were present: Zaneta Adams, Henry Boutros, David Henry, Mary Naber, Kenneth Robbins, David Rutledge, MaryAnne Shannon, Brad Slagle, Larry Yachcik

MVH Board of Managers: James Ausdemore, Deborah Chambers, Robert Johnson, Harold Mast, Shane Preston

MVH Executive Leadership Team: Anne Zerbe, Steve Rolston, Fred Schaible, Tracey Nelson, Ron Oja, Niki Wheeler, Melissa Velie, Mike Hassan, and Patty Altimore

MVH Affiliates: Christine Apostol, Erica Bobrowski, Tiffany Carr, Corey Dean, Sean Depuydt, Rachel Eldridge, Lindell Holm, Sarah Mellon, Assistant Attorney General Katie Waskiewicz

3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Adams, seconded by Shannon, motioned to accept the meeting agenda dated May 6, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Proposed Minutes Dated December 10, 2019

Adams, seconded by Slagle, motioned to accept the meeting minutes dated December 10, 2019 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

6. Approval of Proposed Minutes Dated February 18, 2020

Shannon, seconded by Naber, motioned to accept the meeting minutes dated February 18, 2020 as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

7. MVH Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Anne Zerbe presented an overview of the MVH response to the COVID-19 pandemic which highlighted the strict employee screening process, a clarification of PPE levels, a recap of COVID-19 test results for members and staff, and the MVH Response Plan.

The following data reflects the COVID-19 testing results as of 7:30 a.m. on May 6, 2020:

Facility	Tested	Results
DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans	33 Members	32-negative 1 positive (recovered)
DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans	14 Staff	13-negative 1-positive (recovered)
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans	48 Members	45-negative 3-positive (active cases in the isolation unit)
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans	125 Staff	69-negative 53-pending 3-positive (active cases, not working in facility)

MaryAnne Shannon asked if the tests administered were COVID-19 antibody tests. Anne Zerbe clarified that the tests were diagnostic.

Chair Henry remarked that the MVH Leadership Team performed exceptionally well in prevention and containment of the virus. He also asked what the MVH board members could do to assist with this initiative.

MVH staff replied that transparency is key and getting the message out in the forefront is crucial. This transparency has been evident by regular email updates to staff, members, member families, board members, legislators, and federal elected officials.

David Rutledge inquired as to the amount of interest the federal government has shown in the response efforts of the MVH.

MVH staff stated that the receipt of a positive test result is immediately reported to the VA. The federal government is taking a heightened interest in the veteran homes and communication lines are open.

Mary Naber commended the MVH Leadership Team for their proactive measures and communication efforts.

Larry Yachcik stressed the importance of MVH proactive communication efforts and connecting with member families.

MVH staff stated that weekly calls and/or emails have been made to member families since mid-March, notifying them of positive test result(s) and plans of action associated with the Homes.

MaryAnne Shannon echoed Larry Yachcik's sentiments.

Ken Robbins stressed the importance of the COVID-19 Response Plan and inquired as to who provided the medical input in the plan.

MVH staff remarked that a combination of information from the MVH Director of Compliance and Outcomes, MVH Chief Operations Officer, CDC guidance, and information provided by other state homes was used in the development of the plan.

Brad Slagle noted that the leadership team is doing a great job on the front line; he has confidence in the MVH leadership and steps taken.

Tracey Nelson, GRHV administrator, provided an update on the ramifications of the virus to GRHV members and staff: walks have stopped within the facility, member smoking has temporarily ceased, no floor to floor visiting, no communal dining, and members are restricted to their room. On a positive note, there has been an uptick in activities for members, FaceTime visits are conducted with family members, and member window visits are provided with families/friends. She added that member families have been very supportive, and staff have kept them apprised of any changes affiliated with the Homes and members.

Ron Oja is the new administrator at the DJ Jacobetti Home for Veterans. He noted that this pandemic has been challenging; unlike anything experienced previously. The DJJHV staff has done a wonderful job engaging members with activities like hallway Bingo and Facetime with family and friends.

8. Update on New Homes Construction

Mike Hassan offered the board a review of the construction status by reviewing the project milestones and providing an updated timeline. The construction teams at the new facilities will be briefed at the end of the week and work resumes on May 11, 2020.

Steve Rolston commended the MVH Leadership Team on the stupendous job they have exhibited in alternate job roles. In addition, the communication efforts demonstrated by MVH staff has developed a great working relationship with the Kent and Marquette County Health Departments staff.

9. Public Comments

None

10. Board Comments

Zaneta Adams commented that the MVH Leadership Team was doing a fabulous job, citing proactive initiatives versus reactive. On another note, the MVAA regional coordination efforts will be revamped in the near future.

Brad Slagle sincerely voiced kudos to the leadership team and appreciates the work performed by all.

David Rutledge had nothing new to add except "thank you".

Ken Robbins reiterated what the other board members conveyed and stresses the need to continue diligence and aggression regarding COVID-19. He closed by stating that he is honored to be a part of the board.

Larry Yachcik welcomed Ken Robbins to the board.

MaryAnne Shannon echoed board comments and appreciates the high morale of MVH staff.

Henry Boutros stated that the response of the MVH looks good.

Chair Henry encouraged Larry Yachcik and Brad Slagle to raise funds for staff appreciation during the pandemic.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.



Bradford Slagle,
MVFA Board Secretary