

Nebraska Western-Iowa Health Care System - Omaha
4101 Woolworth Ave
Omaha NE 68105
VAVS Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 27, 2022; 1330 – 1500
In-person Meeting

Welcome: Cynthia Pommells – VS Specialist TCF Intern

Thank you to the Elks Lodge for hosting this in-person meeting!

Moment of Silence for Mrs. Dorothy Shelton. Dorothy was a long-standing VAVS representative to the Omaha VAVS committee and a volunteer for 42 years.

Ms. Megan Spath was introduced as the new CDCE Chief and welcomed.

Discussion:

- **Executive Office Staff Update:** Dr. David Williams – Chief of Staff
 - Midland Community Living Center has opened. It is a 32-bed facility and currently has about 5 patients.
 - PT and Prosthetics building construction is underway and footing are currently being put in place. Expected to open summer 2023.
 - Main building Customer Service Center located inside the front lobby is expected to open the first week of August 2022.
 - Currently working on a new location for the Bellevue CBOC that has the possibility of being located west of the current location. It is hopeful that it will be a new building.
 - Covid Update- NWI is currently in an upward trend. Volunteers are eligible for the vaccination. Contact CDCE or Occupation Health.
 - Flu Shots are expected to arrive mid-late September.
 - Masks will continue to be a requirement within VHA healthcare facilities for an extended period.
 - NWI continues to have staffing challenges, but we are actively working on getting staff hired.
 - Kiosk check-in for appointments is going away. Veterans will either use the smart phone or proceed to the MSA's desk to check-in for appointments.

• **Old Business:**

- Player Piano for the CLC – Generously being donated by Rita Gardner, in Memory of her husband. Expected around early fall.
- Fisher House Fundraiser – Grand Island VAVS Committee supported the fund raiser with 2 gift baskets that raised \$320.00. Omaha VAVS

Committee members did not support the fund raiser thus missing out on an easy fund-raising opportunity.

- Fall Baby Shower for Veterans still has unmet needs. If your organization can support this event, please have donations to the Omaha CDCE department by August 12th, 2022.
- Veteran Stand Down: Needs list will be released with July VAVS meeting agenda.
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon has been cancelled due to the rise in COVID. It has been decided that gift cards will be mailed to the past year's active volunteers.

- **New Business:**

- Donations:
 - Items to be donated should come from the various published need's lists.
 - Please share the need's lists with your various posts and auxiliaries.
 - If you have items that is not on the need's lists, please call our office, in advance of bringing the items, to discuss if we can use the items.
 - CDCE's storage space is very limited, and we appreciate your help with obtaining items for the veterans, when needed.
- Financial Break Down of Donations:
 - \$94,200 donated over the past 18 months.
 - \$41,00 coming from VSOs in Eastern Iowa.
 - \$53,200 coming from VSOs in Nebraska.
 - Majority of donations are coming from auxiliaries.
 - What can CDCE do to help get the men's organization involved?
 - Please invite CDCE staff to local meetings to speak.
- Midlands Community Living Center (CLC) Opened
 - The needs list was attached to your agenda and is also on the VA Omaha Amazon gift registry.
 - Midlands CLC will require active support through donations and in the future, volunteers.
- Omaha Veterans Stand Down – Friday, November 4, 2022, at UNO Milo Bail Student Center
 - The needs list was attached to your agenda and is also on the VA Omaha Amazon gift registry.
 - Donations are due to Omaha CDCE by October 6th, 2022.
- Veterans Complimentary Coffee Funds Needed
 - Complimentary coffee is provided to veteran's post-surgery and to Veterans in the residential on 10th floor.

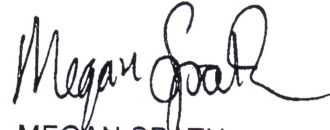
- Monetary donations are needed to support the coffee program. Cash or checks made out to Omaha VA Account 1602 – Memo Line Coffee Program.

- **Future Meetings** (location to be determine)

- 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 26, 2022 – VAVS Committee Members
- 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 25, 2023 – VAVS Committee Members
- 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – VAVS Committee Members
- 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2023 – VAVS Committee Members



EILEEN KINGSTON, DNP, MPA, BSN, NE-BC
Director



MEGAN SPATH
Chief, CDCE

Attachment: Attendance Roster