



## GEORGE E. WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 16, 2021 3:00 PM  
In-Person Meeting

### **Attendance**

Curt Oda, Paula Stephenson, Steven Steed, Jeff Hanson, Andrea Ashton

**Absent:** Jory Wahlen, John Knox, Jim Harvey, Lacy Bizios, Tressa Quayle, Beth Topa, Jacqueline Peterson

### **Welcome**

Chairman Curt Oda welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jeff gave an opening prayer, and the group said the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was not established, so no business could be conducted with voting by the Board, therefore there were discussions/reports only during the meeting.

### **Approval of June 17, 2021 minutes**

The approval of these Minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Advisory Board**

Our beloved Resident Council President, Tex Crawford, passed away recently, with John Knox taking his place as President. Curt expressed a sense of loss at his passing and that we were all going to miss him greatly. The Board will welcome John Knox at the next meeting.

### **Resident Council Update**

Recreation calendars for July, August, and September 2021 were provided ahead of this meeting. No report was given.

### **Administrator's Report (Avalon)**

Carl Hugie was promoted to another position within the Avalon Corporation. The new Administrator for the George E. Wahlen Ogden Veterans Home is Andrea Ashton, who has been with this facility since it opened.

Andrea provided a COVID update. Since July the facility has had fourteen (14) positive COVID cases among the residents with six of those passing away. There have been several staff positive COVID cases with break-through cases of those vaccinated. Employees who have been vaccinated are tested once/week and unvaccinated two times/week. Positive COVID residents have been given the monoclonal antibody treatment and remain within the facility instead of being transferred to a COVID facility. This has proven better for the residents with better care and continuity in their lives. With the mandate for all employees to be COVID vaccinated, those not wishing to be

immunized are seeking religious and medical exemptions which Administration is assisting with. With this new mandate, we have had to use agency staffing for the first time in order to maintain required nursing staff (RNs/CNAs). Administration is working on new wage increases starting with the RNs and CNAs. Once that is completed, they will be looking at wage increases for all employees. Cost share by residents with less than 70 percent VA disability has not been increased for ten years, but is now being considered to offset wage increases. The current facility census is 113 of 116 beds (97%). Another COVID protocol being followed is the public coming into the facility must answer a questionnaire, be COVID tested with negative results, wear a face mask and a plastic face shield provided by the facility. This takes about fifteen minutes at the front door.

Some residents attended the 9/11 Project at the neighboring Ogden Fairgrounds recently.

### **State Officer's Report**

Andrea provided this report in Jacquee's absence. The kitchen remodel for A, B, C, and D communities for \$700,000.00 will make improvements to the community areas of food service, which has not flowed well in the past and had an impact on food temperatures being served. Concept drawings were provided at the meeting. This will improve service and availability of products. This project has not started yet.

The Nurses Station Remodel project for \$33,714.00 will increase improved functions for nursing staff. The nursing staff is excited about the improvements. This project has not started yet.

The new wiring for D community resident phones for \$17,304.32 will provide new TVs and large dials/hearing impaired options on telephones. In the past there have been no TVs or telephones for the residents in the Memory Care Unit (D).

Rewiring for digital to analog phones for \$12,000.00 and new analog phones for \$5,000.00 will improve capability for hearing and visually impaired residents.

### **UDVMA Executive Director/Deputy Director's Report**

Jeff thanked Andrea for accepting the Administrator's position at the Veteran's Home, and promised continued support and assistance from their state office. It was nice seeing the resident activity in the multipurpose room today, with some return to normalcy. He stated the availability of the monoclonal treatment for residents was an exciting benefit for residents with COVID treatments, and assisting with the capability of keeping their COVID positive residents in-house instead of having to send them out to COVID facilities where care may not be to the standard given at each of the four Veterans homes in the state.

The new section at the Bluffdale State Veterans cemetery is complete with increased capacity for in-ground and columbarium burials. The deed for the new state veterans cemetery in Ogden has been filed for 103 acres in the South Ogden area. There is a lot of tasks to still be completed with this project.

There are plans to replace the Salt Lake City Veterans Home with a new facility. The name will remain as the William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home.

Dennis McFall, the former Deputy Director who was instrumental with the building of the Ogden, Ivins and Payson veterans homes, has officially retired, and was recognized at a retirement party recently.

### **Old Business**

It was recommended that during the continued COVID situation that Board meetings have the capability of a hybrid meeting, with in-person and Zoom-type attendance available. This will be decided between now and the next Board meeting.

### **New Business**

Paula asked the question about the Veteran's Day activities. Andrea said there will be a program, but whether it is in-house only or the public can participate will be determined as COVID conditions dictate as the date approaches.

### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

December 16, 2021 at 3:00pm

March 17, 2022 at 3:00pm

June 16, 2022 at 3:00pm

**Adjourn** Chairman Curt Oda adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.