



**System Worth Saving Site Visit Report**

- **Date:** May 19, 2021
- **Location:** Fergus Falls Veterans Home
- **Attendees:**
  - Rehab Committee Members*- Chairman Wilson Spence, Gary Munkholm, Dan Tengwall, Jim Finley and Carol Gilbertson.
  - *Department Service Officer*- Jeremy Wolfsteller.
  - Fergus Falls Veterans Home*- Administrator Jonathon Stone.

- **Purpose**

The American Legion Dept. Rehabilitation Committee is tasked with staying engaged with agencies that aid Minnesota veterans. The committee does this by conducting System Worth Saving Site Visits throughout the year. These locations include Sioux Falls, Fargo, St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Health Care Systems, St. Paul Regional Offices, Minneapolis, Hastings, Luverne, Fergus Falls and Silver Bay Veterans Homes. Additional Site Visits are conducted at VA CBOC's, Vets Centers, and Minnesota nonprofits that serve veterans when the budget allows.

**Fergus Falls Veterans Home System Overview**

Recognized as a leader in skilled nursing care delivery, Residents at the Minnesota Veterans Home - Fergus Falls receive specialized and individualized care through a team approach. Residents and their quality of care is top priority, and the team strives to help Residents maintain the greatest possible independence in their lives by providing as much choice as possible.

The Fergus Falls Veterans Home opened a Veterans Village in 2011, which consists of two households of 10 and 11 Residents each, designed to offer medical services in a home-style atmosphere. This community approach and design creates a sense of place for dementia Residents by providing a familiar, home-like environment.

In Fergus Falls, the mission is to CARE: Creatively deliver focused care; Acknowledge military heritage; Reconnect Residents with the community; Enhance life's experiences. The Home also contains a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.





## Meeting Minutes

### **Admission Requirements:**

- Honorably discharged veterans who enter service from Minnesota or are current resident, who served 181 consecutive days on active duty, unless discharged earlier because of a disability incurred in the line of duty.

Application process timeline is anywhere from a week to three weeks.

### **Admission Wait Times:**

- The wait times are based on the Homes wait list. There is an active wait list meaning those are currently meeting the clinic standard for skilled nursing care. Then there is an inactive wait list where veterans may have applied but currently do not meet the clinical criteria for skilled nursing care.

#### **Active Wait List:**

**Veterans:** 9 months up to 1 year

**Spouses:** The current average wait is 4 years \*Only allowed so many beds for spouses

### **Staffing:**

- Currently there is 14 vacant positions which are primarily food service workers or Health Service Technicians.

The Home offers sign on bonus for HST's.

### **Funding Breakdown:** (Annual operating budget estimated at \$18M)

**State allocations:** 38.6%

**Federal VA Per diem:** 39.4%

**CMS:** 0

**Maintenance Fees:** 22%

### **Facility Demographics:**

- There are 83 male veteran residents and 13 female veteran residents along with 11 spouses.
- Veterans Village consist of two households 10 and 11 residents designed to offer medical services in a home-style atmosphere to patients with dementia.
- Licensed for 106 beds, currently have 96 beds occupied.
- 32 new admissions during the pandemic
- 21% of the Homes residents are 70% service connected or grater. This means those residents are free of all charges. It also allows a higher "prevailing rate" of reimbursement from the Federal VA to the Home.

### **Facility Remodeling Projects:**

- Replacing handrails, quarter the way done expecting to be finished this year.  
-Greenhouse project.

### **Comments:**

The American Legion and the 9<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Districts have been partners at the Home since they opened in 1998. They have spearheaded many projects throughout the years. Their donations make a substantial difference and add to the quality of care. They provided volunteers for special activities and have participated in various events throughout the year.

Department Rehabilitation Chairman: Wilson Spence III

Department Service Officer & Committee Secretary: Jeremy Wolfsteller

