



System Worth Saving Site Visit Report

- **Date:** December 20, 2020
- **Location:** Virtual Meeting (via Microsoft Teams)
- **Attendees:**
 - Rehab Committee Members*- Chairman Wilson Spence, Gary Munkholm, Daniel Tengwall, and Jim Finley
 - *Department Service Officer*- Jeremy Wolfsteller.
 - Minneapolis Veterans Home*– Administrator– Thomas Paul.

- **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.

Minneapolis Veterans Home Overview

The Minnesota Veterans Home - Minneapolis is located on a peaceful, 53-acre wooded campus overlooking the Mississippi River near Minnehaha Falls. The campus contains 291 skilled nursing beds and 50 domiciliary beds in private and semiprivate rooms.

Our legacy began in the late 1800s when, what was then called the Old Soldiers Home, was built for indigent Veterans of the Civil War. Providing care for Veterans for the past 130 years, the shift in focus to making the health care needs of Veterans Homes a primary concern began in the 1960s.

The services are delivered by a dedicated staff of professionals who are passionate about providing the quality care our Veterans deserve - in a highly personalized manner. This care is enhanced by the natural beauty of the surroundings.





MDVA is continuing to respond to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak as the number of reported cases in Minnesota increases. We are working closely with the Minnesota Departments of Health, Public Safety, Nursing Home advocacy groups, the Ombudsman Office and others for latest information and guidance.

- o MPLS Veterans Home had a surge in COVID19 infections and lost 14 residents in April.
- o Vaccinations are in process (certain residents have guardians or conservators to make decisions).
- o Testing both residents and staff, estimated 1200 tests per week. Staff is tested by a contracted provider while residents are tested by staff.
- o Staff that test positive are on a 14-day quarantine and can receive up to 80 hours of paid leave.
- o Each resident can have up to two visitors at a time.

Meeting Minutes:

- 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.
 - o Active Wait List: 870
 - o In-active Wait List: 580
 - o Veterans: The current average wait is 2 years
 - o Spouses: The current average wait is 4 years *Only allowed so many beds for spouses
- Surveys:
 - o All surveys have been put on hold due to COVID19. This includes MDH, CMS and the Federal VA.



Meeting Minutes Continued:

- **Staffing:**

- o The Home has 66 staffing vacancies. Vacancies are attributed to retirements, terminations, and facility not filling the positions due to budgetary adjustments. The Home recently went through a 5% budget cut plan to be prepared for any decrease in state funding. For MPLS that is around \$1.2 million.
- o The Homes staffing model for HST's assignment to residence is not affected. 1 HST assigned to 6 residents compared to the private sector 10-14 residents per CNA/HST.
- o MPLS is fortunate because of their location they have access to hiring HST's whereas the rural Homes it may be a challenge.

- **Facility Demographics:**

- o Behavior Health, Dental clinic, semi- and fully secured units.
- o Licensed for 341 beds, currently have 300 single-bed rooms.
- o 280 beds are in operation, 265 are occupied and 20 beds are for quarantine in compliance with the state emergency executive order.
- o 20% of the Homes residents are 70% service connected or grater. This means those residents a free of all charges. It also allows a higher "prevailing rate of reimbursement from the Federal VA per resident.
- o Admissions per year average around 80. During COVID the Home was still able to admit 55.
- o Breakdown of current residents: Men-229, women-33, and spouses-30

- **Funding Breakdown:** (Annual operating budget estimated 54M)

*Estimations

- o State allocations: \$27M
- o Federal VA Per diem: \$18M
- o CMS \$700,000
- o Maintenance Fees \$8.5M





Meeting Minutes Continued:

- **Medical Services:**

- On sight pharmacy that provides medications to all Homes.
- On sight dental clinic, not during COVID19 the provider travels to other Homes monthly for routine services.
- In-house Nurse Practitioner conducts chart reviews and routine visits with residents.
- Some residents may prefer to use the MPLS VAMC located next to the Home.

- **Facility Remodeling Projects:**

- New education conference center
- Digital monitors installed on main floors of all skilled buildings
- New flooring front hallway and Atrium

Department Rehabilitation Chairman: Wilson Spence III

Department Service Officer & Committee Secretary: Jeremy Wolfsteller

