

**Minutes of the Southern Utah Veterans Home-Ivins,
Advisory Board Meeting (via Zoom),
July 8, 2021**

In Attendance: Barbara Holck (Chairman), David Houston (Vice Chairman), Janet Warner (Board Member), Gary Stolz (Board Member), Willem Van der Elst (Board Member), Terry Dunne (Board Member), Ira Amargo (Board Member), Art Davis (Board Member), Darrell Holck (Board Member), Joe McKillop (Resident Council Representative), Jeff Hanson (UDVMA Deputy Director), Tony Moore (State Officer), Jerry Olson (Nursing Home Administrator).

Zoom Meeting called to order by Chairman Holck at 4:00 pm and all present were welcomed. Chairman Holck then led the Advisory Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and Board Member Darrell Holck offered an opening prayer. Chairman Holck then asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting if there were no corrections needed. Board Member Warner made the motion to approve, seconded by Board Member Holck, minutes approved.

1. Vice Chairman Houston made a motion for Board Member Stolz to be approved to serve as the Vice Chairman for the next year, Board Member Amargo seconded the motion and there were no objections or counter motions. Vice Chairman Houston then assumed the Chairmanship and Board Member Stolz assumed the Vice Chairmanship.
2. UDVMA Department Update:
 - a. Deputy Director Hanson started by apologizing to the board members on behalf of Director Harter who was busy and could not attend this meeting. He stated that both he and Director Harter are appreciative of the great work being done at the facility. He was also appreciative of all the effort that went into Jack Reber Day. He thanks Barbara Holck for her service as the Board Chairman and thanked Chairman Houston and Vice Chairman Stolz for being willing to serve in these positions on the Board. He then briefly discussed occupancy in the Veterans Homes, stating that it was down in all facilities due to the pandemic but that it is getting close to pre-pandemic levels. He specifically noted that the Southern Utah Veterans Home was the first to achieve full occupancy (108) since the pandemic began. He also stated that he was happy to see the facilities implement as much normalcy as possible (i.e. communal dining, group activities, expanded visitation, etc.). He then introduced some projects the department is working on (State Veterans Cemetery – donated land), (replacing the Salt Lake City Veterans Home – reasons, private space, capacity, ~120 beds – SLC is the largest market, safety in pandemic scenario), (Expansion of State Veterans Cemetery in Bluffdale – 2 large crypt fields).
 - b. Board Member Dunne asked if there was anything new regarding updated VA Forms due to Space Force creation, to which Deputy Director Hanson replied that there were no new updates.

- c. Chairman Houston then asked if the Veterans Cemetery in Cedar City was run by the VA or the City, to which Deputy Director Hanson replied that it is a National Cemetery which is run and funded by Federal employees.

3. Open Items:

- a. COVID-19 Update – Administrator Olson started by thanking the board for the opportunity to serve Veterans himself and on behalf of Avalon Healthcare.
 - i. He started by briefly discussing visitation. The facility is accommodating visitation as much as possible and the restrictive guidance is starting to loosen up. The least restrictive visitation is when vaccinated residents have vaccinated visitors.
 - ii. He then briefly discussed outings, stating that this issue is popping up recently and that many family members are operating like the pandemic is over, which is causing some frustration. When veterans leave the facility, they are assessed with a point system based on certain factors. If the risk score from the outing is high, then the resident may be asked to quarantine.
 - iii. He then briefly discussed activities stating that some limited group activities are resuming along with communal dining and church services.
 - iv. He then discussed the difficulty right now hiring in the lower paying jobs. Many places in town are paying a higher wage than our CNA starting wage. The staffing shortages among CNA's is the most pronounced. The facility also conducted a wage survey to assess the need to increase wages. The facility is in the top 20% for wages, but we will still pursue a wage increase.
 - v. Lastly, he discussed our pending VA Survey which will be next week and will be a complete virtual survey. This is the first time the facility is having a virtual survey.
 - vi. State Officer Moore briefly talked about the current rise in Washington County positivity rate and what changes will be implemented if that continues. Board Member Dunne noted that the Delta variant accounts for 80% of the positive cases recently. Board Member Barbara Holck asked what the status of the Nurse Scholarship was to which Administrator Olson replied that we are still moving forward, but the legal documents have not yet been finalized. Chairman Houston asked how long the Survey would last to which Administrator Olson replied that they are usually 3 days in length and outlined the make-up of a typical Survey Team.
- b. Resident Council Update – State Officer Moore briefly discussed the current status of activities. Board Member McKillop mentioned that he has been able to go out to the Chuck-a-Rama but noted that when residents go out, there is a chance to be on quarantine when returned to the facility. He also stated the he is

enjoying the increase in group activities, specifically mentioning Bingo, Church, and group meetings (resident council, committee meetings, etc.).

4. New Business Items:
 - a. State Officer Moore then opened a discussion about options for future board meetings. He presented the pros and cons of each option (Zoom, at the Facility, outside the facility). The group decided to keep the Zoom meeting for our October board meeting, and we will reassess at that meeting.
5. Chairman Houston adjourned the meeting at 4:43 pm. Next Meetings tentatively to be held at 4:00 pm on:
 - a. 14 October, 2021
 - b. 13 January, 2022
 - c. 14 April, 2022
6. FYI, the next board members whose terms are expiring are:
 - a. Gary Stolz – 3/31/2022 (1st Term)
 - b. David Houston – 3/31/2022 (1st Term)
 - c. Willem Van der Elst – 4/30/2023 (1st Term)