



GEORGE E. WAHLEN OGDEN VETERANS HOME
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Attendance – In person and virtual

Jon Knox, Steven Steed, Tressa Quayle, Paula Stephenson, Lacy Bizios, Jim Harvey, Jory Wahlen, Marlene Summers, Jacqueline Poulson, Jeff Hanson, Adrea Aston

Absent: Curt Oda, Beth Topa

Welcome

Vice Chair Paula Stephenson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Jon gave an opening prayer, and Jory led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Paula introduced our new member Marlene Summers to the board and asked her to tell us a little bit about yourself.

Approval of the September 28, 2023, minutes

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

Resident Council Update

Resident Council President Jon Knox reported on all activities throughout the months of October, November, and December. Jon stated we had numerous activities in the month of December such as talent show & PJ's/DJ's for both residents and staff. Deceased veterans since the last report was 11.

Administrator's Report (Avalon)

Andrea stated our current census is 114. She reported the financials for the building are doing better since COVID. We continue to work on census and our patient mix. We currently have 230 employees and have no vacancies for CNA's. Staff are feeling appreciated, and our staff Christmas party was well attended. Andrea handed out a flyer and talked about Avalon's Whole Heart Program. The main purpose of the program is to provide the highest quality of care for veterans who we serve. The purpose of this programs is to work on the following areas: personalized resident centered care, meaningful activities, namaste care-honoring the spirit within, providing a calm and nurturing environment, providing a positive and supportive work environment for employees, providing whole-istic care options such as aromatherapy, light therapy, nature therapy, music therapy ect.

State Officer's Report

Jacquee stated we have four projects we are working on at the GEWOVH: Carl Francis from DFCM is the project manager on all four: Main Kitchen Makeup Air and Exhaust

Fans Replacement – Department Funded \$200,000.00 & They are currently working on the design/engineering phase. Exterior Lighting – Capital Improvements Funded \$82,409.00 and they are currently installing the new light fixtures. Ductless Split Replacement – Capital Improvements Funded \$64,487.00 is now completed. Retention Pond – DFCM will cover the cost of this project and they have reached out to great basin engineering to see where the water should be going. We also had Fire, Life. Safety deficiency on our last fire inspection with the fire sprinklers leaking or eroded (150). DFCM has hired an architect to identify the ones that need to be replaced and will fund this project. Jacquee stated we received a beautiful painting from the Wolf Creek Foundation “The Many Faces of Courage” by Lane Timothy. It is currently hanging in the hallway towards A&B communities.

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

Jeff thanked all the board members for taking their time to support this great facility. Jeff also thanked Jacquee and Andrea for working together in the last three to four years. He reflected on the past three years and how challenging those years have been. Labor cost and employee’s wages have been challenging but this facility has been working hard and now are coming out of those challenges. Their financials are now in the black. The department is continuing to grow and working on two major projects; new construction of the Salt Lake Veterans Home and new cemetery in the Ogden area and we are on that priority list and waiting for the grant to be awarded. Jory asked the question about how funding for the new veteran’s home is. The state will fund half and the VA will fund the other half. The state has already funded 25 million dollars toward the new construction of the veteran’s home. We are now waiting for the construction grant from VA.

Old Business

There was a question from Paula about the number of residents who passed away at the veteran’s home. Andrea stated that it depends on month to month. Some months we lose one to two and other months we lose more. In her opinion the residents that admitting are getting sicker and come in at the last possible moment.

New Business

Jory reported that the George E Wahlen Tribute Run was a great success. We had numerous people participate this year. The First United Methodist Church presented the check \$4,083.13.

Curt updated his new email, copatriot53@yahoo.com

Upcoming Board Meetings

March 21, 2024, at 3:00pm

June 20, 2024, at 3:00pm

September 19, at 3:00pm

December 19, at 3:00pm

Adjourn Chairman Paula adjourned the meeting at 4:02 PM.