



GEORGE E. WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 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, Jim Harvey, Paula Stephenson, Jill Bird, Jacqueline Poulson, Jeff Hanson

Absent: Jory Wahlen

Welcome

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

Approval of September 2022, minutes

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

Resident Council Update

Resident Council President John Knox reported on all activities throughout the months of October, November, and December. Some of the activities during the past three months; we have had many trips to see the Christmas lights and eating out at different restaurants. Residents are happy and there are numerous activities for the holidays. The recreation department is doing an outstanding job especially with newest movies. We had our traditional Thanksgiving dinner with family members and residents. Our Veterans Day program was well attended, and the program was outstanding. Lacy stated that she would love to help get individuals to volunteer at the home and Jacquee would send an email to recreation to reach out to her. John reported that there were ten residents who have passed since the last meeting.

Administrator's Report (Avalon)

Jill Bird, assistant director of nursing reported for Andrea Aston who was not able to attend the meeting. Jill reported that recently all employees received raises at the facility. We also just had our Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) Survey and received no clinical tags. We did receive four tags in fire, life, safety. Avalon also does a Giving Tree for all employees who need help at Christmas time. Andrea Aston takes all names from the department and works directly with the family in need. We had the giving tree at the front of the building, and everyone was welcome to sponsor an employee in need. Jill stated we are currently in a flu outbreak on our B community (7 Residents & 3 Employees). Duration of this outbreak is currently based off symptoms and 24 hours after a fever. We normally put all residents on Tamiflu but due to shortage of this medication it is only for residents with the flu. All residents were offered the flu shot and 85% of residents were vaccinated. There is still a mask mandate for all individuals who enter the facility. The main doors are now unlocked, and visitors can come and go. We currently have no residents with COVID.

State Officer's Report

The kitchen remodel is almost complete and there are only a few punch list items waiting to be completed. After meeting some board members will walk around and see the kitchens. We now are partnering with DFCM and starting our walk-in refrigeration upgrade. The contractor has been hired and this project should start next year.

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

Jeff thanked the board for their service and willingness to serve. A big shout out to Avalon for their great CMS Survey results. Our facilities are heavily regulated, and the CMS Survey is one of the hardest surveys to receive a positive outcome. We just got approved our VA Retention Grant for direct care givers which adds up to 2% of our annual per diem which is \$200,000.00. This grant will payout a sign on bonus, referral bonus and attrition bonus to employees. Avalon is working on implementing this grant for all facilities and once this is implemented it will help with our staffing problems. Our goal is to hire enough staff and get away from agency staffing. The new Salt Lake Veterans home is still on track and waiting to receive our federal funding to start the building process. Jeff also reported on the Camp Williams cemetery. We acquired an additional 5.5 acres across the street from our main cemetery. It is currently under contract, and we expect the state to fund this land for 1.5 million. We have contracted with an engineering firm to do a remap of our cemetery to do a grid coordination on every marker and have this completed by memorial day. Curt had a question about occupancy of our facility. The department wants all facilities to be occupied at 97%. There is currently no waiting list only an interest list.

Old Business

GEWOVH Tribute Run 5K we received \$2,525.00 from the First United Methodist Church.

New Business

Educate the advisory board on admissions and payer sources at our facility.

Upcoming Board Meetings

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.