

George E. Wahlen
Ogden Veterans Home
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2020 3:00 PM

Attendance

Curt Oda, Jim Harvey, Robert (Tex) Crawford, Tressa Quayle, Jory Wahlen, Paula Stephenson, Jacqueline Peterson, Jeff Hanson, Carl Hugie

Welcome

Chairman Curt Oda welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prayer-Jim Harvey and Pledge of Allegiance-Jeff Hanson

Approval of December minutes

Minutes were approved.

Resident Council Update

Reported on the number of Veterans who have passed this last couple of months. Tex talked about attendance at the Resident Council on the first Monday of the month. He stated that he was quite happy that more residents are attending and getting involved at the Veterans Home. He talked about the dining process and stated that Carl had decided to change back to old system. Cart stated that food quality was poor and the web base system was simply not working. Tex talked about all the wonderful activities that went on during the past two months. He encouraged board members to attend these events.

State Officer's Report

All board members went on a tour of the facility and Jacquee reported on all completed/ongoing projects. Board members were excited about the changes. She reported on the Salt Water Aquarium for the front entry and memory care. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony when they are installed. Maintenance on the aquariums will be done monthly and Avalon will pay for this maintenance.

Administrator's report

Carl thanked the board for speaking with MG (Ret) Cook who is now an Executive Board Member for Avalon Healthcare Corporation. Carl stated that the new food ordering system has not been working well in the kitchen. We have always used a paper system and he wanted to move towards a more modern tablet ordering system. The residents could go in and order what they wanted on the tablet but the system was not what he expected. The quality of the food and recipes were nowhere near the quality that our Veterans deserve. It caused our staff in the kitchen to work harder not more efficient. As of today we have reverted back to our paper menus and Crandall menus but will still continue to look at a better system to make this process more efficient. He stated that over the past two months he has completed a wage market evaluation and after completion of this study we have now increased our wages.

Total cost annually: \$415,000 and \$373,000 direct care. We are now above the median level in this area for our wages. Increased our number of employees from 220 to 250. VA Survey will be in the month of March and CMS Survey will be due in April.

Executive Director's Report

Jeff reported on the National Association of State Veterans Home (NASVH) winter conference in Washington DC. There are 158 state veterans' homes throughout the nation. At the conference we have great interaction with other veteran's home and VA leadership. He reported on the three items that were discussed with our congressional liaisons at Capitol Hill: 1) Provide \$250 million to significantly reduce the backlog of State Home Construction Grants. There are currently 80 pending grant requests. For FY 2020 VA requested \$150 million but Congress only appropriated \$90 million which would only allow to be able to fund just 14 pending grant requests. 2) Support legislation to eliminate duplicative state home inspections surveys. We currently undergo an annual inspection survey by VA that reviews clinical practices and life safety protocols, as well as a financial audit and a CMS Survey. The association is lobbying to delete one of those surveys and just have our VA Survey. Currently 4 out of 17 legislators have signed HB 4138. 3) Fix recent regulations that threaten the viability of state home domiciliary care programs. The state of Utah currently does not provide this level of care due to cost constraints. Hopefully this will be resolved and be more cost efficient to operate. Adult Day Care Status: Three states Michigan, Hawaii, New York who currently have adult day cares. VA is now paying 65% of prevailing rate to operate the day care but the VA is right now trying to change this reimbursement. Costs for transportation is very expensive. We would have to contract out for transportation. If we receive a high per diem for a Veterans we must provide transportation to and from the facility. In order to qualify the Veteran must be an hour away from our facility. Further discussion to place the Adult Day Care at the GEWOVH will be ongoing. Jeff reported on that the contracts for the Salt Lake Veterans Home and Ogden Veterans Home will be up at the end of September. He is currently working on the RFP to send out to bid.

Old Business

New Logo has been approved and Carl will bring in examples to show next board meeting.

New Business

Curt reported on the membership for the Top of Utah Military Affairs (TOMAC).

Next Meeting

March 19, 2020 at 3:00pm

Adjourn

Chairman Curt Oda adjourned the meeting