

Board of Trustees
Meeting held via Zoom video/phone
10 June 2020
1515 hours

Present:

Colonel Joseph Krawczyk, President
 Colonel Gary DeGasta, Vice President
 Michael Klopchin, Secretary
 Kent Butterfield
 Jennifer Carmichael

Arthur Charron
 CPT Brenda Cruickshank
 Charly Dickerson
 Michael diMonda
 Frederick Dunn

Dr. Jacqueline Kelly
 Fred Loy, Friends of the Vermont
 Veterans' Home
 Jamie Percey
 Joyce Scribner

Excused: Robert Hooper

Robert E. Burke, Director, Vermont Office of
 Veterans Affairs

Guests: Steven McClafferty, Finance
 Tonya Goodell, Human Resources

Melinda Crowl, Marketing
 Robyn Boland, Executive Assistant

Jon Endres, Environmental Services

The meeting was called to order by President Krawczyk at 1515.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Klopchin and a quorum was announced.

Motion made by Mr. Michael diMonda to accept the 12 February 2020 minutes as written, second by Mr. Jamie Percey. Motion carried.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
PRESIDENT WELCOME	President welcomed Board of Trustees and guests. Stated that this is our first attempt conducting the Board of Trustees' meeting via Zoom, due to COVID, and may also need to do some future meetings this way. The Executive Assistant read email from Representative Mary Morrissey sending her regrets not being able to attend the meeting and sincere thanks to all for the incredible job being done for our veterans during these challenging times.	INFO
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
HOME REPORTS CEO	CEO reported on many new items including: participating in a pilot program for testing residents; starting to have conversations regarding admissions criteria; price of masks nearly four times higher than before COVID-19; supply of PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment); the newly installed closed circuit TV channel for VVH residents to see special VVH (Vermont Veterans' Home) programming, daily menu, the auto parades, mass, plan to do a virtual car show since it was cancelled; we have obtained more iPads-	INFO

<p>PATRICIA CROSSMAN NURSING</p>	<p>some purchased and some supplied by DAIL (Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living); agency staffing has increased; tremendous community support evident by the well-attended auto parades; working on guidance for family window visits; and conducted interviews for the QAPI (Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement) position.</p> <p>Although the Strohmaier contract has ended, they have offered to hay the field if we want them to. The Board supported the Strohmaier offer to mow/hay without charge but will leave the decision up to the Vermont Veterans' Home (Environmental Services) whether to accept it.</p> <p>Director of Nursing very impressed with the staff dealing with all the new challenges and changes related to COVID-19. Focus is to continue to keep everyone protected and safe. Both the offsite and on-site CMS Infection Control surveys went well, no deficiencies, and noted the staff have embraced the new policies. The Respiratory Care Unit has been an asset to mitigating and shown the importance of wearing PPE's. Continue to audit hand washing and donning/doffing of PPE's and try to have two people present during that process to ensure proper use. Also continue to use social distancing with staff and the wearing of masks. In the process of adding more workstations for the nurses in order to better adhere to social distancing guidelines.</p> <p>Staffing continues to be a challenge with issues relating to agency staffing (pay scale), working hard with recruiting new hires, but talked to two colleges and this is an industry wide issue as the field number has decreased due to COVID. Plan to have an LNA class start later this summer.</p> <p>Continue to monitor Behavioral Health issues and currently have eight residents on 24/7 Buddy. Working with social services and Dr. McWilliams on evaluating current interventions, their progress, and on individualized care plans. Shannyn MacVicar is the new Cardinal Unit Manager, transitioning well and bringing in fresh ideas.</p>	<p>OPEN</p> <p>INFO</p>
<p>DR. PETER KING MEDICAL DIRECTOR</p>	<p>VVH looks different now compared to four months ago in nearly every aspect of life, including: emotional health, quarantines (both in rooms and in the building), new and changing policies, and adjusting to new information and guidelines from VDH (Vermont Department of Health), CDC (center for Disease Control), CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and SVMC (Southwestern Vermont Medical Center). The employees have done great. Preparing for surge if we have a case. Vermont has done good with guidelines and hope people are learning what works: screening, hygiene,</p>	<p>INFO</p>

	<p>hand washings, and wearing masks, as this will be a long-term situation. Focus has been to provide support to staff, the residents' quality of life (emotionally), and finding ways for residents to have contact with family.</p> <p>Enrolled in an Enhanced Surveillance pilot program of testing using nasal swabs which is less uncomfortable than the nasopharyngeal test and will help us to detect earlier.</p> <p>Another positive outcome is having been able to get to know the staff much better and increased connections with the staff.</p>	
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
OTHER BUSINESS MR. FRED LOY	<p>Requested who the point of contact would be in order to obtain information for the Mobility Trail to collect funds. The COO, Col. Allan Faxon, replied he has been the point of contact for the trail and also that there is an RFP on a portion of the trail.</p>	INFO
ELECTIONS	<p>Discussion regarding need to run an election for Mr. Jamie Percey's position as his term is up.</p> <p>The annual Election of Officers and Executive Committee will take place at the August 12 meeting. Mr. Charly Dickerson, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, requested the Board members to notify him within the next 30 days if they are interested in running for any of those five positions.</p>	OPEN
RETIREMENT PLAQUES	<p>President Krawczyk to deliver in person retirement plaques to Mr. Andrew Cotrel, Mr. Wesley Mook, and Dr. G. Richard Dundas since unable to present to them at a public meeting due to COVID-19.</p>	INFO
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
ADJOURNMENT	<p>Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mr. Michael diMonda, second by Mr. Arthur Charron. Motion carried.</p>	CLOSED

Meeting was adjourned at 1350. Next Board Meeting 12 August.