

## **Soldier's Home in Holyoke Board of Trustees Update**

February 9, 2021

Top 5 Issues:

### 1) COVID

We held our third COVID vaccine clinic today. This gives us a total of 112 Veterans and 152 staff/contractors fully vaccinated and XX staff/contractors who received their first dose. We have provided anyone who received their first dose with information on obtaining the second dose in the community. These employees can go to Mass.gov and find information on making an appointment and finding a vaccination site. There are 5 vaccination sites within 10 miles of the city of Holyoke.

At the Home, we continue with twice per week testing. We have one positive non-direct care staff member from the testing of Monday, 1 February. No positive staff members resulted from the testing on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. All Veterans are either recovered or tested negative.

### 2) REFRESH PROJECT

Phase II of the refresh project is completed, and the Veterans at Holyoke Medical Center are residing in their new rooms after moving back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Home in January. Phase III of the refresh will begin upon the completion of the required quarantine for the Vets on the second floor on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Veterans from the 4<sup>th</sup> floor will move to the second floor so that the refresh may begin on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Pending any unforeseen changes, construction on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor will begin on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

New furniture for the Canteen is being ordered and now with updated guidance, Veterans can come together, socially distanced for group activities when complete.

### 3) PERSONNEL

We have 3 senior leadership positions open: The Superintendent, the CMO and the CFO. The Superintendent will be discussed later in the meeting.

For the CMO, we have identified a viable candidate, who was interviewed and will meet with the medical staff next. If all goes well, we will make the candidate an offer, and present them at the March Board meeting. Dr. Smith is handling the interim CMO duties, and Dr Higgins remains at the Home for one day per week as a medical consultant.

For the CFO, 5 candidates were interviewed, and one candidate was selected as the recommended candidate. He is currently undergoing HR review.

### 4) VISITATION

Due to a change in DPH guidance regarding long term care visitations, in-person visitation will re-open tomorrow, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Notification has gone out to families and visits have been scheduled. The hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 to 3:00. Each appointment will be 45 minutes long and will take place in the main lobby. Visitors are strongly encouraged

to take a rapid test when arriving at the Home or to provide evidence of a negative PCR test, not more than 72 hours old.

Visitors will be required to wear PPE and maintain social distancing during their visit.

#### 5) ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD

A vendor has been selected to be the provider of the EMR to the Soldiers Homes. The contract is being negotiated and is expected to be executed within 60 days. Staff from Holyoke and Chelsea are beginning to form teams to begin the implementation process. More information will be available once the contract is executed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Lazo, MBA  
Interim Superintendent