



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
JOHN J. MULLEN
McVILLIE, NORTH DAKOTA

SECRETARY
PAUL S. AABERG
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 1994, MEETING OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
ON VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL
CONVENED AT 6:30 P.M.**

A tele-conference meeting of the full Administrative Committee was held at 6:30 P.M., Monday, April 25, 1994.

All members were present for the call with the exception of Don Weible and Jim Groven.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the expansion of the Nursing Home issue.

Committee Chairman John Mullen called the meeting to order. Ray Harkema taped the meeting for Secretary Paul Aaberg.

A meeting with Senator Krauter and the Budget Committee on Home Community Care was attended by John Mullen, Ray Harkema, and Ken Anderson. This group came out of this meeting with not a good feeling for our cause. However, the committee passed a motion that the committee invite representatives of the Veterans Home to prepare information on operating cost of a state owned basic care veterans facility and present this information at the next committee meeting.

John Mullen and Ken Anderson will tour the Wilton facility on Thursday, April 28, prior to meeting with Senator Krauter. Marvin Jensen reported meeting with the Grafton group and a group from Northwest Minnesota working on a satellite clinic and nothing definite was decided. Northwest Minnesota would not commit themselves to a Veterans Home at Grafton until they have had further discussion. Ken Anderson reminded everyone that we are only allowed to have two domiciliary beds per thousand veteran population. Members wise, we are looking at about a 40 bed domiciliary. For skilled care we would have more latitude because we have a small

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MICHAEL VANDROVEC, VICE-CHR
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CTOR HASS
JOE NOVAK
KENT ANDERSON
DONALD WEIBLE

RAY HARKEMA
COMMISSIONER
VETERANS AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

KEN ANDERSON
COMMANDANT
VETERANS' HOME
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VA CENTER DIRECTOR

GERALD BALZER
ND JOB SERVICE

home presently. From a recent meeting in Washington, the projected per diem will be \$1.90 higher for basic care and \$4.34 higher for skilled care. These numbers are favorable to us just from a cash flow standpoint. The VA has cut 13 million dollars for building money for FY 95.

Paul Aaberg asked if the \$120.00 per cost would go down if Lisbon were a 60 bed facility. Answer from Ken was yes, although the \$120.00 is a high figure. Paul noted that testimony stated that a regular Nursing Home could serve the veterans cheaper than our veterans home can. Ken agreed but pointed out that we are staffed differently, our medical care is primarily done in Fargo, home land, budgeting process different and that a state agency as small as we are will be more costly than a facility not connected with the state. Paul pointed out that testimony from Human Services was not necessarily accurate and this should be pointed out. Ken reported that an audit was recently conducted and feels that this was brought upon because of the difference in testimony. A survey has now been sent by the State Auditor to the employees which Ken read. Joe Novak asked Ken if this survey had been sent to other state agencies. Ken said he had no indication of this. Joe stated that we should not jump on this until we find out if other agencies were surveyed. John Mullen will look into this with the State Auditor.

Ken stated a trip is scheduled for Beach to tour the closed hospital. This will be on Friday during the DAV Convention. Committee members are invited.

Ken asked permission to attend the summer meeting if the dates fit into his schedule. Motion by Ken Evenson to approve, second by Sue Kime. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Ray Harkema reported that the new blue books have been printed and will be sent out to committee members. Transportation program going fairly well. Stanley van has made six out of eight scheduled trips. Van from Wishek has been disappointing with only three of eight scheduled trips made due to lack of veterans coming to medical facility. The largest barrier right now is awareness of the program. News releases were sent to all newspapers and posters are being made so the County Service Offices can post them at various locations. We are also coordinating with the VA hospital to assure that the schedulers are informing patients about the van program. The schedule is subject to change because of availability of specialty clinics. June 1, the runs will be twice a week. With the state conventions coming up, that is a good opportunity to get the word out.

Grant program: of the \$100,000 we have expended \$58,200. Agenda item for the July meeting will be to decide if we are going to ask for additional funds. Grants

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received to date: 133. Of these 125 were approved and 8 disapproved. Majority of the grants are for dental care. Of the \$58,200, \$45,000 has gone for dental care. We are spending a lot on expensive dental procedures and this should be discussed at the next meeting. The second most expenditure is optical at \$8,000. A more detailed report will be given at the July meeting. The emergency commission meets monthly and we can hold off until the July meeting.

Al Huber noted that when the grant program was put together, we realized it would be a test at the beginning to get a feel of the actual need and would be looked at again for changes.

Ray reported that at last weekends WWI convention, the ND organization officially disbanded.

John Mullen talked on representation on the committee on the Health Care Task Force. John would like to see Doug Kenyon, Ray Harkema and Ken Anderson on this committee along with himself. We have no information as of yet on when and how many meetings. Paul Aaberg recommended that Jim Ziegler be included. All were in agreement.

John stated that all interested members of the committee are encouraged to attend the April 28 meeting with the Chairman on Home Community Care.

There being no further business, a motion was made by John Pence to end the teleconference, second by Mike Vandrovec, motion passed.

Submitted by

Paul Aaberg, Secretary

vok
May 19, 1994