



## System Worth Saving Site Visit Report

- **Date:** June 21, 2021
- **Location:** Silver Bay Veterans Home
- **Attendees:**
  - Rehab Committee Members*- Chairman Wilson Spence, Gary Munkholm, Dan Tengwall, Jim Finley and Carol Gilbertson.
  - *Department Service Officer*- Jeremy Wolfsteller.
  - Silver Bay Veterans Home*- Administrator Danelle Donner and Director of Nursing Pat Smedstad.

- **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.

### Silver Bay Veterans Home System Overview

Overlooking beautiful Lake Superior, the Minnesota Veterans Home - Silver Bay has four distinct neighborhood living spaces for Residents that combine the look and feel of a north woods lodge with all the comforts of a single-family home. Each residence includes a living room, dining room and kitchen, where meals and activities are offered to fit each Resident's individual preference. Personal choice is a way of life at the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Residents can sleep in or rise early. Whenever you want to eat, we will prepare a delicious, nutritious meal for you. Everything revolves around our Residents and their daily routine. Our Home features a variety of private spaces for Residents and their families, including a large game room, craft shop, four season porch and private dining areas. The surrounding area abounds with opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting, and all kinds of outdoor activities.





**Silver Bay Veterans Home FY21 System Worth Saving Site Visit**

**COVID19 UPDATES**

Last resident to have COVID19 was December 2020.

Last staff member to have COVID19 was January 2021.

Staff that test positive are on a 10/14-day quarantine and can receive up to 80 hours of paid leave.

Residents that test positive are isolated for 10 days in one of the 3 isolation rooms

**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:** 6 months up to 1 year

**Spouses:** The current average wait is 1 to 2 years \*Only allowed so many beds for spouses

**Staffing:**

Silver Bay has 47 vacancies with the highest turnover rate being Health Service Technicians, there are currently 12 open HST positions and Food Service Workers. These positions on average are always short because of the challenge to hire based on the location of the Home.

The current nursing turnover rate is 39.9% at the Silver Bay Veterans Home; the national average is 129%.

**Funding Breakdown:** (Annual operating budget estimated \$14M)

**\*Estimations**

**State allocations:** \$7M

**Federal VA Per diem:** \$5M

**CMS** \$73,000

**Maintenance Fees** \$1.3M

**Total:** \$14M





## Meeting Minutes Continued:

### **Facility Demographics:**

There are 56 male veteran residents and 1 female veteran along with 4 female spouses.

Behavior Health, fully secured dementia units, nurse practitioner onsite, Life enrichment Program, Buddies forever and Firefly (dementia training for staff).

Licensed for 83 beds, Operating capacity is 62 because of HVAC upgrade and currently have 57 beds occupied. Mostly double-bed rooms.

43 beds are for dementia patients, over 50%.

32% 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.

Breakdown of current residents: Men-229, women-33, and spouses-30

### **Facility Remodeling Projects:**

New HVAC System started June 20, 2021 and expected to go through June of 2023.

Department Rehabilitation Chairman: Wilson Spence III

Department Service Officer & Committee Secretary: Jeremy Wolfsteller

