



GEORGE E. WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2021 3:00 PM
Virtual & Call-In Meeting

Attendance

Curt Oda, Tex Crawford, Jory Wahlen, Paula Stephenson, Lacy Bizios, Steven Steed, Jeff Hanson, Carl Hugie, Jim Harvey

Welcome

Chairman Curt Oda welcomed everyone to the meeting. Lacy gave an opening prayer, and Paula led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of December 16, 2020 minutes

A motion was made by Tex and seconded to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Advisory Board

Curt stated that Paula was selected to be the Vice Chair for this Advisory Board, which was approved by the Department of Utah Veteran and Military Affairs leadership.

Resident Council Update

Tex reported on activities through the months of January, February, and March 2021, with calendars distributed to Board members. Recreation is doing a wonderful job of keeping up the spirits of the residents. The Resident Council's April meeting will be in person in the Multipurpose Room adhering to social distancing. Starting Monday, March 22, family members will be allowed into resident rooms in A community, with gradual opening with the other communities if all goes well. This is due to the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Visitation Policy change on March 10, 2021 stating indoor visits were okay with or without vaccinations. COVID restriction still apply for those visits. Residents are treated very well and staff is remarkable to work all day long with all the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). During the past three months there have been ten Veterans and one spouse pass away in the facility.

Administrator's Report (Avalon)

A COVID update was presented, with 98% vaccination rate among residents, 12 COVID cases since March 2020, no deaths have been directly related to COVID, 70% of staff being vaccinated. All staff have returned to work and of those vaccinated, no one has gotten COVID. Up to ten visitors at a time will be allowed in A-Pod, will not have the glass barriers, but doors to the rooms will be open. Visits will be allowed for 30 minutes to give all residents the opportunity for visitors. Visitors will be tested for symptoms at the front door. If a patient has been vaccinated, they can take the risk of "touch" (hugs). If all goes well, B-Pod will open on March 23, C-Pod on March 24, and D-Pod on March 25. There will be training for volunteers that will be brought back into

the facility, along with animal friends. Before the next Board Meeting, Carl wants to bring the Board members in to visit the residents and facility; Carl and Jacquee can work on a date. The staff cannot administer their own vaccines due to cold storage requirements. A visit to the facility was scheduled for Friday, March 19 by Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson and State Epidemiologist Angela Dunn.

State Officer's Report

Jeff reported for Jacquee who was on vacation. The 20'x30' storage facility for each Pod patio is currently in the mud/taping phase. They are looking at mid-April for them to be finished and in use. There will be a change in the fencing around the patios, with scheduled completion by mid-April. The 300-gallon saltwater aquarium was delivered and installed in D-Pod. An acclimation period is required and may be fully inhabited with fish by mid-April. The 350-gallon saltwater aquarium will soon be delivered for the common area. The capital improvements for FY 22 include rain gutters and stucco repair (\$96,000), the redesign of the dining kitchen in all communities (\$375,000), which is an exciting project that will allow for 24-hour access, and the lean-to enclosure of the back storage area and roof access ladders (\$350,000).

UDVMA Executive Director's Report

Jeff reported the Department of Utah Veteran and Military Affairs is committed to refreshing and improving the Ogden Home. Emotions are running high with the visitation policy opening up at the four facilities. The census is increasing in all the facilities, currently at about 90%. The COVID legislation that was just approved by Congress will have approximately \$100 million going to state veterans homes throughout the United States. He gave an update on the upgrades at the Bluffdale State Veterans Cemetery. The Cemetery Division has granted approval for the new cemetery site in South Ogden. Jim Harvey/Weber County has been instrumental in supporting these efforts and Jeff thanked him. Jeff also gave a final update on some state Legislative bills that were passed this session. In particular, SB11, SB45, and SB45 that help the military and veterans were signed by the Governor. The management contract of the facility with Avalon will end September 2021. An RFP went out this week. The Advisory Board is not involved with this decision.

Old Business None noted.

New Business

Tressa Quayle has been elected to serve on the Faculty Senate at Weber State. The meetings conflict with our Advisory Board dates, and she wants to remain on our Board. It was recommended that our Board dates can be changed to the second Thursday of the month each quarter. A special Board meeting will be scheduled to discuss other options and vote on possibly moving the dates. Curt said "make it happen".

Next Meeting (subject to change)

June 17, 2021 at 3:00pm

September 16, 2021 at 3:00pm

December 16, 2021 at 3:00pm

Adjourn Chairman Curt Oda adjourned the meeting at 3:59 PM.