

## **Soldiers' Home in Holyoke Board of Trustees Meeting**

---

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, in Conference Room A. The meeting began at 4:00 PM.

- **Members Present**  
Benjamin H. Cluff, Acting Chairman; Brian Q. Corridan; Christopher R. Dupont; Cindy T. Lacoste; and Cesar A. Lopez
- **Also Present**  
Bennett W. Walsh, Superintendent; John K. Crotty, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. David Clinton, Medical Director; Alice Pizzi, Counsel II; Jessica W. Powers, HR Liaison; Erin Spaulding, Chief Financial Officer; Randy G. Stone, Director of Nursing; Francisco Ureña, Secretary (Department of Veterans Services) via Remote Participation; Eric Donovan, Chief of Staff (Department of Veterans Services) via Remote Participation; and Lori Beswick, Recording Secretary
- **Pledge of Allegiance**  
All present cited the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **Public Comment**  
Benjamin H. Cluff asked if any member of the public wished to address the Trustees. No public comment was offered.
- **Regular Minutes**  
Upon motion by Cesar A. Lopez and seconded by Cindy T. Lacoste, it was unanimously VOTED to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017.
- **Executive Committee of the Medical Staff Meetings**  
Dr. Clinton presented the report of the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff Meetings held on Thursday, December 14, 2017, and Thursday, January 11, 2018. In addition, he discussed the contracted x-ray services provided by Mobilex. Each Trustee received a copy and posed questions pertaining to the Radiology and Cardiology Quarterly Quality Assurance Report October – December 2017.

Brian Q. Corridan suggested a very public affirmative vote, by the Trustees, stating that they support all the efforts of the staff at the Home involved with addressing/reducing the number of falls and are confident they will have positive results.

Upon motion by Brian Q. Corridan and seconded by Cesar A. Lopez, it was unanimously VOTED to accept the report of the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff Meetings.

Benjamin H. Cluff entertained a motion that voices the affirmation and support of the Trustees in the action plan that has been developed to reduce the number of falls, to respond to those falls and the prevention of future falls by the staff here at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Upon motion by Brian Q. Corridan and seconded by Cindy T. Lacoste, it was unanimously VOTED to approve the above affirmation.

- **Superintendent's Report**

Bennett W. Walsh presented the Superintendent's Report, which included a Strategic Plan PowerPoint Presentation that was distributed to the Trustees. Christopher R. Dupont requested Erin Spaulding to provide a copy of the Statement of Work (SOW) for Facility Condition Assessments of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke. Upon motion by Cesar A. Lopez and seconded by Brian Q. Corridan, it was unanimously VOTED to accept the Superintendent's Report as presented.

- **Old Business**

- Cindy T. Lacoste questioned the status of the partitions. Bennett W. Walsh indicated that this project is still ongoing. The partitions are going to cost more than expected, as the original quote received was under priced. We are working to find a vendor with the best value and cost. The partitions will be added to the Strategic Plan.

- **New Business**

- Cesar A. Lopez recommended purchasing stand-up desks for our staff. He proposed that we search for a company and obtain a quote. Alice Pizzi mentioned that we do have a state-wide contract with an ergonomics firm that completes assessments at the Home. Bennett W. Walsh will provide information during the February meeting.
- Benjamin H. Cluff mentioned that the 2018 NASVH Winter Conference will be held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in February 2018. He entertained a motion to reschedule the February meeting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, so that we have a quorum and to get the feedback/experience from the Trustees who attend the conference. Upon motion by Cindy T. Lacoste and seconded by Cesar A. Lopez, it was unanimously VOTED to reschedule the next meeting to Tuesday, February 20, 2018.
- Brian Q. Corridan discussed the performance of the Trustees Fund and the rise in the stock market over the past year. He sought permission and a vote, from the Trustees, to empower him as the Chairman of the Investment Committee of the Board with Erin Spaulding to meet with our Morgan Stanley advisor to reduce the portfolio's exposure to equities and reallocating the assets to a 50/50 mix of stock and bonds/fixed income securities. Upon motion by Cesar A. Lopez and seconded by Cindy T. Lacoste, it was unanimously VOTED to allow Brian Q. Corridan and Erin Spaulding to engage with Morgan Stanley to make the necessary changes in our investments.
- Erin Spaulding requested approval to write off Veteran accounts deemed uncollectable. Erin's request was approved and the documentation to write off accounts was signed by Benjamin H. Cluff.
- Benjamin H. Cluff acknowledged Francisco Ureña and Eric Donovan. Secretary Ureña thanked those present for a detailed meeting and the Trustees' support, especially during the challenging times with the flu outbreak that was serious enough

to postpone the VA Survey. He wished the best for the Veterans who are ill and for the staff, who is so caring each and every day, who take the necessary precautions. Secretary Ureña thanked everyone for their support and being a part of today's meeting.

- **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bennett W. Walsh  
Secretary for the Board of Trustees