Southwestern Veterans' Center
Advisory Council Meeting
October 22, 2021

Advisory Council Members Present:
Thomas Tallon, Military Officers Assoc. of America
Edward Hanke, Disabled American Veterans
William Aronson, Military Order of the Purple Hearts

Advisory Council Members Excused
Rommel Dacanay, Blind Veterans Assoc. of PA
Ronald F. Conley, American Legion
Tim Sager, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans
Albert Schraepfer, The American Legion
William Roland, Veterans of Foreign Wars
David White, Marine Corps League
James Lamison, AMVETS
Tim Sager, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans
Kim Ward, Senator
Natalie Mihalek, Representative

Advisory Council Members Absent
NONE

Others Present
Travis Davis, Executor Director Long Term Care
Barbara Raymond, Director of State Homes
Erin Rakow, Deputy Commandant
Cheri McAfee Assistant to the Commandant
Ronna Stewart, Director of Nursing
Kenneth Stubbs, Resident Representative

Others Excused
Dr. Blinn, Medical Director
Julia Myers, Admissions Coordinator

Visitors
None

Minutes taken by Cheri McAfee

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Tallon at 10:00 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and held a Moment of Silence.

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

None.

REMARKS FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR:

- None

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER STATUS

- None.

ADMISSIONS & MARKETING UPDATE:

None.

REMARKS FROM THE DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL:

- Not present

REMARKS OF THE DIRECTOR OF STATE HOMES:

Licensure updates: All 6 State Veterans Homes fully licensed/compliant with all licensing agencies

Survey updates:

- SEVC full DOH annual inspection completed in July, 1 deficiency, reinspection completed & in substantial compliance.
- PSSH full DOH annual inspection completed in July, no deficient practice cited.
- DelVal awaiting annual DOH inspection. VA occupancy inspection scheduled for October for redistribution of 41 personal care beds to nursing care beds.
- Gino Merli full DOH annual inspection in Feb of 2021, reinspection completed & in substantial compliance.
- SWVC full annual DOH inspection in May 2021, reinspection completed & in substantial compliance.
- HVH – PA DOH completed their annual survey. The facility is actively working on corrective action plan.

Infection Control:

- Currently 5 positive resident COVID cases – all stable
- All 6 Homes following current CDC & PA DOH guidance
- Covid Vaccine rates: 96% residents
  69% staff

- Boosters underway at all 6 Homes
- 1 current influenza cases.
- Influenza vaccination underway at all 6 Homes

Census:

- Total Census: 935
- Total percentage filled: 61%
- Staffing challenges at all 6 Veterans Homes preventing a full capacity
- All 6 Homes are continuing with admissions, and DelVal & HVH are not experiencing the full impact of the staffing crisis

Construction update:

- DelVal –VA occupancy inspection completed in October for licensure of the renovated 41 beds/wing from Personal Care to Nursing Care, awaiting VA report
- SEVC- nearing completion of renovation project for additional Veterans outreach development programs
- Gino – roof construction underway
- PSSH – Nursing Home expansion of dining room, therapy gym, multipurpose room, as well as Personal Care Home bathrooms underway

Personnel Updates:

- Chief Medical Officer in place: Dr. Violetta Berdichevskaya
- Chief Operating Officer in place: Mike Hoover
- Clinical Services Director – interviews in process
- Addition of the 4 CRNPs: 1 at DelVal, 3 at SEVC. SEVC addition is to move to the Commonwealth employee model from external contractor
- PSSH Commandant – selection in process
- HVH Deputy Commandant - selection in process

Reorganization updates:

- Executive Director LTC position added for LTC program development, oversight of the Homes, budget & construction
- Director position scope of work to focus on oversight of the operations and management of the Homes

Bill Aronson inquired about the staffing process for nursing vacancies. The Director made mention that recruitment processes have changed and that there have been meetings regarding how and where advertisements are made. The Director also mentioned that retention options are being looked into also (Travis Davis, Executive Director mentioned that the wages seem to be an issue and there is a need to make them competitive)

REPORT OF THE COMMANDANT:

Commandant's report reviewed

- Employee positions (both vacancies and filled)
- Mentioned donations – now able to start construction of putting green
- Went over home numbers for residents - mentioned working with the VA to get more people admitted to our home
- Mentioned job fair – interviewed on the spot – may try to hold others
- Went over vaccination rates (76%) staff – started staff boosters
- Residents due for both flu shots and boosters in the upcoming weeks
- Staff have already started getting flu shots
- Still at 5 Star rating in 4 out of 5 areas with no outstanding deficiencies with the DOH or VA
- Ready to start visitations (currently conducting outdoor visitations as well as LOAs)
- Red unit closed
- Starting up some group activities
- Dinning rooms re opened
- Watching community percentages – testing of unvaccinated 2x week

Ed Hanke inquired about indoor visits to which Rich replied that some indoor visits have been scheduled in the Chapel.

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY COMMANDANT:

- Erin reported that the Pneumatic Wheelchair was brought to the facility for our resident, Kenny Stubs, to give input as he will be the one who will be trying the prototype

Ed Hanke inquired about its advantages and if there was a website so that it could be viewed to which Erin replied she will have to get permission as to what she can share and some photos. Rich commented that there is a possibility to see in person at the next meeting as Mr. Stubbs was the person trialing and he could bring it to show.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF NURSING :

None.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Bill Aronson commented that the last couple of emails shows that his membership has expired and wanted to know the status of his re-instatement. Mr. Tallon assured him that this is normal, the Governor's office is always behind.
- Bill Aronson also inquired as to whether the Purple Hearts could once again meet monthly at SWVC to which Rich stated that it had to be kept to about 10 people, they needed to be vaccinated and a 30 day lead was needed to schedule.
- Resident Kenny Stubbs also commented about his pneumatic wheelchair experience and his recommendations to improve the chair; also stated that all is well with the residents, bingo has restarted and there are future plans to do outside shopping.

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GOOD OF THE COUNCIL:

- Mr. Tallon stated that there were not enough members to make a quorum so that a vote could not be done on the Hall of Fame nominee, that will half to be done at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting called to close at 10:35 AM

Next meeting will be held January 21st , 2022 at 10:00 AM