

**Board of Veterans Services
Care Centers Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2015**

DRAFT

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Care Centers Committee was held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, 1601 Broad Rock Blvd, Richmond.

Committee Members Present

- Don Lecky, Care Centers Committee Chairman
- William Haneke, Care Centers Committee Vice Chairman
- Jim Icenhour, BVS Member
- Thad Jones, BVS Member

Committee Members Absent

- None

Commonwealth of Virginia Employees Present

- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Sandra Ranicki, DVS
- Bill Van Thiel, DVS

Materials Distributed

- Agenda
- Summary of bills and budget items – 2015 General Assembly
- Copy of House Bill 1275 (Chapter 720, 2015 Acts of Assembly)
- Graphic comparing old/new funding process for care center construction

Call to Order, Quorum Determination, and Agenda Approval

Chairman Don Lecky called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Two committee members and two board members were recorded as present and a quorum was determined.

The meeting agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

Virginia Veterans Care Center – Operations Report and Construction Project Update

Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) Administrator Bill Van Thiel provided a detailed overview of VVCC operations and construction projects, covering:

- Census and occupancy rates;
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH) licensure/certification survey (February 2015);
- Upcoming U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Survey (likely July 2015);
- 2015 Satisfaction Survey (residents and family members);
- Generator project;

- Patient elopement system;
- Upcoming fire alarm replacement project
- Upcoming renovation project – wall paper, carpet, and furniture;
- Veterans Services Foundation and Operation Holiday Spirit;
- Other projects – including lifts and a deck.

Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center – Operations Report and Construction Project Update

Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) Administrator Sandra Ranicki provided a detailed overview of SBVCC operations and construction projects, covering:

- Census and occupancy rates;
- Construction of 40-bed addition: temporary certificate of occupancy likely in early May 2015. Furniture being delivered. Staff being hired;
- Upcoming Virginia Department of Health (VDH) licensure/certification survey (likely in September, but may be done earlier to align with approval of new 40-bed wing);
- Upcoming U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) Survey (usually done in March, but pushed back to coincide with approval of new 40-bed wing).

Review of 2015 General Assembly session – bills and budget items

Mr. Combs gave a brief overview of some of the key bills and budget items from the 2015 General Assembly, noting that a more detailed presentation would be given at the May BVS meeting. He highlighted the Governor's and General Assembly's support of critical funding issues and legislation for DVS, including the four care center bills and the approval of state bond funding for the construction of new care centers.

Update on Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia Veterans Care Centers

Mr. Combs provided an overview of the construction of new veterans care centers in the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia areas of the state, comparing the previous processes regarding commitment of state funding versus the new process approved by the Governor and 2015 General Assembly.

The members had many questions about the new USDVA “small house” design concept and there was extensive discussion of the efficacy of such facilities versus the current model, especially given the likely patient mix in the new facilities. It was recognized that the policy intent may have been good, but that building and operating such a facility could be difficult and expensive. The committee members urged DVS to fully explore waiver options or design flexibility to ensure that the new facilities are designed and built to support Virginia requirements and the expected mix of patients the facilities will be likely to have. Chairman Lecky and the members noted the experience and knowledge possessed by Mr. Van Thiel and Ms. Ranicki, and stressed that they should be integral to the design of the new facility.

Open Discussion and preparation for the May 12, 2015 BVS meeting

Chairman Lecky gave Mr. Combs guidance on the content for the Committee report for the May 12 BVS meeting. Mr. Combs will prepare a draft review for Chairman Lecky's approval.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.