



**DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS HOME
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – May 08, 2024, 10:00am**

Advisory Council Members

In person

Larry Holman, Jewish War Veterans
Claudette Campbell, Military Officers Assoc. Of America
James Ritchie, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Benjamin Mastridge, Vietnam Veterans
Douglas Craig, Catholic War Veterans
Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General-VA
Ashley Conaway, For Senator Frank A. Farry

Conference Call

Samuel Huhn, Blinded Veterans Association
Dontie Brooks, Regional Compliance Officer

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Delaware Valley Veterans Home

Margo Coleman, Commandant, DVVH
Violetta Berdichevskaya, Chief Medical Officer, DMVA
Rinisha Thomas, Director of Nursing, DVVH
Rita Yeung, Deputy Commandant, DVVH
Yahvae Jones, Admissions and Marketing Coordinator
Veronica Royster, Assistant to the Commandant
William McGoldrick, Volunteer Resource Coordinator
Travis Davis, Executive Director, Long-Term Care
Barbara Raymond, Director of Veterans' Homes

Absent

John O'Donnell, American Legion
Bruce Boice, Disabled American Veterans
Allen Abramson, Jewish War Veterans
Daniel McCollum, American Legion
Richard Fine, AMVETS
Martina White, PA House of Representatives

Residents

David Petro, Resident Representative

Visitors

Dr. Wally Quinlan; For Council Member Brian O'Neill Office
Erica Moore, Regional Program Outreach Coordinator

- Moment of Silence
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2024
- Swearing in of Council Member Douglas Craig, by General Weigl, toward the end of the meeting.

Sam Huhn, Blinded Veterans Association

- Could I ask a question before you do the minutes? How come we only have three or four Veterans organizations here? What happened to the other people that joined? Do we have a whole bunch of new people that does not show up anymore? Benjamin Mastridge replied, Sam They just did not show up. We have representation, there is people that did not come. I agree with you, and it has been a problem for a long time, and it should be addressed some time. Thank you for letting us be aware of this.

Report from Violetta Berdichevskaya, Medical Director

- There is nothing to say but good things. Flu season is over. We were lucky enough not to get the norovirus, which is a stomach virus. We are all good on this part.
- Covid, everything is under control. We do have some parainfluenza, just a few residents. It is not contagious, Tylenol basically is needed, three to five days and back to normal.
- Vaccinations, we are still offering the COVID vaccine, we just completed the vaccination for the flu. Flu season is over March 31st, the net one is coming the end of August.
- We are open for admissions every week; we get two or three patients at least. We are almost to full capacity as far as I know, we have two patients are in the hospital.
- When it come to the wound rate, we still have complicated cases, feeding tubes, tracheas, you name it, and the wounds coming from the community. We are making very great progress healing those wounds.
- We have plenty of services that come here. We have podiatrist, dentist, psychiatric consults, and it is a short distance to Nazareth Hospital for therapy treatment.
- Otherwise so far so good, we can't complain.

Report from Yahvae Jones, Admissions/Marketing

- I am Yahvae Jones, I am the Admissions and Marketing coordinator for Delaware Valley Veterans Home. Since our last quarter February through April, we had 19 admissions, 1 transferred to Southeast, and 8 unfortunately passed away. In total our waitlist is 116 veterans and our spouses of veterans. Our wait time currently varies, I can say right now, I am admitting those who applied in November for skilled, and those who applied in September for our secured care. Our current census is 160 out of 171. We are now increasing our census to 165 right now I have 5 Alphas out. If staffing and PPD remains well, we will then get approval from Margo to increase up to a full 171.
- The last quarter I attended 15 plus marketing and outreach events at various facilities. Congressman and State Representatives offices were also having exhibits that I did attend. I am working with the social workers at the Philadelphia VA. specifically on referrals and getting them long-term care if they can no longer stay at the Community Living Center, and recently with the Caregiver Support Program. So now if they go through the VA. and they are in the Caregiver Support Program, if they have 3 or more respite stays, we automatically complete an application for Delaware Valley Veterans Home.

Report from Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General

- Good morning, everybody. One of the leadership changes at Fort Indiantown Gap, General Regan is retiring. He is the Deputy Adjutant General for the Air National Guard. He will be replaced by Brigadier General Koudelka, right now he is the joint staff, he is going to switch over, you will see a few changes on our DMVA website.
- If you saw the news yesterday, we had a 100th birthday celebration for a resident at Southeast Veterans Center. We had the Phillie Phanatic, and some Phillies team, they are going to honor him. He is going to through the first pitch out on May 18th. He and his family will be at the game; they are really excited. We have two birthdays coming up this year for this Home, celebrating 100. Joe Demarco turns 100 in August and Al Teplitsky turns 100 in January. We are going to work on that, we had a lot of support from the VFW and the AMVETS yesterday. As we start planning the August party, we will keep you in the loop for that, we would love to have you. We will make it big and fun, so that is a cool thing.

- May is busy with a lot of events. I think I have three Memorial Day events. General Schindler down in this area will be at Memorial Day events. June is very busy, we have homes week, and Women's Veterans Day on June 12th, that week is very busy. Most of us will be on the road, visiting the Homes. We will try to get down here to Del Valley. We encourage you to come, see the schedule, and come support homes week. This week is Nurses week, when you walk by and see the nurses tell them thank you. Because we can't do anything without our nurses. I know Travis is going to talk about that.
- Two things that we are doing this year that are brand new from the Veterans Affairs side, we did our first ever employer recognition ceremony. We want more employers to hire veterans and bring them back to Pennsylvania. So, we recognized three companies from the Governor that did that. We will share that next year, we want to have a bigger ceremony. If you know any employers that are hiring veterans, send them my way, so we can add them to our list, and help them get more veterans. In September your organizations will all be invited to our first ever veterans conference. There will be the federal VA., state agencies, county offices, county commissioners, nonprofits, for profits, all together under one roof, and it start September 4th-7th. To talk about homelessness, employment, corrections judicial. We are going to have our SLC, and war council out there, you are all welcome to attend. We will be sending those invites out as well. That is all I have.

Report from Travis Davis, Executive Director, Bureau of Veterans

- Good morning, everyone, as usual we are always very busy with surveys. I will let our director of homes get into that as well as our respiratory numbers. I am going to spend a little time on personnel moves, because we had several across the state recently. We hired a full-time physician at Southeast Veterans Center, Dr. Yeung., and we are also hiring two new practitioners. Dr. Yeung comes to us with a great deal of experience in nursing homes. Her background is in internal medicine and in geriatrics. We are really happy to have her onboard. She worked with Dr. B. on her onboarding process, and she really hit the ground running at southeastern. In addition to that we are looking to bring on a physician here at Delaware Valley. That physician will help to assist Dr.B., Andy, and the clinical team, as well as be able to provide some support for Southeast, in the event if they need some coverage. That position is posted currently, it will be up until May 16th. If you know any physicians, please share that with them.
- We made an offer for a new Commandant out in Pittsburgh, our long-time Commandant Rich Adams retired, we have Cassie Betzler who is starting with us May 20th. Cassie has been a nursing home administrator for several years. She also has a background in HR, so we are really looking forward to Cassie starting at Southwest.
- As you all are aware, Margo stepped into this role to take over Delaware Valley, it left a void for us at headquarters for our grievance coordinator. So recently we hired Michele Copeland, who has been out to the homes. She also relied on Margo to help her guide and get on board. She is a great addition, Michelle has experience not only in nursing homes, but in acute care setting, and also home care services.
- We launched a new internship program this year for administrative students. We gear it towards graduate students who want to get their foot into the long-term care industry. This year we rolled out our first formal program. We selected two students from across the state, where they can work in a home, or work in our headquarters. We are starting this in June, one will be in the Scranton area, and the other will be working directly under a Commandant. They will complete a program through the state, called the administrator in training program. They do about 1000 hours in every single part of

the nursing home. Then they sit for their license for a Nursing Home Administrator. We are really excited to have this, and we are looking forward to this program, throughout our homes. It is not only for succession planning, but also to get the young work force trained and interested in what we do day to day.

- Currently two of our homes are five stars, Delaware Valley and Gino Merli. We have two homes that are four stars Southwest and Southeast. Southeast just recently dropped from the five overall to the four, and it was due to staffing. Now staffing we know we are above staffing minimums in all of our homes. We are having a turnover in staffing, including some nursing staff as well as administrators. We have a lot of agency staff in our homes, a lot of nurses who come and go. Which will certainly affect this. What we ran into across all of our homes, is we had too many people coded as administrators in our system, not as every person who was just sitting in a seat. That created us to look like there is more turnover than there actually was. We made those fixes on our end, unfortunately, it is reflected on this past quarter report with CMS. Southeast should bounce right back up.
- Recruitment and retention, every time we need to talk about this, and the challenges with it. It is a VA grant that has been put out there for state veteran homes, it is up to three years, and it is just for nurse recruitment. Those who applied for this grant this year, we can get up to just over one million dollars. We would like to entice people to come onboard, but also to reward our staff who are here. We ran into a lot of challenges in the past about bonuses and incentives. We are going to throw everything back at the wall and see what stick this time. This is federal dollars it is coming in and it can be used to help our nursing staff. We are putting together some proposals, there is going to be some unions impact. We are going to have to talk to the unions, we think there is some promise behind this to help reward our current staff, help attract new staff, and certainly help with our recruitment efforts. Through Maureen's connection with other states, they have had a lot of success with this. Some of those states were structured similar to the Commonwealth, so they had to get over some hoops to deal with this. We are going to take some of the success from the other states, and really put up a strong case on why we should do this in Pennsylvania.
- Our admissions, like Yahvae presented earlier, we are doing great admissions across the homes. We are at 73% occupancy rate across the state. So, we are continuing to see admissions come in, and fill our beds across all of our homes.
- We had two important meetings since the last time we meant. We had our governance meeting, where we established a charter. That meeting we review all of our policies, any changes, and we go over our quality metrics, we do surveys from residents and families, we review that to see what our feedback is, and we look over our facility assessment. In addition to that we have a compliance and quality assurance meeting with the Adjutant General. That was a really good meeting this week, again we continue to see increases in our quality metrics across all of our homes, which is a direct reflection of all the work our teams are doing. We also go over anything we are working on, we would do that with the Adjutant General to get any feedback. We also looked this quarter at what is going on across the state in nursing homes. Some of this data is troubling for all of us, although we are very aware of it. What we are seeing across the state is star ratings drop to a downward trend. We are also seeing the number of deficiencies being issued for annual surveys have gotten significantly up in the past two years. We are also seeing the number of G level deficiencies and the number of immediate jeopardy is also way up. Larry Holman asked what immediate jeopardy is, Travis replied, Immediate jeopardy is something we never want to see. If surveyors are in your building, and they feel as though there is an

immediate threat or danger to the residents, they can put you into immediate jeopardy status. We have to go right into action and correct whatever deficiency they say and have them clear us to get back into substantial compliance. It has impacts on our ratings, our staff for that day, or the days where you are trying to clear that. Because it takes a lot of administrative work and correction, unfortunately it takes away from some of our resident care. Larry, these reports come through who? Barbara replied, it comes from the PA Department of Health through Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, it is public information, that goes everywhere. Travis stated it is troublesome to our entire industry. It is not a lot of transparency to why, it is just all of a sudden happening. That information was all shared with the Adjutant General.

- Maureen mentioned a couple of key dates coming up, in addition to that, we have our TAG fishing derby on May 30th. Last year we had to cancel that because of the air quality from wildfires, our residents really look forward to it every year. We are happy to get that back on the books this year.
- Veterans Homes week is coming up June 10th it begins, you guys are aware that is a great week.
- Women's Veterans recognition day is June 12th.
- The last piece I want to talk about is the federal staffing rule. We spent time over the last few years talking about what Pennsylvania did in terms of staffing increases in house, we are going into year two, and we are complying. Now the federal government is coming out with their own rule about this. This rule is very heavily scrutinized by providers of the service, for several reasons. Initially they were not going to count LPNs into the calculations, they are coming back at that, and saying they will recognize the LPN. However, there are still increases in these numbers that can still put us in to some difficult situations, especially with CNAs. Now there is several obstacles that this still has to overcome to go into effect. I would like to provide some statistics both nationally and statewide of what this means to us. The new CMS staffing rule would increase the PPD to a 3.48. In terms of work force. Giving that we are in the biggest staffing crisis that we have seen probably ever, that would require over one hundred thousand more RNACs and LPNs nationally, Pennsylvania it would be sixteen thousand more. In addition to that there is no increasing reimbursement. From the national average, they are projecting this to be close to seven billion dollars annual increase in cost, in Pennsylvania it would be five hundred forty million. You can obviously see why providers are scrutinizing this bill, some probably feel as though it should be one number for everyone. Nationally there are only one in five nursing homes who meet this requirement today, in Pennsylvania that number is even greater. Our fear for all seniors in the Commonwealth, it is going to close a lot of doors at nursing homes. It is going to create access issues for those who need placement. There is going to be a lot of providers that are struggling today, that will never be able to continue operations if this goes through. There are two bills currently that could derail this, if neither of those are successful, I foresee there being some states that file lawsuits against this as well. We will kind of see what is coming the net time we meet. That is all I have to report.
- Claudette Campbell said may I ask a question? I do apologize for being late, I take the senior transit from Flourtown here, and they were real late. Just to go back a little, on the increasing level of immediate jeopardy how are we doing here? Travis replied, here at Delaware Valley I know we are doing well. Across our facilities we have certainly seen immediate jeopardies, more visits from surveyors, they are in our buildings a lot more. To answer your question, we are certainly seeing in our veterans' homes where the trends are headed. Benjamin Mastridge asked does it lead to lawsuits? Travis replied, it certainly can. Larry Holman added to answer your question why, it could be because there are staffing difficulties everywhere. It seems very cynical to me that you are going to eliminate

your problem by eliminating the nursing homes. General Weigl added especially when you have World War II veterans, Korean war veterans, and Vietnam war veterans that are aging, and are going to need care, and we already have a waiting list of 300. They need skilled nursing, they cannot take care of themselves, that is going to be a huge problem. Someone replied, that is why they are trying to compensate people who take care of the veterans at their home, it is a point where that is not possible, I do not understand. General Weigl replied, if that is the focus, letting people stay home would be wonderful. Except some of our folks cannot be at home, and their spouses cannot take care of them.

- Travis added, if I can say one more thing, because I want to end on a positive note. Because sometimes we bring up these problems that we do not have a solution to and some of these things are out of our control. I think of this one thing, and it came up at the State Veterans Commissions meeting. What the commission, and advisory groups could do for us, I want to go back to awareness. The Veterans Homes are a huge asset to our communities, you all are aware of that. There are a lot of Veterans in our communities are not aware that these exist. The spouse benefit is huge for veteran families, when spouses come in here depending on the payer source, they go into the state Medicaid program. We have an enhanced veteran reimbursement rate, which is great, that is eligible for the state. From the spouse's perspective, they get a room and board pick up. In state veterans' home, the enhanced veteran reimbursement rates our residents get to keep \$450.00. They could use that for holidays, birthdays by putting something in a card for a loved one, or going out to lunch, and doing stuff in addition to our activities program. That is a significant benefit that a lot of people are not aware of. Sam Huhn asked, are you required to let the spouse know of this benefit? Travis replied, we document that it is provided. In terms of really spreading that educational awareness, I do not think we do a great job, I think we need to work on that this year. Remember our homes are primarily male, in the community it is the exact opposite. The community nursing homes could be anywhere around 75 to 85 percent female. Claudette replied, that is helpful information. Larry asked if our staffing is ideal, how many more veterans can we put into a home? Travis replied we set our accrued budgeted positions based on all our homes. We have over 300 vacancies, we would need to fill all our beds across the home right now. Larry replied, in terms of the difference between the current census and capacity you are fully staffed with all the empty beds. Travis replied, that's at the current numbers. That is not giving any of these federal increase proposals rules, that would certainly hurt us. We are at a good position right now; we are maintaining strong levels of what we are required. If that number keeps increasing, it will put us into more of a pinch.
- Sam asked is it still 10,000.00 a month to stay at a veteran home? 120,000.00 per year? Barbara replied, it is approximately that, ours is slightly lower because of the VA grant. We take the VA grant we receive away from that, our private pay cost is slightly less for a veteran. Sam asked are you saying you get additional amount of money from the feds? Barbara replied correct. Sam asked is that because the veterans who are in the homes are service-connected 70 percent or more? Barbara replied no, that is two completely separate things. We get a VA grant for every single veteran in the facility, about \$150.00 per day. Our prevailing rate veterans which is the 70 percent, however a prevailing rate veteran could be 30 percent connected, and we still receive that prevailing rate from them. Each of the facilities is a little bit different. It averages about \$350.00-\$400.00 per day. Sam replied, somebody mentioned about the caregiver program for the spouse, I have a number of veterans that I know who are home bound and have serious problems. They have applied for this grant. Every one of them gets turned down, and now some of them are going to private lawyers to sue

the government, to find out why they are getting turned down. It seems to be coming out of Pittsburgh, they must be out of control over there. I don't understand why this is happening. General Weigl replied, she will try to get the numbers and get those back. I do not have the information on hand. Sam replied, the governor last year blue lined the blind veteran's pension. He was supposed to give us an increase. He gave it to the paralyzed veterans but did not give it to the blinded veterans. The governor now said he got a \$13 million-dollar surplus, they said they did not have the money before, but not they have all this surplus. I do not know what is going on there. General Weigl replied, there is purposed legislation, both are in for increases, I have not seen the update on that. Sam replied, the governor happens to be one of my neighbors, he never seems to be around anymore. He must be up there in Camp Hill somewhere; he lives across from the campus in Abington. He gets his car fixed at my daughter and son-in-law garage. I told her the next time he shows up or his wife shows up, to ask him why he is he holding back with giving a pension increase to the blind guys, he probably is going to give me a dirty look.

Report from Barbara Raymond, Director, Bureau of Veterans Homes

- Good morning, everyone, as Dr. B. mentioned the homes are doing really well from an infection control perspective. Right now, we have currently no covid at any of the homes, from a staff perspective or a resident perspective, no influenza, no RSV the respiratory illness that everyone was seeing the commercials for. We also currently have no GI illness at any of the facilities. We recently went through some GI illnesses that norovirus that Dr. B. was talking about at two of our facilities. It is under control, no issues, no concerns, nobody needed IV hydration or anything like that. We just treat it with contact precautions and extra hand washing. One of the things with norovirus is, we have to reeducate staff every time we have an outbreak.
- Vaccination wise, we did a wonderful job across the six homes. Well over seventy percent of our residents were against influenza. The COVID vaccine numbers are quite a bit lower, we are still offering that COVID vaccine for that spring dose. CDC recommended the COVID vaccine to be given three to four months after a recent illness, so we still have some folks that are catching up on that dose.
- We did talk a little about those prevailing rate veterans, one of the things with our surveys from the VA at our Gino Merli, Southeast, and our Erie facilities, we recently had surveys from the VA at those three facilities. We have to do a little more work with the prevailing rate veteran. The easiest way to look at a prevailing rate veteran, there is little to no additional cost to that veteran for any services that are provided. Podiatry care, and there is no additional cost for medication. Optometry and dental, the VA does not cover that. Those folks would go to the VA. If they went to a private optometrist or a private dentist outside of the VA, the veteran would be responsible for that, it does come under that. The federal VA when they came in for the inspections that is one of the things they saw. There were copays that were being billed to Medicare part b for things like therapy, diagnostic testing such as labs and x rays, we cannot do that. Anything that we get for that prevailing rate veteran we cover that. Everything comes out of the \$350 to \$400 per day, food, electricity, water, therapy, diagnostic test, certain medical appointments, certain transportation, and labor. We are looking at having to provide 2.45 hours of nursing assistant care, not counting LPNs and RNs. That comes up to thirty CNAs in 100 bed building, we have 171 beds here. We have to come up with 30 CNAs every day, .4 covers there days off. A normal nursing home would cover about 42 CNAs in that 100-bed building. We need 2 individuals for every 1. In a 100-bed building, we would need 58 CNAs. With 171 beds here, we would

have to provide 419 hours of care her. From a CNA perspective, we would need 100 CNAs. Rinisha, do you have 100 CNAs? Laughter. Any questions on that? Ben replied, I do not have a question about that. I have a question about the fact that the Philadelphia VA medical center we had a vision center clinic there, the guy that was running it retired. Now five months later, we still do not have a replacement. The guy's name Robert Fitzgerald who is the outpatient rehabilitation specialist, he is doing both jobs for the last five months. The VA keep saying they have a hiring freeze, they interviewed people for this job, and they never hire them. I do not know what is going on. Maybe someone from your end can push there buttons a little bit. I been calling myself the blinded veterans association national office. I am trying to get somebody over there at the headquarters to see if they could push their buttons, to get someone hired there. Back 20 years ago we spent a lot of time with congressman, senators, and everyone else trying to get funding for that clinic. Now 5 months go by and they still do not have a replacement, I don't get this. Ben replied, just my opinion on that, that is a federal thing, I do not think the state here has anything to do with that. Barbara replied, yes Sam you are right there has been a struggle. Larry replied, the VA hiring process is an elongated process, many times these applicants cannot wait. They have their applications out in many different places, and someone else is going to scoop them up, before the VA gets done with their hiring process. That is one of the delays with getting VA positions. Barbara said believe it or not the VA is quicker than us. Travis and General Weigl has been tremendous in poking downtown for us at the home level, to help speed up that process. We are significantly better. We have cut our time frame almost in almost half at all six of the homes. We have gone from 90 days down to about 45-50 days. We still would like to do better, for our end it has been significant. Barbara said my good note is Happy Nurses week.

- We have somebody retiring, Jack O'Donnell, he is with the American Legion. Ben, if you could reach out to the American Legion, we are going to need a replacement. Ben replied, I know a lot of people with the American Legion.

Report from Dontie Brooks, regional Compliance Officer

- Good morning, everyone, I just have one item on the agenda. It began in December of 2023, we were asked to participate in an investigation regarding the potential overpayment of a star nursing agency. Currently we are investigating to determine how hours are tracked and paid for. Then identify if there is any opportunity for improvement. This is an on-going investigation. That is all the information I have thus far. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Report from Margo Coleman, Commandant

- Good morning, thank you very much for coming back to Del Val. It is nice to have everyone here back for advisory council. I would just like to begin by thanking Veronica for getting this all together for us.
- It is national nurses' week; I want to make sure I thank Rinisha and her team. I was pitching ideas and her and her team are always hitting them out of the park, thank you for that.
- We are having a few events during the week, today is the 3rd day for national nurses' week. We are having some ice cream and basket raffles. Just a couple of small events to thank our nurses for everything they do all year long to take care of our veterans.
- We had some monetary donations as well; We have some stuff behind the scenes going on. We will talk about the main events of what is happening at Delaware Valley. Over the last quarter we had about \$9,000.00 of monetary donations. We continue to have an overwhelming amount of support from our volunteers and from our veteran organizations donate to our residents here. We are able to

have a lot of different great events for our veterans, through activities, outings, and state veterans home week. The residents recently said they wanted to have some Del Val swag. With those donations we been able to work through that process to get them some shirts, to recognize their military service as well as Delaware Valley Veterans Home.

- Our volunteer luncheon was a huge success, I know some of the gentlemen at the table were here for that. Bill did a great job organizing that event. Thank you, Bill, it was a beautiful celebration. We honored over 30 volunteers for hours totaling 2,305 in the year of 2023, that is a lot of hours spent with our veterans, giving of yourself with expecting nothing in return. Thank you so much to our volunteers. They did have a luncheon ceremony where they received a certificate and a Delaware Valley Veterans Home jacket. Just a small thank you for the huge impact they make for our veterans every single day.
- We did have our life safety inspection, from the department of health a few weeks ago, where they just had a few minor areas that need to be corrected. We have been able to clear all but two deficiencies, those two deficiencies are going to take a little bit of extended time because requires thinking and a little bit more work to get those cleared, we are working on those.
- We do have some construction improved from the department of health, we are going to be having our back patio for the B and C area, hopefully ready to be used by 2025 summer. We are going to have a nice outdoor area for our veterans to be able to sit, enjoy entertainment, and have some canopies over it so it is nice and covered. We are really excited about getting that started and making that outdoor area very nice for everyone.
- We do have some office moves underway, not too many of them. It is just mostly administrative folks. It does not really affect the daily operations of our residents. What we were finding is when this room is being used for meetings like this or for education, we are always cross booked for care plan meetings, or our residents might need to attend different one on one meeting with their care team. What we were finding is that we were using resident space, like the community room or the chapel for those overflow meetings. We did not really want to do that anymore, these office moves are going to be moving our social workers over this side, to what we call the nursing suites. We can use that room as an extra meeting space so that everyone can have meetings, and not take any space from our residents.
- The last update that I have, that we are very excited about, that we are very proud of is June 14th five of our WW2 veterans will be attending and honored at the Army birthday celebration at Independence Hall. It is hosted by our local association of the US Army chapter, we will have them go down, and they will be recognized and honored.
- Any questions for me or for Del Val? Ben replied, with that being none, thank you very much.

Report from Rita Yeung, Deputy Commandant

- Just one thing, since Margo has already covered a lot of things. Coming up is State Veterans Home week in mid-June. This year our theme is cruise ship. We are going to turn our community room into a cruise ship. We will decorate it just like a cruise ship, we have planned for a variety of activities for that week. We will have entertainers to come and play music, magic show, staff talent show, and I know Margo will be in that. We will also have a casino night, which I know our residents will love. We will use bingo coupons to do that. We are really looking forward to our residents having a fun week and enjoy.
- That conclude my report, thank you.

Report from Rinisha Thomas, Director of Nursing

- We do not have norovirus, and no infections for a couple of weeks now, we had influenza as Dr. B. mentioned. No COVID going on in the building.
- We have some agency staff working here now, 9 started two weeks ago. Staffing is up. Care Bridge Academy CNA classes were coming here for the clinicals. Around 8 or 9 will apply here. Tomorrow there is a new class starting. We are looking forward to having more CNAs.
- Margo replied, I think a true testament to Rinisha team here as well, is we had a family member hire a private care giver to sit with their family member, the private care giver came to Rinisha and asked if she could apply to work here. Because she saw how well of an oiled machine Rinisha, and her team has. Barbara replied, one good thing maybe that is coming out of a federal government job, there is some legislation where you can have no compete clauses. For example, my husband work for an engineering firm and he had to sign a no compete clause to be able to work at another engineering firm. In our industry there are occasions where CNA, RN, Physician, or a NP where they work for a certain agency, they sign a no compete. There is legislation, that should be going away.
- Larry replied, Dr. B. mentioned some of the patients are coming in from the community with the wounds, and complicated factors you have to tend to, and I know it is a labor, congratulations to you.

Report from William McGoldrick, Volunteer Resource Coordinator

- Hi, I am Bill McGoldrick the volunteer coordinator. I want to recognize one of our long-term organizations, the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary 98. They have been sponsoring this home since we established, they sent us a large donation. Larry, please pass on to the ladies of the auxiliary and if there are men in the auxiliary, we do greatly appreciate that, we thank them for their service throughout the 21 years DVVH has been in existence.
- May 12th is Mother's Day; We are having an event here for all the mothers that we have here in the home. We do have veterans here as well as some spouses.
- May is veteran's month. Memorial Day and all the other armed forces days. We are going to take a couple of bus loads down to the Vietnam memorial in Philadelphia on May 22nd, if anybody is interested in going. We are having our annual Memorial Day service on the 25th of May starting at 10:30 out front. It has been sponsored by American Legion post 810 for the past 15 years. They are also going to invite the family members of the deceased residents to come here, and do a celebration of life, for all the residents that passed away in the past year.
- Memorial Day which is on the 27th is hosted by Knights of Columbus, they are also actively engaged with us on Memorial Day.
- You are invited on the 25th to come say farewell to all our residents that we lost in the past year.
- That is all I have. We will have lunch also out front after the service.

Dr. Wallace Quinlan, Philadelphia City Council (Councilman Brian O'Neill office)

- I have a question, what are these things hanging over the table? What is their function? Margo replied, they are microphones. We just recently upgraded our system here for computer and video usage. This is the microphone that will pick up the sound.



Ashley Conaway, PA House of Representatives (Senator Frank Farry office)

- Senator Farry is sorry he could not be here. He is in Harrisburg.

Samuel Hunh, Blinded Veterans Association

- I have nothing, I appreciate all the good information that I just heard about the last half hour. Thank you.

Larry Holman, Jewish War Veterans

- I am very happy to be here, a few weeks ago I completed my 12 sessions of chemotherapy. I am clean now. There are cat scans, and I have to get monitored every 3 months for the next 5 years, before I can be declared cured. I told the doctors when they said that I guess the COPD is going to take me out first. It is good to be here, thank you all.

James Ritchie, Veterans of Foreign Wars

- I am just glad to be here to see everybody.

Douglas Craig, Catholic War Veterans

- My apologies for being late, I misjudged my driving time from the other side of Harrisburg to here. This is my first session as a Catholic War Vet. I sat 3 years here as the MOAA rep. for the Philadelphia chapter. I am glad I see some familiar faces from before. I was looking for Al, he always said I had to wear a tie, so I wore a tie. I am glad to be here and hopefully net meeting I will be on time. I just been appointed; I got my letter a couple of weeks ago. I brought it with me for proof to let you see it, I am willing to work. Mike Rang our department state president sends his best. Thank you very much.

David Petro, Resident Representative

- Hi, I am Dave Petro, resident council president, I am thrilled to be here. I would have never thought I would be in this position. I am just going to go with the flow.

Claudette Campbell, Military Officers Association of America

- I am also delighted to be here, particularly to be involved and here about what you are doing to address the challenges that you have. Particularly the staffing, I do have a lot of concerns over the trends that were mentioned, but I was late today, as I said I use the senior transit. The driver dad was here just before the pandemic, and he just raved about the care and the people here at this facility. I thought that was interesting, because of the special arrangement I had to make with them to bring me this far, and to take me back to my home. This facility has done a marvelous job. I feel this is a great opportunity for me to participate on this advisory council.

Old Business: None



New Business: Ben replied, we have a board for honored members for the community and people who volunteer. I spoke to the Commandant, there are several people that come to my mind immediately who should be recognized at least before they are not with us anymore. There is a criteria, we need a 3 member of the council to be on the board and nominate these people. I would like to ask Jim Ritchie, I have know him some years and he is very thorough about what he does. He is an accountant, if he would head this committee, I will volunteer to be on it myself, and we would need one other person. Does anyone of the service-connected group want to volunteer to be the 3rd person. Claudette replied, I have to decline, but thank you. Douglas Craig replied, as long as you can do long distance stuff. Ben replied he is looking into this, and I am trying to do this by the book. There is a form to this, it seems to me that this has to be done in 3 stages. We have to vote and a 3rd meeting to ok it and send it to the state veteran's home. If it is ok with you, I would like to start the process. I would like to get Bill involved, because he can give us the dates and times. We will present something to you at the next meeting. We have 3 people on that wall, and we been here for over twenty years. There are several people since I been here for over 15 years, that I think should be included. We should look into the residents, someone who is a highly decorated person, to put them there. I see silver stars on people hat here, if we do they should be included. I appreciate if you will ok for us to do this. Bill replied I am the one who did all of the packages for the individuals who are currently on our wall of fame. I will be happy to help you out if you want to recognize anybody. I will send all the packages out electronically for individuals to vote on. One time there was 3 members of this panel that was selected for this committee. You can go back and look at the records.

Good of the Counsel: Sam Huhn replied, I have not got my reenlistment yet. I submitted my resume and the letter from the blinded veterans for another term, I sent in back in February. It is probably sitting on somebody desk. Happy Memorial Day to everybody.

Adjourned: 11:14 AM

Next Meeting: August 14, 2024