pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
DELAWARE VALLEY
VETERANS' HOME

DELAWARE VALLEY VETERANS HOME
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 10, 2021
In Person

Present:

Advisory Council Members

Allan Abramson, President Advisory Council (JWV)
Larry Holman, Jewish War Veterans
Samuel Huhn, Blinded Veterans Association (via phone)
Benjamin Mastridge, Vietnam Veterans
John O'Donnell, American Legion
James Ritchie, Veteran of Foreign Wars

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Delaware Valley Veterans Home

Aurelio Ojeda, Commandant
Deborah Olivieri, Director of Nursing
Rita Yeung, Business Manager
Violetta Berdichevskaya, Medical Director
Yahvae Jones, Admissions Coordinator
Mia Woods, Compliance Officer (via phone)
William McGoldrick, Volunteer Coordinator
Susan Riever, Administrative Secretary

Absent

Bruce Boice, Disabled American Veterans
Richard Fine, AMVETS
Daniel McCollum, American Legion
Daniel Murray, Marine Corps League
Charles Petronis, Catholic War Veterans
Kerry Judge, Senator Robert Tomlinson
Martina White, PA House of Representatives
Travis Davis, Director, Bureau of Veterans Homes
Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General

Residents

Mr. Knapp, President Resident Council

Visitors

Doc Quinlan, Councilman Brian O'Neill's Office

- Moment of Silence
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Attendees
- Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2021

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Report from Violetta Berdichevskaya, Medical Director

- Beds – we have 16 beds available for quarantine, if needed.
- PA VA Homes - I have visited all the other 5 veterans' homes in Pennsylvania. The most challenging home is Hollidaysburg and Erie has the least vaccination rate.
- Covid Vaccinations – DVVH is the leading home with residents at 93% vaccinated. We have 9 staff who are still not vaccinated, and we are working on this.
- Veterans Parade - I would like to thank Bill McGoldrick, Volunteer Coordinator for a job well done. Everything was so organized and ran very smoothly. It was a great even in Center City.
- I have been appointed Chief Medical Officer of the 6 State Veterans in Pennsylvania
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Report from Yahvae Jones, Admissions/Marketing

- Our resident census is 114 residents. We have 63 skilled veterans on the waiting list, 28 secure, 27 spouses and 3 out of state for a total of 121. Since March we had 62 admissions. I attended the Veterans Parade and marketed our home. I have also done several virtual events to market our facility. 16 beds will be kept open in case of a Covid positive residents.

Report from Travis Davis, Executive Director, Bureau of Veterans

Report from Maureen Weigl, Deputy Adjutant General

Report from Peter Ojeda, Commandant

- Over the past 3 months we had 22 admissions and 9 discharges.
  Monetary Donations for the past 3 months totaled $3452,00.
  August, September, and October we have many events including bingo, lunch & a move, live entertainment and Trunk or Treat for Halloween.
- **Upcoming Events**
  Nov. 11th Veterans Day – Robert Irvine from Restaurant Impossible will be here to sponsor a dinner from Boston Market.
  Nov. 18th – thanksgiving Dinner for Residents only
  Dec. 7th – Pearl Harbor Day – special spaghetti dinner
  Dec. 22nd – Christmas Dinner for residents and 2 family members if Dr. B approves.
- **Building** – Construction is complete and general maintenance continues the grounds and building.
- **Housekeeping and CNA's** – We are having a hard time getting nursing assistants and housekeeping staff. We have emptied B Unit for a short time and only have 3 units open until we get more staff.
- **Family Letter** – Social Services sends a letter on a weekly basis to inform the families of what is going on in the facility.

Debbie Olivieri, Director of Nursing

- It has been a challenging 2 years. It was rough for the residents, but they are very resilient and cooperative. We try to do special events for the residents – lunch and a movie, trips to the park, etc. and other things to keep them happy.

Jack O'Donnell

- Let me know what the residents need for Christmas**.**

Mr. Knapp, Resident

- Congratulations and thank you to Peter, Debbie, and Dr. B on the great job that they do here every day.

Benjamin Mastridge

- I had the privilege to tour the VA hospital in Pittsburgh. The VA hospital is a "State of the Art" hospital and an excellent teaching facility.

Allan Abramson

- I will check to see why the PA Representative and Senator, or their representative do not attend the meetings.

Sam Huhn

- Have any visually impaired veterans been admitted. We have 1 visually impaired veteran who has been here for many years.

Peter Ojeda, Commandant

- Peter asked Larry Holman, DVVH Advisory Member and VA Advisory Board Member about invite to VA meetings, VA Interservice network and dial in information. Peter also wanted to know who he could talk to regarding our last VA Survey. Fern Billet, Congressional Liaison 215-823-5913 and Jack Kelly, VA Medical Director 1-800-789-7366.

Doc Quinlan, Councilman Brian O'Neill's Office

- Good to be back. I visited many senior groups in the area recently and not one of the organizations had any covid related deaths.

Bill McGoldrick/Volunteer Coordinator

- Happy Birthday Marines. American Legion Post #810 will provide the cake for this event.
- Volunteers – none in the building yet. Once we get approval, we will have everyone back. I still have donations coming from all the organizations and it is greatly appreciated.
- Veterans Day –Big event tomorrow, Robert Irvine of Restaurant Impossible and the owner of Boston Market will be here to provide a meal for the residents. The event will be outside, and staff will serve the residents**.**
- We have a new resident who is 102 years old and will turn 103 next month. He is alert and oriented and reads the newspaper every day. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army**.**

Old Business:
New Business:
Good of the Counsel:
Adjourned: 11:00 AM
Next Meeting: February 9, 2022