



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
Meeting Minutes #752
January 27, 2016



Charlene Taylor, Chair
Hugh Crooks, Jr., Vice-Chair
Todd Trotter, Board Member

Caroline Morales, Member
Juan Gonzalez, Board Member
Gena Truitt, Board Member

The California Veterans Board met at the California Veterans Home – Yountville in the Holderman Building, Conference Room A at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Hugh Crooks Jr. (Vice-Chair), Todd Trotter (Member), Gena Truitt (Member) via teleconference, Charlene Taylor (Chair) via teleconference and Juan Gonzalez (Member) via Video teleconference (VTC)

Absent: Caroline Morales (Member) - work/schedule conflicts.

Vice-Chair Crooks presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair Crooks welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. The Board and Executive Officer (EO) introduced themselves.

MINUTES RECOMMENDATION

Approved minutes from December 3, 2015 Board meeting. Member Trotter moved to approve the minutes and Chair Taylor seconded. Motion unanimously approved and carried. ([Attachment #1](#))

PRESENTATION BY MR. DON VEVERKA AND MONICA DIAZ:

Mr. Veverka, Administrator to the Yountville Home – Mr. Veverka welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the Yountville home with its’ amazing programs and services. He spoke of some of the Mental Health resources that are lacking and expressed his concerns of the readiness of the homes to handle the next generation of Veterans that will be coming in and the changing demographics. The administrator passionately shared his view that the opportunity and obligation is there to treat and care for our Veterans and stressed focusing on PTSD. He wants to welcome them and the challenges they faced to a place they can come and find peace. He questioned how will we help them and what do we have for them? He conveyed that we really need to be addressing this.

Ms. Monica Diaz, Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Administrator at the Yountville Home – Ms. Diaz gave an overview of the STAR Ratings and how they are calculated. ([Attachment #2](#)).

Basically, there are three components:

Survey – Based on Health inspections. They use an average of the last three years.

Staffing – Is it adequate? They look at direct resident care based on two measures: RN hours and total staffing hours per resident.

Quality measures - How well are the residents being cared for? Clinical performance based on 9 quality measurement areas. It is a system of points.

Yountville's survey will be conducted in March. They have had exceptional surveys in the last couple of years but a negative one three years ago. Since the calculation is done by taking an average of the last three years, this next survey should drop the previous bad mark from three years ago and allow their star rating to go up. Ms. Diaz concluded that she likes to focus on the care as opposed to numbers. If the care is good, the numbers will come.

Chair Taylor questioned if there is a Dashboard that is shared among the other homes so they can learn from each other? Yes, the Matrix report and MDS (minimum data set) system. They do collaborate among all the homes to share what is working and what is not. The matrix report is sent to the Homes division at California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

James Musson - Treasurer Allied Council. Mr. Musson welcomed and thanked the Board for holding their meeting at the Yountville home. He gave compliment to Mr. Veverka's passion and dedication for the home and the Veterans along with reprimand to the Department for its negligence. ([Attachment #3](#))

Mr. Bob Heiss – Resident. Mr. Heiss encouraged the department to procure a Medical records system.

Edwin Warren – Allied Council chairman. Mr. Warren spoke of SB 543 by Senator Wolk, dealing with MWR, and how the MWR funds make life worthwhile. He talked of an amendment to that bill that would add an Allocation Board and he would like to see the California Veterans Board be that Allocation Board.

Wallace Barry – Chair of the Allied Council. Mr. Barry spoke about the MWR bill, SB 543 and he encouraged a decent amount Local control.

Michhel Evje – Chief engineer for KVET studio. Mr. Evje complained about the inefficient system of procurement within CalVets' ISD department. It took seven months to get three computers with the vital software that the studio requires for editing. To make matters worse the computers arrived without the vital software. Mr. Evje stated that it's a systemic problem. "Not slow, inefficient, or cumbersome but deplorable." He strongly urged to Board to seek solutions for the system.

Eddie Olsen - former Board member. Mr. Olsen applauded KVET, stating that it offers transparency and communication. He is looking to be a great team again with the Board.

CHAIR'S UPDATE – Chair Taylor first thanked all those that spoke. She reiterated that one of the Goals of the Board was to increase its' visibility and become more familiar with the homes. With this intent, she explained that the homes were divided up among the Board members and Mr. Trotter was assigned to Yountville. The designated members will attend allied council meetings quarterly or at least twice a year. She reported that she, along with EO Tina Lassiter, had a good meeting with staff from the Little Hoover Commission on Monday January 25, 2016. The Little Hoover Commission

stated that they are concerned about the homes, particularly the older ones. Chair Taylor will testify at the public hearing on March 3, 2016 in regards to the Boards' role, who the members are, how the authority changed in 2013 and how the Board might improve oversight. She said that Yountville, in particular, clearly has peoples' attention at the highest level and encouraged optimism. Chair Taylor and EO Lassiter met with the Secretary on January 6, 2016. The Secretary expressed his concerns about the aging Yountville home and stated he will be putting a plan together to address that. Discussion also included how the communication between the department and the Board could be improved and it was agreed upon that Tina will attend the Executive meetings on a monthly basis and report highlights to the board. Chair Taylor continued with a report about her work on the Federal Commission on Care. She said they are looking at the VA health system and how it might be transformed in the next 20 years, and they will report to the president in June.

DEPARTMENT FORUM: Department Update

Coby Petersen, Deputy Secretary, Homes – Mr. Petersen reported on the Secretary's trip down south to meet with the VA Secretary McDonald and reiterated that all that has been testified, the secretary is aware of and eager to address. He is working on developing a plan for Yountville. Deputy Secretary Petersen reported that headquarters recently welcomed the new Deputy Secretary of Administration, Sherie Gastinel and Undersecretary Russell Arterberry. Mr. Petersen recounted that West LA sits victorious with its new kitchen, extra beds and the passing of their recent survey with 0 deficiencies. He continued with a report on the various divisions of CalVet:

Women's Veterans – The third week of March is Women's military history week and there will be a Women's Reception on March 17, 2016 in Sacramento with more information to come on that. He also pointed out that Women's Veterans' hosts a webinar the 1st Monday of every month and it is available to anyone to listen in.

Farm and Homes - The Farm and Home division continues to grow. They are over their goal in loans and the delinquency and cancellation/foreclosure rates are lower than the National average.

Communications – The new driver's license designation continues to grow with 13,000 Veterans designating their Veteran status on their driver's license within the first two months! ([Attachment #4](#))

Vet Services – Mr. Petersen referred to the attachment. ([Attachment #5](#))

Deputy Secretary Petersen finished with conveying that there is lots of momentum and energy in the Department to address concerns. He supported their frustrations and provided encouragement.

Chair Taylor questioned what the budget item, \$600,000, for nine positions for food delivery at the Redding and Fresno homes was for? Answer: It is for staffing the Satellite kitchens which is a requirement of the Department of Public Health.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Appeals:

No new appeals but gave recognition to the department for increasing dialogue and coming to agreement so as not to Appeal.

Complaints:

Executive Officer Lassiter reported that there were no new complaints since the last Board meeting of December 3, 2015.

BOARD COMMENTS: Todd Trotter commented on the Driver's license designation pointing out that having that designation on your driver's license also alerts healthcare providers allowing for an appropriate plan of care for said veteran. It also helps expedite the process of gaining employment since verification of the designated status has already been done. Member Crooks added that it helps with claims as well and thanked everyone for attending. Member Trotter thanked Deputy Secretary Petersen by for being there and delivering the Department update to the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan and Objectives

Action Items:

1. Hugh Crooks: Communication and Marketing

Member Cooks reported that he has met with his old Board at the West LA home which is the home that he has been assigned to. He explained that he is very familiar with the frustrations expressed today.

2. Todd Trotter: Administration

Member Trotter reported that there are no new Appeals and commended all parties involved for coming to agreement as opposed to going through with the Appeal process.

3. Gena Truitt: Homes

VA Secretary McDonald visited Loma Linda hospital and said that the CalVet homes are on his radar. They are looking for better ways to partner with the Homes.

Member Truitt asked Mr. Petersen if West LA has the appropriate mental health care for the homeless Veterans? Mr. Petersen reported that CalVet/West LA provides the housing and the Federal VA provides the services.

Member Truitt expressed concerns about admission denials due to lack of services and queried whether partnerships with other VA's for the other homes lacking services is possible? Answer: The Department will continue to reach out to the VA.

Member Truitt then asked if there was a Vet center closer to Yountville than San Francisco? Answer: Yes, but by statutes they have to go to San Francisco.

4. Caroline Morales: Legislation

Vice-Chair Crooks updated legislation on behalf of Member Morales. Bills that are being watched include: AB 1596, Veterans; SB 112 State Veterans bill of rights; SB 866, Veterans Housing; SB 543, MWR funds. ([Attachment #6](#))

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:30 AM

Attachment #1



CALIFORNIA VETERANS BOARD
Meeting Minutes #751
December 3, 2015



Charlene Taylor, Chair

Hugh Crooks, Jr., Vice-Chair
Juan Gonzalez, Board Member
Todd Trotter, Board Member

Caroline Morales, Member
Sean Sargeant, Board Member
Gena Truitt, Board Member

The California Veterans Board met at the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) building, Medal of Honor Hall at 9:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Charlene Taylor (Chair), Hugh Crooks Jr. (Vice-Chair), Caroline Morales (Member), Gena Truitt (Member) via teleconference

Absent: Todd Trotter (Member), Sean Sargeant (Member), Juan Gonzalez (Member) – work/schedule conflicts.

Chair Taylor presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Taylor welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. The Board and Executive Officer introduced themselves.

MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

Approved minutes from September 16, 2015 Board meeting. Chair Taylor moved to approve the minutes with the correction of a spelling error and member Morales seconded. Motion unanimously approved and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Michael Beggs, Program Coordinator for Project Uniform, a branch of the California Youth Advocacy Network program, addressed the Board and explained that his program reaches out to veterans to help them create or improve their tobacco cessation programs.

CHAIR'S UPDATE – Chair Taylor reported that she and Secretary Imbasciani met in November and will continue to meet monthly to look into more ways the Board can help with the mission of the Department. Chair Taylor announced she was recently appointed by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi to sit on the “Commission on Care” which is a 15 member commission that meets every month in Washington D.C. for three days. Its purpose is to examine veterans’ access to VA health care, to

examine strategically how best to organize the VHA, locate health resources, and deliver health care to veterans over the next 20 years. Chair Taylor also recently spoke to new CalVet employees at its new employee orientation where she reiterated the background, functions and role of the Board. She extended her appreciation to Vice Chair Crooks for chairing the last meeting and to all those that attended the Town Hall Forum.

DEPARTMENT FORUM: Department Update

Secretary Imbasciani greeted the Board and introduced himself. He gave a rundown on his expertise and how it will help him drive the Department forward. His direction with the Homes will include updating and modernizing the pharmaceutical system and refining admissions that would create a system-wide model that would streamline and organize the homes into a more congruent system. He plans to utilize the Board's expertise to look at other states to locate the best practices in terms of efficiency and uniformity. The Secretary plans to focus on the Yountville home and bring it to Federal standards in the most financially responsible manner. He explained that this would include, in part, the enlisting of help from other community partners, organizations and not for profits. Secretary Imbasciani reported that the idea to encourage the VA to create a campus on the grounds is a possibility.

Secretary Imbasciani reported on the successes of both the Farm and Home division and the recent program to add the "Veteran" status on the California Drivers Licenses. He further reported that the Department has already started updating the very out of date Military and Veterans Code.

Secretary Imbasciani went on to report that all the homes have Administrators now, the only vacancy remaining at the Department is Minority Veterans, and he believes he has found an Under-secretary. Morale is great, there is transparency and team work.

The Secretary spoke of the "Death with Dignity Act" and the upcoming big meeting that will form a statewide Bioethics committee to create policies and procedures to become better prepared to deal with end of life protocol.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall: Member Truitt gave a recap of the Town Hall meetings and suggested that we utilize our Board meetings to gather information. The Board meetings would have specific themes and speakers focused on a certain topic. The Town Halls were very successful but they require a significant amount of time in planning.

NEW BUSINESS

Appeals:

The Board heard and acted on the following appeals:

- Mr Taylor, formal, accepted
- Mr. Vaughan, informal, accepted
- Mr. Cirotto, formal, accepted
- Mr. Duncan, informal, accepted

Complaints:

Executive Officer Lassiter went over complaints that had been submitted since the last meeting of September 16, 2015.

Chair Taylor expanded on the complaint submitted by Scott Barnes.

Budget:

Executive Officer Lassiter reported that the Board is on track with their Budget with the exception of the payroll and benefits increase that went into effect.

Calendar: There were no objections to the tentative calendar.

January 27, 2016	Board Meeting	Yountville, CA
January 28, 2016	Vaughan Appeal	Redding, CA
February 3, 2016	Taylor Appeal	Fresno, CA
February 24, 2016	Duncan	Chula Vista, CA
March 30, 2016	Board Meeting	Southern CA/TBD
May 25, 2016	Board Meeting	Northern CA/TBD
July 27, 2016	Board Meeting	Southern CA/TBD
September 28, 2016	Board Meeting	Northern CA/TBD
November 30, 2016	Board Meeting	Southern CA/TBD

Additional dates:

Cirotto Appeal? (San Francisco)

BOARD COMMENTS: Member Crooks reported that he attended the State Commanders Conference held at the new American Legion headquarters in Sanger, CA. He urged other members of the Board to attend future meetings as it was evident that the presence of the Board was greatly appreciated. Member Crooks reported that he has a contact for anyone who is a WWII veteran that served in France. The French Government brings these Veterans into the Legion of Honor. He went on to give a brief outline of the coming visit of the American Legion National Commander and his meeting with the Secretary this month. The Board thanked everyone for coming and commended the audience for their participation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Plan and Objectives

Action Items:

5. **Hugh Crooks:** No update at this time.
6. **Gena Truitt:** Member Truitt reported that the California Veterans home in Barstow has been working with the VA to improve admissions and they currently have openings in different levels of care.
7. **Caroline Morales:** Member Morales gave a report of the bills of interest to the Department. Three to note are SB 543, SB 2, AB 1383 and AB 442.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS

The Board went over their Strategic Plan and Objectives for 2016 making some minor changes. Suggestions include:

STRATEGIC GOALS:

Add Goal

- An additional goal was added to the Strategic Goals as Goal #3:
Seek opportunities to proactively advise the Governor's office and the Department on Legislation that affects Veterans.

1. Strengthen and demonstrate the Boards' importance and relevancy to California Veterans

- a. Objective:** Identify and advise the Department of Veterans Affairs as to significant issues affecting California Veterans.

Add action items

- Members speak, at least annually, at a public forum regarding Board Activities.
- Members will attend at least one Veteran Service Organization meeting quarterly and report findings to the Board

Note: Chair Taylor will put together a powerpoint outlining guidelines for public speaking.

- b. Objective:** Improve communications and marketing of Board activities to increase Veterans attendance at Board functions.

Delete Objective

This objective has been accomplished and will be deleted. Objective c (with its changes below) will be made Objective b.

- c. Objective:** Identify best business practice for conducting Board activities.

Add action items

- Change Board meeting time and locations. Possibly meet in the evenings. Meet at the Homes, VFW and/or Universities.
- Members will seek out and inquire what information Veterans are interested in hearing about at Board meetings. Send out surveys, talk with Commanders and VSO's.
- Meetings will include special interest speakers.
- Change the "Department Update" to include Homes, Services and Farm & Home department heads when meetings are held in Sacramento.

Add Objective

Objective: Partner with the Homes to increase visibility and gain knowledge of the Homes' operations and receive input from staff and residents.

Add action items

- Homes will be categorized by geographical area and assigned to members (1 or 2 members to each area) in order to increase the boards' presence at the homes.
- Each board member will attend their identified homes' Allied Council Meeting quarterly or twice a year.
- Each member will bring feedback to the Board.
- Homes were divided among members:
 - Hugh: West LA
 - Hugh /Juan: Lancaster
 - Gena/Caroline: Barstow
 - Todd: Yountville
 - Charlene: Redding, Fresno
 - Sean: Ventura
 - Gena: Chula Vista
- Discussed presenters: Allied Council.

2. Work in partnership with the Secretary and Department of Veterans Affairs for the benefit of all California Veterans.

a. Objective: Establish regular and open line of communication

Delete action item

- Deletion of action item iii. Attending California Interagency Council Meeting action.

b. Objective: Receive regular briefing information from Department of Veterans Affairs

Add action items

- Committee Members will seek out and establish involvement with their respective Department Heads. Members will meet with their department heads at least every other month.

*****Members are to submit their revisions/new goals/action to the Chair as soon as possible**

Members discussed the Survey of other States' programs that was asked of them by the Secretary. Areas that will be looked at include:

- Bed size?
- Wait list to get in? Average time to get in?
- Levels of care (there are four), which of those four do they provide?
- Eligibility requirements (minimum disability i.e. 10% or ?, require health insurance?, require honorable discharge?)
- Is there a co-pay for the various levels of care?
- What services are included in the monthly bill (equipment, medications, diagnostics, specialty services i.e. Cardiology, HepC)? Extra fees?
- Do they admit non veteran spouses? Is there a copay for them?

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 12:30 PM

Attachment #2

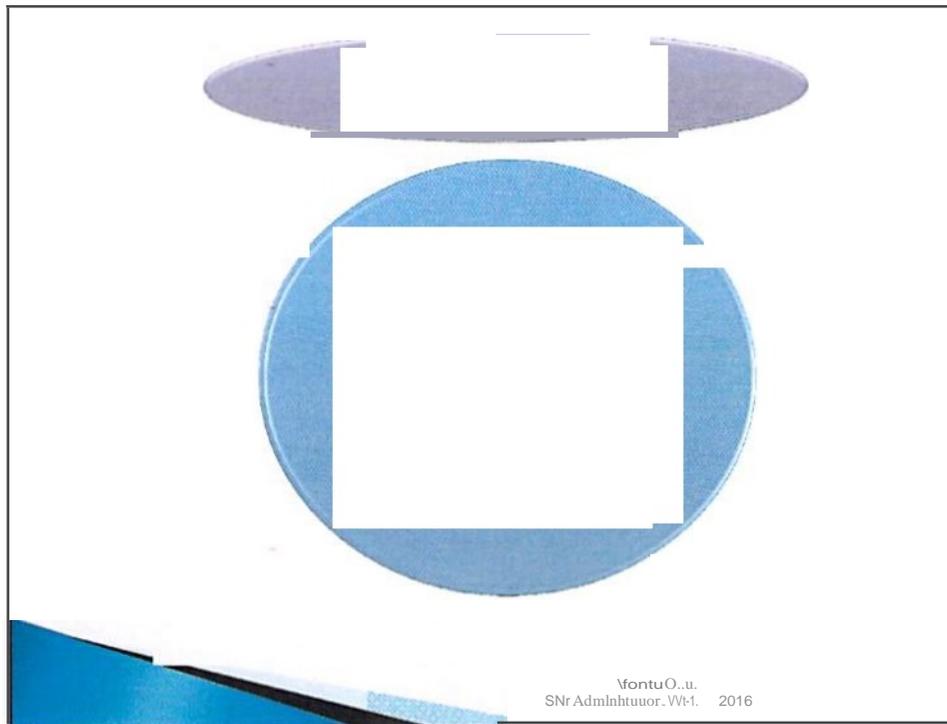
Twinkle Twinkle Little 5 Stars!



Monica Diaz
january 27, 2016

The Star System

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rate the quality of nursing homes.
- Each facility participating in Medicare or Medicaid, or both, receives a rating.
- The primary goal of the rating system



New Legislation

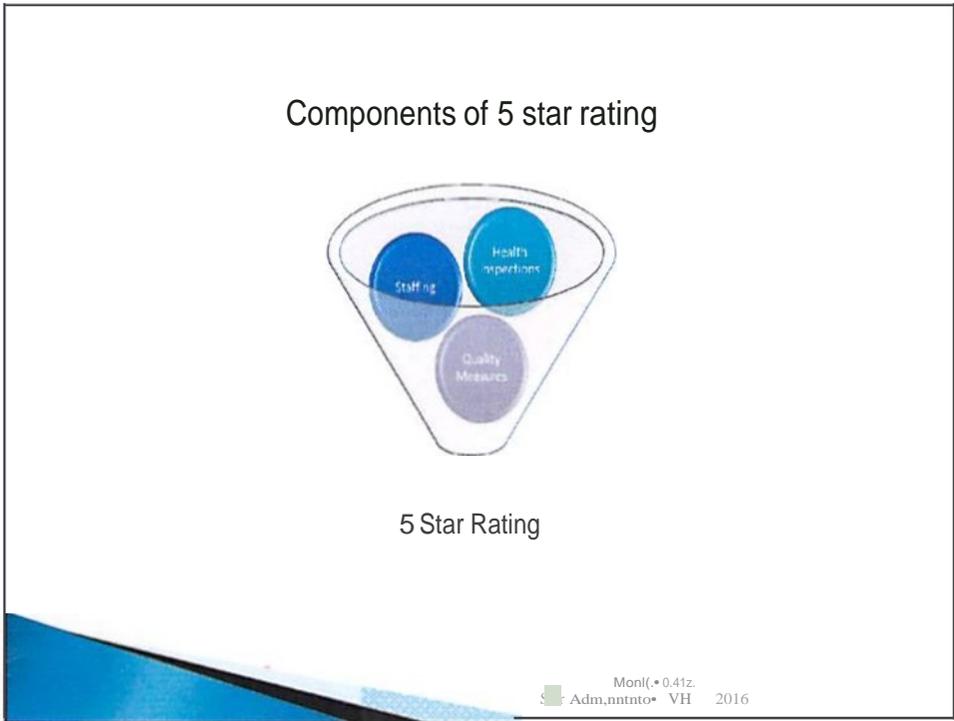
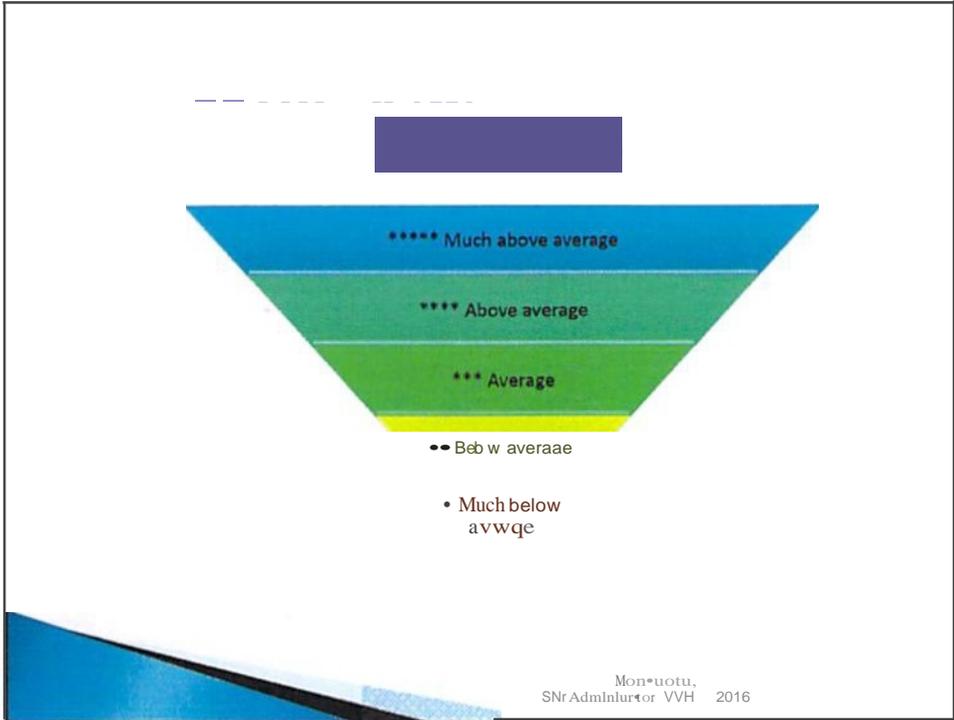
- In October 2014, President Obama signed into law the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014.
- New executive action to improve STAR rating
- IMPACT requires new additional Quality Measures.



- Quarterly electronic reporting of staffing by the end of 2016
- Provide the ability to compare facility staffing levels with verifiable payroll data.
- New calculation of Quality Measures for staff turnover, retention, types of staffing, and levels of different types of staffing

IMPACT Requirements cont...

- In January 2015, Nursing Home Compare will begin reporting the anti-psychotic medications use.
- Rating of functional status
- Rating of cognitive function
- Changes in function and cognitive function and changes in skin integrity
- Medication reconciliation
- Incidence of major falls
- Re-hospitalization rates
- Re-hospitalization rates after discharge to the community



- The health inspection domain are based on the number, scope, and severity of deficiencies
- The period is the three most recent annual inspection surveys, and
- Substantiated findings from the most recent 36 months of complaint investigations.

federal-regulatory-group-ltc.pdf

Health Inspection Score: Weighu for Different Types of Deficiencies

SEVERITY	Isolated	Panem	Widespread
Immediate jeopardy to resident health or safety	50 points (75 points)	K 100 points (125 points)	L 150 points (175 points)
Actual harm that is not immediate jeopardy	G 20 points	H 35 points (40 points)	45 points (50 points)
No actual harm with potential for more than minimal	O 4 points	E 8 points	16 points (20 points)
No actual harm with potential for minimal harm	A 0 point	B 0 point	C 0 point

Health Inspection Calculations J

The health inspection calculation is based on annual survey results and complaint visits.

The calculation is weighted based on deficiencies, and a number of repeat revisits.

Health Inspection Weighted Calculations

1. The first calculation is based on the last three surveys.
2. The second calculations is based on compliant visits.

Fist cycle=1/2 Second cycle= 1/3 third cycle=1/6

Staffing

The staffing domain are based on two measures:

- 1) RN hours per resident day; and
- 2) total staffing hours (RN+ LPN+ nurse aide hours) per resident day.
- Other types of nursing home staff such as clerical, administrative, or housekeeping staff are not included in these staffing numbers.

Quality Measures

The quality measures are based on performance on 9 of the 18 QMs that are currently posted on the Nursing Home Compare website, and that are based on MDS 3.0 resident assessments.

Quality Measures Areas

The measure is based on the following data points:

Long-Stay Residents:

- Percent of residents who were discharged to a nursing home, hospice, or other long-term care facility - F315
- Percent of high-risk residents with nursing home readmissions - F14, 271, HI, 241, 309, 441
- Percent of residents who have died in the hospital - F315
- Percent of residents who were physically restrained - F221
- Percent of residents who were sexually abused - F4, 1, 115
- Percent of residents who self-reported medication misuse - F109
- Percent of residents experiencing one or more falls with major injury - F12J

Short-Stay Residents:

- Percent of residents who were discharged to a nursing home, hospice, or other long-term care facility - F315
- Percent of residents who were discharged to a nursing home, hospice, or other long-term care facility - F315

Quality Measure Calculations cont....

For each measure, 1 to 100 points are assigned based on facility performance, with the points determined in the following way.

Facilities achieving the best possible score on the QM (i.e. 0% of residents triggering the QM) are assigned 100 points.

The remaining facilities are assigned 1 to 99 points, based on national percentiles of the QM distribution for providers with values greater than 0%, with facilities in the poorest 1% receiving 1 point and facilities in the top 1% (of those with a non-zero value) scoring 99 points.

All of the 9 QMs are given equal weight. The points are summed across all QMs to create a total score for each facility.

- Note that the total possible score ranges between 9 and 900 points.

Quality Measure Calculations cont...

The percentiles are based on the national distribution for all of the QMs except for the ADL measure.

For the ADL measure, deciles are set on a State - specific basis using the State distribution.

Facilities assigned points in 10-point increments, based on their decile of performance, with 10 points assigned to the poorest performing decile and 100 points assigned to the top-performing decile.

1 Star	2 Stars lower	2 Stars upper	3 stars lower	3 stars upper	4 Stars lower	4 Stars upper	5 Stars
355	356	435	436	507	508	615	616



Nursing Home Compare Five-Star Ratings of Nursing Homes

Provider Rating Report Incorporating data reported through 12/31/2015

Ratings for N M Holderman Memorial Hospital • Snf (555095) Yountville, California				
Overall Quality	Health Inspection	Quality Measures*	Staffing	RN Staffing
***	**	***	*****	*****

*The Quality Measure (QM) Rating that will be posted on the Nursing Home Compare website in January 2016 is based on MDS 3.0 quality measures using data from the first, second and third quarters of 2015.

Provided above are the Five-Star ratings that will be displayed for your nursing home on *Nursing Home Compare* in January 2016. The website will be updated on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING VOLUNTARY STAFFING DATA SUBMISSION:

Registration for the voluntary staffing data submission period is now open!

Beginning in July 2016, all Medicare- and Medicaid-participating nursing homes will be required to submit staffing data to CMS through a new electronic system called the Payroll-based Journal (PBJ). In the meantime, CMS strongly encourages facilities to submit staffing data on a voluntary basis. Participation in the voluntary submission period will allow facilities to work through their processes before the mandatory submission period begins. CMS will not publicly report any of the voluntarily submitted data or use the data for any regulatory purposes.

CMS also encourages facilities that are waiting until July to begin reporting staffing data to still register for PBJ data submission. Below are instructions on how to register (NOTE: you must log in to the CMSNET to get access to the registration sites below). For access to CMSNET, please visit this site: <https://www.qtso.com/cmsnet.html>

Step 1: Obtain a CMSNet User ID for PBJ Individual, Corporate and Third Party users, if you don't already have one for other QIES applications (<https://www.qtso.com/cmsnet.html>) (many users may already have this access for MDS submission).

Step 2: Obtain a PBJ QIES Provider ID for CASPER Reporting and PBJ system access. (https://mds.qiesnet.org/mds_home.html)

Training: PBJ Training Modules for an introduction to the PBJ system and step by step registration instruction are available on QTSO a-University, select the PBJ option. (<https://www.qtso.com/webex/qiesclasses.php>)

More information about staffing data submission is available at:

<https://www.cms.gov/Regaffairs/Policies/2015/01-15-nursing-home-compare-five-star-ratings>

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Attachment #3

HOME MEMBER BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THE YOUNTVILLE ALLIED COUNCIL

(HOME MEMBERS RECEIVE FREE LIFE MEMBERSHIPS at the NAPA VALLEY MUSEUM)

1. **Photocopy service** -- in our business office, Room 209 of the Member Services Center (MSC).
2. **Fax service** – incoming and outgoing -- in our office.
3. **Document/paper shredding service** – in our office
4. **Auto Hobby Shop access** – sign out key in our office.
5. **Pro Bono Lawyer** – by appointment in our office if over age 60.
6. **Membership in Marines Memorial Club** in San Francisco – FREE – sign up in our office.
7. **COSTCO Membership Card** – sign-out in our Office, \$1 donation.
8. **Peddlers Faire** – every other month in Grant Hall, on the first Saturday morning of the even months, vendor tables available.
9. **AARP Smart Driver Course** – several times a year on Friday and Saturday afternoon in Room 210 MSC.
10. **Advocacy** for the Home membership before the legislature, once the Council has voted a position.
11. The Council meets weekly with the Administrator to **advise** of Home Member concerns, suggestions, and recommendations.
12. **Office support** for the Art Committee.
13. **Town Hall Meetings** when the occasion arises.
14. **Main Dining Room Menus** – in our office every Friday.
15. **Napa Valley Savings Book** sales -- in our office December – May.
16. **Consultations** with Home Members on their concerns.
17. **New Member Orientation Book.**
18. **CA Veterans Resource Book** – FREE - in our office.
19. **CA DMV Driver Handbook** – FREE - in our office.
20. **CA DMV Driving Test Criteria** – FREE - in our office.
21. **CA DMV Senior Guide for Safe Driving** – FREE - in our office.
22. **BINGO** – FREE – in Grant Hall – 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Compiled by James B. Musson, Yountville Allied Council Treasurer.

jbmusson@yahoo.com

707-628-4855

(Rev. 11-04-15)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
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July 11, 2013

SENT VIA GOLDEN STATE OVERNIGHT

Ed Olson, Chair & Edwin Warren, Vice Chair
Allied Council of the Veterans Home of California – Yountville
60 California Drive
Yountville, CA 94599

Re: MWR Fund Expenditures

Dear Mr. Olson & Mr. Warren:

I am writing in response to your letter to Marcella McCormack, dated May 21, 2013, in which you requested reimbursement for travel costs incurred by your organization. Your letter coincided with an internal review of the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Funds at each Veterans Home, which was being conducted by our Legal Office in response to the recent report issued by the Bureau of State Audits. This review focused on the Military and Veterans Code provisions governing these funds, as well as your organization's role as advisory bodies to Veterans Home Administrators.

In the course of its review, our Legal Office discovered that previous administrations have provided funding to your organization under the mistaken belief that these subsidies were required by law. Although the Legislature has maintained your organization's status as an established advisory body, it never mandated that General Fund or MWR Fund moneys be used to subsidize Allied Council expenses. The Legislature has carefully considered these provisions over the years and made numerous amendments. Had the Legislature intended for General Fund or MWR Fund moneys to be spent on Allied Council operations, it surely would have codified such provisions in law. In addition to lacking a legal foundation, these subsidies are problematic because they cloud the independence and objectivity of the advice that you render. In light of the foregoing, I have directed administrators to immediately discontinue the practice of providing Allied Councils with financial subsidies, as well as providing designated office space, office equipment, and administrative support.

Accordingly, funding for your organization has been removed from the MWR Fund budgets for the 2013/2014 Fiscal Year. I am pleased to note, however, that there are numerous fundraising options available to Allied Councils, as private unincorporated associations. I understand that you have previously expressed interest in forming a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation. To better understand your fundraising options, I encourage you to consult with an attorney or financial advisor of your choosing. I am confident that you will find that there is a wellspring of support for veteran's organizations such as yours. I understand that you have also expressed interest in amending your organization's Constitution. To assist you in this regard, CalVet has decided to forgo its right, under the Allied Council Constitution, to approve such amendments.

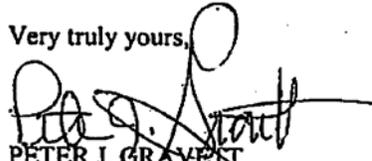
HONORING CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

Ed Olson
Edwin Warren
July 11, 2013
Page 2

While we are grateful for your interest in advising administrators on fiscal matters and have solicited your input as appropriate in the past, I want to remind you that the role of the Allied Councils is not to manage the Veterans Homes or ensure the soundness of their finances. We work collaboratively with control agencies that oversee CalVet to ensure the soundness of our budget. I would ask that you respect the role of the Administrator at your Veterans Home and support her because the authority to spend MWR Fund moneys rests wholly with her, subject to my approval.

I also want to assure you that the quality care that our Veterans Home residents receive is entirely paid for from the General Fund and we are committed to continuing the funding to provide quality care. We are deeply committed to the care we provide our veterans and proud to serve thriving and active residents like yourselves at the Yountville Veterans Home. I know that administrators greatly value your input and I trust that your views on important matters will continue to be solicited and carefully considered. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



PETER J. GRAVENT
Major General (Retired)
Secretary

cc: John Farrell, Chair, Allied Council of the Veterans Home of California – Chula Vista
George Cousart, Chair, Allied Council of the Veterans Home of California – Barstow

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

Attachment #4

Veteran Driver License and ID Available

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE U.S. MILITARY? YOU MAY QUALIFY TO PROUDLY DISPLAY **VETERAN** ON YOUR CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD.

IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2,3!

1 Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO).

2 Take your DD214 and government identification to your CVSO to obtain your Veteran Status Verification Form.

3 Go online or call DMV for an appointment. Then bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to DMV. Complete your application, pay any fees including the \$5 fee to add the Veteran Designation. *Note: tests may be required.*

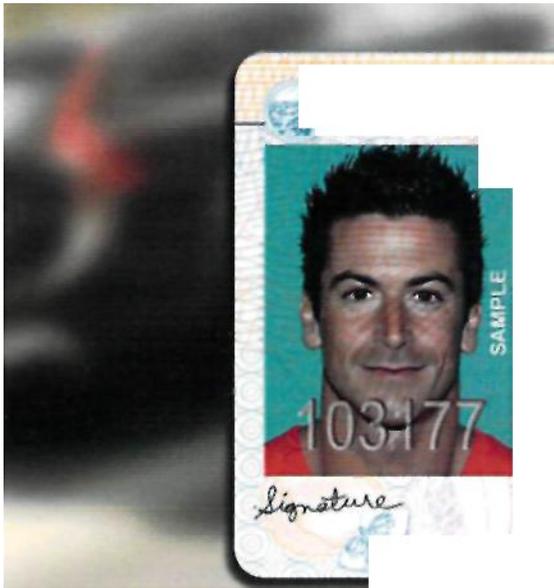
CAL**VET

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

For faster CVSO service, schedule an appointment by finding your local CVSO at www.calvet.ca.gov or calling 1-844-737-8838.

To schedule an appointment at a DMV, visit www.dmv.ca.gov or call 1-800-777-0133.





NIA

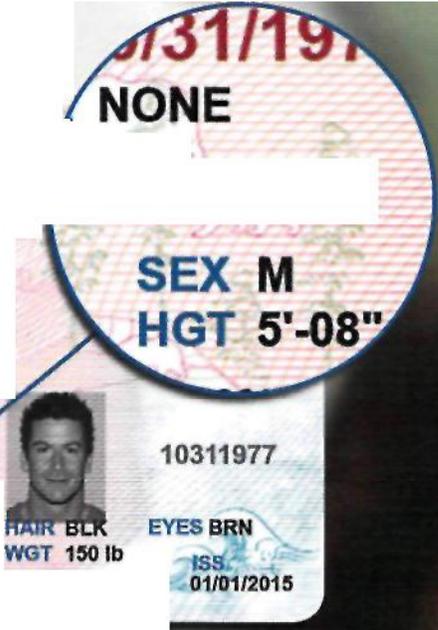
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**ISS
01/01/2015**

Attachment #5

CalVet Board Meeting Veterans Service Division Update

Strike Teams

- The CalVet Strike Teams in our District Offices have now reviewed more than 75,000 claims since their inception in September 2013. Strike Team efforts have resulted in the awarding of \$100M in lump sum payments (retroactive payments based on the time the claim has been at the USDVA) and monthly award payments totaling \$13.7M. Annualized, \$164M will be drawn down federally to CA Veterans every year for the rest of their lives.
- The backlog of veterans claims in CA was nearly 70,000 when the Strike Team initiative began and is now under 7,000 claims remaining.

Veteran Designation on Drivers Licenses and ID Cards

- The Veteran designation on California driver's licenses and ID cards program is off and running—a huge success in the partnership between CVSOs and the State. As of January 20, 2016, over 12,700 veterans have been completed and certified by CVSOs. More importantly, 1238 (9.7%) of those veterans visiting the CVSOs for the designation have subsequently filed claims for VA benefits.

California Veterans Service Representative Academy

- CalVet provides a three-month training program for County Veterans Service Office staff filing claims for VA benefits. District Offices have recently worked in collaboration with the California Association of CVSOs to revamp the accreditation training curriculum, which includes four days of classroom training and a 27-chapter training manual. This training program is critical for CalVet to ensure the CVSO staff have a standardized baseline of knowledge and are filing high quality claims for California's veterans and their families.

California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

- The California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is continuing construction and still expected to open in July 2016. The manager has been hired and is working with the community to respond to pre-applications to establish eligibility and a waiting list for those who have already passed away and are awaiting interment at the cemetery.

Mental Health Program

- The Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63) RFA for the FY 16/17 grant program was released to every CVSO on the 1st of December and will be awarded to six(6) counties at \$45,000. The purpose of CalVet's Prop 63 program is to expand and enhance mental health services to include treatment, and other related recovery programs.

Justice Involved Veteran Outreach

- CalVet VSD has begun sending outreach and supportive material to veterans who are projected to be released from incarceration in 180 days. This effort will reach approximately 500 veterans over 2016 and approximately 1000 veterans in 2017. Veterans will be provided the necessary information to connect with supportive services in the county in which they will reside after release. This effort is made possible through CalVet's Interagency Agreement with CDCR.
- CalVet VSD has developed, and is the process of distributing an informational letter from Deputy Secretary Keith Boylan to the Public Defenders of California. The communication will contain information regarding diversion procedures that have been codified for individuals that self-identify as being current or former members of the U.S. military such as California Penal Code sections 858,1170.9,1170.91, and 1001.80.

Stand Down/Homeless Veterans

- For FY15/16 all CalVet Veteran Stand Downs have been completed. There was a total of 14 CalVet sponsored events held throughout the state serving more than 2500 veterans. NOFA's for FY 16/17 Stand Down Applications are scheduled for release March 3, 2016.

Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Outreach

- On January 14, 2016. The California Department of Veterans Affairs received multiple awards at the 2015 State Agency Recognition Awards.
- CalVet received the 2015 Platinum Award for Excellence in Procurement Leadership, and overall improvement in their Small Business (SB)/DVBE Advocacy and Outreach programs. The Platinum award is the highest recognition a State Agency can receive in this category.
- CalVet was also awarded the Business Development Program Collaboration Award for Excellence (CACE) for commitment and partnership between prime contractors, subcontractors and CalVet's collective efforts to meet and exceed SB and DVBE contracting goals for one or more contracts. This was the first year for CACE nominations and CalVet was the only state Agency to receive this award.
- For FY 14/15, CalVet awarded over \$44 million to SB and DVBEs and exceeded both their SB participation goal by more than 14% and their DVBE participation goal by 6.5%. Additionally, CalVet's outreach efforts increased the number of certified DVBEs by 16%.
- On January 29,2016, CalVet's Veterans Services Division will host the quarterly DVBE Advisory Council (DAC) meeting, Chaired by Deputy Secretary Keith Boylan, in the Medal of Honor Hall. The meeting will include updates from DGS, CalVet, and the Council's five standing committees. DVBE Advisory Council members will participate in a guided facilitation by DVBE Education and Outreach Staff to set their Council goals for the 2016 calendar year.

Veterans Connect @ The Library project

- A partnership between CalVet and the Office of the State Librarian is entering its 4th year. The program has grown to its current constellation of 40 libraries throughout the state that now house a Veteran Service Center. These centers serve as entry points for veterans and their families to get connected to their benefits along with referrals to programs/services available locally.

Attachment #6

Hello Hugh:

Given I will not be able to attend our board meeting this week and Charlene will be calling in I am sending you my legislative update. Please present or have Tina present my update below at our meeting on my behalf.

There are approximately 70 active bills the department is tracking. Of these 70 bills, the Department is closely tracking the following 4 bills:

- AB 1596, Titled Veteran Service Organizations.

A summary of this bill is it appropriates a specified amount of funds from the General Fund each fiscal year to the Department of VA for the purpose of grants to veteran's service organizations. Requires a VSO to have a presence in this state and be registered with both the Secretary of State and Attorney General.

A potential issue with this bill is the state cannot fund such grants unless CVSO funding is paid IAW applicable statutes. In other words, cannot offer grants unless CVSO funding requirements are first met.

-SB 112, Titled Veterans.

A summary of this is it establishes the State Veteran's Bill of Rights. Proclaims the rights of veterans in the State, including that Veterans have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, and have the right to housing, education, job training, and physical and mental health services.

A potential issue with this bill is that the definition or scope of mental health services is not explained. Moreover, this requirement for physical and mental health services could have a direct affect as to what our homes are to provide in care.

-SB 866, Titled Veterans Housing

A summary of this bill is it authorizes a housing developer or service provider that receives bond moneys pursuant to the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014, to provide housing or services to Veterans and their children in women-only facilities or men-only facilities in limited instances.

A potential issue with this bill is it may present a test of the Fair Housing Act due to arguably offering preference for women. However, there may be precedent to provide such preference if fulfills a public policy such as safety.

SB 543, Titled Veteran's Home of California is a carryover bill is also known as the MWR funds bill. The Department is continuing to work with the author's office to confirm the Board's responsibilities in this bill.

Note, I asked JP to contact the author's office of AB 1383, Titled Veterans Preference: Volunteer Policy and ask for an update on momentum of this bill. This is the bill Todd and I have been closely monitoring that authorize a private employer to establish and maintain a written Veteran's preference employment policy.

Have a great meeting and see you in March.

Caroline