



GEORGE E. WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021 3:00 PM

Attendance – In person and virtual

Curt Oda, Paula Stephenson, John Knox, Tressa Quayle, James Harvey, Jory Wahlen, Lacy Bizios, Steven Steed, Jeff Hanson, Andrea Ashton

Absent: Beth Topa

Welcome

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

Approval of September 16, 2021 minutes

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

Resident Council Update

Resident Council President John Knox reported on all activities throughout the months of October, November and December 2021. Calendars were distributed to board members. All residents were able to go to Wendover in the month of November. The Veterans Day program was a great success and Congressman Blake Moore was the guest speaker. John also reported that fourteen Veterans passed in the past three months.

Administrator's Report (Avalon)

Andrea gave an update on the status of COVID in the facility. We have not had a serious outbreak for well over six months. We have had employees test positive but no residents. Andrea reported that we are still required to screen visitors at the door. All employees are still required to wear face masks and face shields but are not required to be COVID tested. Visitation is now open to all visitors and there is no time limit, number of people and visitors can visit anytime of the day. We are so happy to see families here now at our facility. Pinnacle Customer Satisfaction Report is still very favorable and families report that we are taking great care of their loved ones. Recruiting and Retention is an ongoing problem. In the past few months we were not receiving very many applications for employment but in the past few weeks we have received more applications. We are currently hiring in all departments and just increased the wage in our dietary and housekeeping departments. We are currently using CNA's and RN's agency to work in our facility. We have never had to use agency since the time the nursing home opened. Andrea talked about the giving tree that she organizes every year for her employees who are struggling this time of year.

State Officer's Report

Jacquee reported on the remodeling of the kitchens on A, B, C and D Community. It will be funded by capital improvements \$821,000.00. Contract will go out to bid sometime next year and hopefully will start construction in the spring. Design was provided. Refreshed items that were purchased during the last few months: dining room chairs (200), bariatric beds (15), nurse's station remodel and conference room remodel. A monument honoring all branches of the military will be placed at the Veterans home around Memorial Day weekend. The person coordinating this monument and collecting all proceeds is Mr. Terry Schow.

Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs Executive Director/Deputy Director's Report

Jeff thanked everyone for their attendance and willingness to serve on the board. He also thanked Jacquee and Andrea for all they do at the Veterans home for their residents. Occupancy in all four nursing homes are at 93% with no residents that have COVID. Avalon has about five employees that have COVID.

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 veteran's cemetery in Ogden has been completed and the state now owns the property. There is a lot of tasks to still be completed with this project. Department of Facility Maintenance has now assigned a project manager for this project.

Replacement of the Salt Lake Veterans Home is a high priority right now with our department. The new home will be funded through a federal grant program but the state needs to fund one third. Governor Cox has placed that amount in the proposed budget and we are very optimistic that this will be approved. We are moving forward trying to find the land where the Veterans home will be built.

Old Business

Veterans Day Program was a great success and Congressman Blake Moore was the guest speaker.

New Business

None Noted

Upcoming Board Meetings

March 17, 2022 at 3:00pm

June 16, 2022 at 3:00pm

September 16, 2022 at 3:00pm

December 15, 2022 at 3:00pm

Adjourn Chairman Curt Oda adjourned the meeting at 4:01 PM.