



System Worth Saving Site Visit Report

- **Date:** April 28, 2021
- **Location:** Virtual Meeting
- **Attendees:**
 - Rehab Committee Members*- Chairman Wilson Spence, Gary Munkholm, Daniel Tengwall, Carol Gilbertson and Jim Finley
 - *Department Service Officer*- Jeremy Wolfsteller
 - *Hastings Veterans Home Administrator*- Mike Anderson
- **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.

Hastings Veterans Home Overview:

The Minnesota Veterans Home - Hastings, we are committed to providing a full continuum of high-quality care and service focusing on rehabilitation, reintegration into the community, and supportive care for optimal enrichment of our Residents' lives. Our care is enhanced by the natural beauty of our surroundings. We are located in Hastings - a tranquil, cozy community just minutes from the Twin Cities. Our beautiful 128-acre wooded campus includes nature trails, a biking path, an outdoor pavilion, a heated screened porch for year-round use, a horseshoe pit and much more. The campus has 179 domiciliary beds in private and semi-private rooms. Residents can benefit from the peace of living on a serene campus but may also choose to be active in a small, historic Minnesota town.

Established in 1978, the Home provides a wide variety of services for Veterans suffering from chemical dependency, mental health illnesses, dual disorders, and/or the debilitating effects of aging. Some of our special services include sobriety maintenance, vocational rehabilitation services, mental health services, and educational services.





Hastings Veterans Home System Worth Saving Site Visit

Michael Anderson has been the Administrator for 2.5 years. Mr. Anderson has since implemented a new vision for Hastings Domiciliary that includes three distinct paths for residents which will focus on their specific needs. Each path includes a road map to help them achieve their goal of completing the path.

⇒ **Wait times:**

- Currently there is not a wait list for veterans to get into Hastings. The admission process can take anywhere from 5 days to 4 months based on the veteran providing the documents needed.

⇒ **Staffing:**

- The Home has one nursing position open (LPN/RN). They're currently recruiting for a Recreational Therapist Supervisor and recently created a position called "Skills Development Specialist" that has been successful, so they have created a second position and are currently recruiting for this position.

⇒ **Facility Demographics:** *Hastings provides a supportive environment where Veterans can live a meaningful life. They complete this mission through these three paths:*

- **Fire Path Motto** – *To help start a fire in someone and give them the tools to keep the flame burning*
 - A structured program, preparing Veterans to live successfully in the community, Provide ongoing support after discharge.
- **Water Path Motto** – *When tended to and at peace, water is a beautiful thing; when disrupted, water can be a destructive force,*
 - A program providing appropriate care to all Veterans, so they are able to meet their individualized progressive goals, Create a holistic approach to care for mental and chemical health needs in a substance-free environment.
- **Earth Path Motto** – *Rooted in the earth, many amazing things grow and evolve; as we put down roots, we also grow and evolve,*
 - Ensure all Veterans who choose to age in place get the most out of life while we work with them to set goals for the future
- Hastings Veterans Home authorized operating bed capacity is set at 200. The Home is currently operating 145. The Home admitted 19 new residents in the last fiscal year. There is 119 men, and 1 female.





⇒ **Hastings Operating Budget:** (FY19, FY20, FY21) *Hastings receives three separate funding sources that is their operating budget. State allocation of taxpayer dollars, maintenance is the veterans portion of payment and VA per-diem is paid per veteran per day. The current rate of VA per-diem for Domiciliary care is \$48.50 per day per veteran.*

- **FY 2019:**

- **State** \$5,154,843
- **Maintenance** \$1,474,271
- **VA Per Diem** \$2,270,706

- **FY 2020:**

- **State** \$5,020,899
- **Maintenance** \$1,613,150
- **VA Per Diem** \$2,136,715

- **FY 2021:**

- **State** \$5,123,157
- **Maintenance** \$1,600,000
- **VA Per Diem** \$2,199,500

⇒ **Outreach Activities:** *Because of the pandemic outreach events have been suspended. Although virtual networking with the homeless veterans continuum of care for several counties has been implemented.*

- **What a typical year looks like:**

- Hastings Healthy Aging Day (May)
- Heartland Hospice (June)
- Veteran Center (June)
- RiverTown Day Parade (July)
- State Fair (August)
- Standown (August)
- VA mental health Summit (August)
- Dakota County CVS0 (September)
- St. Cloud Treatment Center Meeting with staff (September)
- Minnesota Military Radio (September)
- Marketing meeting with Laura Novitsky ARMHS Clinical Manager (October)





➤ **Facility Upgrades:** *Projects completed in the past 2 years*

Most recent:

- Installed a new serving line in the dining room to improve the beverage service at meals. We are also working on a flooring upgrade in the residential area of Building 25. We are working on putting the finishing touches on a new Master Plan for the campus that will be a phase based project to build a new campus.
- New handrails B23stairwells
- Greenhouse replacement
- B23 portions of stairway flooring replaced
- Dining room flooring replaced B23
- Level 2 corridor flooring replaced B23
- ADA doors installed B24
- 12 overhead doors replaced B33 transportation
- Painting of out buildings
- Painting of Powerhouse
- Acoustical ceiling tile replacement levels 1 & 2 B23
- Acoustical ceiling tile replacement B20
- Whirlpool Spa replacement Level 3 B23
- Kitchen equipment replacement
- Kitchen door replacement
- Lighting upgrade to LED outdoor and much of indoor lighting
- Upgraded water softener control system
- All resident bathroom mirror replacement
- Clean Tuckpoint and sealant B24 brickwork
- New Kitchen Hood fire suppression system
- Asphalt repair and replacement facility wide





Projects in progress.

- EFIS wall replacements each end of B23 & B25
- Casework replacement B20
- B20 119 Rec room painting, and flooring replacement
- B20 resource room flooring replacement
- B23 Level 3 corridor flooring replacement
- Asphalt repairs slated for spring
- Modernization B25 HVAC, Elevator, Windows, Electrical lighting, flooring, painting, in construction design phase per funding.
- B25 Fire Sprinkler system installation (late winter)
- B34 renovation (early design stage)
- B28 Roof, exterior walls, slab, and window replacement (early design stage)
- B25 Front entry and casework (early design stage)

Projects to be in development.

- Greenhouse Heaters
- Replace whirlpool spa B23 2nd floor
- Replacement of Nurse call system
- B25A Screen house roof replacement
- Fire doors for B23 laundry rooms magnetic hold open
- Handrail system between B24 and B23
- Replacement of boiler burners and controls
- Sealant for exterior brick
- Epoxy flooring in various areas
- Repair of tunnel E
- Replacement of water lines, and plumbing B23

Department Rehabilitation Chairman: Wilson Spence III

Department Service Officer & Committee Secretary: Jeremy Wolfsteller

