



GEORGE E. WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022, 3:00 PM

Attendance – In person and virtual

Curt Oda, Beth Topa, John Knox, Tressa Quayle, Jory Wahlen, Lacy Bizios, Steven Steed, John Knox, Andrea Ashton, Jacqueline Peterson, Jeff Hanson

Absent: Jim Harvey

Welcome

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

Approval of June 16, 2022, minutes

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

Resident Council Update

Resident Council President John Knox reported on all activities throughout the months of July, August, and September. Calendars were distributed to board members. Some of the activities during the past three months; tie dye t-shirts with the weber state football players, pioneer pictures were taken and placed in the main hallway, talent show for both residents and employees, trip to Wendover. John reported that there were eleven residents who have passed since the last meeting. He also reported that residents have complained about being able to get transportation to go on road trips, games, or shopping. Andrea stated it was due to lack of drivers and repair of two vehicles. We now are fully staffed for drivers and recreation now has a licensed driver in their section to take residents out for leisure visits. Curt recommended that we have a list of interested drivers. Paula mentioned that she had an individual who might be interested in this position. She would reach out to Andrea or send them to Avalon website for employment if vacancies are needed.

Administrator's Report (Avalon)

Andrea gave an update on the status of COVID in the facility. We are currently in an outbreak in our C Community. A couple of residents who tested positive for COVID have been sent to a COVID facility but will return next. Staffing has been a challenge but currently we are seeing a huge improvement. We were just recognized from corporate for hiring the most individuals throughout the company. This has been a rough year and financially the facility has struggled. In October we will be increasing the private rate to all residents. The federal per diem rate will be increased by 5% which usually is only 3%. Overall, we are better than our competitors. Steve asked about the capacity of the facility (120) and is there a current waiting list. Andrea stated that due to COVID the waiting list has changed. Jeff asked about the wait list and immediate need to be admitted. He had concerns that we don't publicize the wait list to the public. Jacquee stated that Jeff tasked all state officers of each facility go through the wait list to find immediate need. The immediate need was very low. If you have anyone who is interested in being admitted to our facility please call Lori Nielson, Admission Director at 385-227-0534.

State Officer's Report

Jacquee reported Veterans by military branch; Army 35, Navy 19, Airforce 33, Marines 9, Coast Guard 0, Space Force 0, Civilians 12. Veterans by Wartime; WWII 8, Korean Conflict 22, Vietnam War 55, Gulf War 4, Peacetime 7, Civilians 12. She reported that the kitchen remodel is almost complete and board members did a walkabout to see the progress. She also stated that Department of Facility Maintenance (DFMC) will start repairing the walk-in freezers. Jacquee talked about DFMC contractor will start working on the rain gutters and estimated cost will be \$25,000.00

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

Jeff thanked the board for their service and willingness to serve. Staffing remains a problem throughout the nation due to COVID. Problems that have been caused by COVID is financial hardship to the facility. VA Retention Grant for direct care givers which adds up to 2% of our annual per diem which is \$200,000.00. The VA is willing to give us the grant if the state of Utah is willing to match. Jeff stated that this will be a total of \$400,000.00. Carl Hugie is presenting a plan for all four Veterans homes and will request for the grant from VA. The Salt Lake Veterans home is moving forward with design and will have 108 beds. The state of Utah has contributed \$25,000.000 & our VA grant program will fund 33,000.000, we will know at year end if that amount has been approved to move forward with the building of the new facility. The new state cemetery in Weber County is moving forward and the state of Utah has acquired the deed for 100 acres. UDVMA needs to send to the national cemetery administration two documents, legislative language, and a commitment to pay the 10% of the total project budget for upfront costs which is reimbursable. Jeff also stated that the state has been approached by a local landowner by our camp Williams cemetery to sell an additional seven acres. This is really the only land available that is near this cemetery.

Old Business

Staffing issues and Andrea addressed those concerns in her report

New Business

GEWOVH Tribute Run 5K on Saturday, November 5th at 9:00am. Will send an email to board members for volunteers and flyer for participants. (Please see attached flyer)

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 15, 2022, at 3:00pm

March 16, 2023, at 3:00pm

June 15, 2023, at 3:00pm

September 21, 2023, at 3:00pm

Adjourn Chairman Curt Oda adjourned the meeting at 4:10 PM.