

ALEDA E. LUTZ VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

Service Officers' Meeting
February 28, 2013

Present: J. Nechanicky, Acting Medical Center Director, Chairperson
M. Muse, Chief, Patient Administration Service
G. Berg, Chief, FMS
S. Dale, Minority Veteran Program Manager
J. Bolyard, DAV
R. McNally, DAV
D. Ashcraft, MOPH
B. Traylor, Marine Corp
J. Terrell, Marine Corp

Excused: R. Dorr, DO, Chief of Staff
P. Holland, ADPCS
S. Young, Associate Director
C. Roberts, CBOC Manager
C. Seward, PAO/Chief, Voluntary Service
C. White, Patient Advocate
D. Downer, DAV
J. Atkins, VFW
T. Simpkins, AL
M. Thompson, VFW

1. The meeting was called to order.

2. **OLD BUSINESS** – None.

3. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Acting Medical Center Director Update:**

(1) On Monday, we identified some patients in CLC that showed symptoms of the flu. On Tuesday, the Chief of Staff began more definitive action. There were five Veterans confirmed to have the symptoms. At this time, there are 12 inpatients with flu-like symptoms. There are instructions regarding visitors in the CLC. Children will not be allowed to visit and prophylactic treatment for patients in the CLC has begun.

(2) Regarding the Director's position, we have forwarded a name to the VISN for their consideration and also for their forwarding to Central Office. The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has the final say regarding SES appointments. We expect to have a permanent Director identified by June.

2.

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Aleda E. Lutz VAMC, Saginaw, MI

(3) We would like for this facility to become a smoke-free campus, like many other facilities have become. Our labor partners are working through the process with us and we expect the change to take some time before it is affected, perhaps one or more years.

b. **Associate Director Update** – The contract has been awarded for the multi-function devices.

c. **Facilities Management Service Projects Update** – Upcoming projects include the front entrance, standard pipe project in the stairwells, parking lot, roof for Building 1, domestic water, bathroom renovation, and surgery renovation, which includes construction in the loading dock area. A question was asked regarding the vacated Boiler Plant Building. This location will eventually be turned into administrative space.

d. **Patient Administration Service Update** – Regarding bene travel reimbursement, we have tried to go with EFT deposits, as there is a nation-wide push to move to EFT deposits. Travel reimbursement payments can be deposited into Veterans accounts and be available to them within one to two days. We will retain some cash to pay bene travel to those that need cash immediately to return home. If you have questions regarding this service, please call M. Muse, J. Zdrojkowski, or S. Little in PAS. The AMCD advised this is driven by the Treasury and therefore, Federal Law. Receiving a check in the mail is the second option for Veterans to be reimbursed. The third option is to receive a cash payment from the facility at the time of the visit, which will be provided on an emergency basis.

e. **CBOC Management Update** – We await determination from Central Office regarding the request for the Traverse City CBOC. Alternatives are being considered in the event the request is denied. In addition, Oscoda's lease will expire soon and paperwork is being prepared at this time.

f. **PAO/Chief, Voluntary Service Update** – Mr. Nechanicky advised he has requested Ms. Seward to attend more outreach events, such as the Chamber of Commerce events. Congressman Kildee has been invited to visit our facility this spring.

g. **Service Officers:**

- R. McNally discussed an issue concerning benefit requests, noting he heard there has been communication from providers to Veterans encouraging this. Discussion ensued and it was determined there are two issues here. Mr. Nechanicky advised he will talk with Dr. Miller regarding this issue and will follow-up at the next meeting.

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FOLLOW-UP: VSO Meeting in March.

- B. Traylor asked the status of moving the Seamless Transition staff back to the main facility. Office space is being reviewed and B. Doyle will advise of the move date at the next meeting.

FOLLOW-UP: VSO Meeting in March.

- Regarding the copier machines, the Service Officers asked where it will be located. Ms. Doyle will look into this issue.

FOLLOW-UP: VSO Meeting in March.

4. The next Service Officers' meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 28, 2013, at 11 a.m. in the 5A Conference Room.**

JEFF A. NECHANICKY, FACHE
Acting Medical Center Director

Recorder: FAITH MEREUX
EA/MCD