

Minutes

Friday, March 23, 2018 at 8:15 am Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board Meeting

Teleconference Call in Conference No: 1-800-315-6338, Access code 54784#, Chairperson (Bob) 1399

Teleconference guidelines: Please mute your phone unless you are speaking. When speaking, state your name first. Soon after the meeting, be ready to receive a copy of the draft minutes to review and provide input within a short period of time. Thanks.

Public Comment: Public comment will be accepted during the first 15 minutes of the meeting. Please state your name and location before commenting. Thank you.

1. Attendance

Att	Type	First	Last	Location/Title	Representing
x	Member	David	Blacketer	Juneau	Alaska Commission on Aging Designee
x	Member	Rosemary	Hagevig	Douglas	Public
x	Member	Gordon	Severson	Anchorage	Public
x	Member	Teri	Holderman	Ketchikan	Public
x	Member	Phil	Hokenson	Fairbanks	Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Designee
	Member	Jana	Shockman	Anchorage	Public
x	Member	Ronald	Siebels	Anchorage	Public/Restricted/Veterans representative
x	Member, Ch	Bob	Sivertsen	Ketchikan	Public
x	Division	Clinton	Lasley	Adm Ops Mgr	Central Office
x	Division	Emily	Palmer	Soc Svcs Pr Coord	Central Office
x	Division	Amanda	Lofgren	Director	Director's Office

2. Call to Order

A. Meeting start time: 08:16

3. Discussion and approval of minutes from previous meeting.

A. Gordon motion to approve, second by Rosemary, all in favor, none opposed

B. 1-12-18 Minutes approved

4. Declaration and verification of any conflicts of interest.

A. None

5. Public Comment:

A. None

6. Unfinished/Old Business

A. Updates from ACoA and AGENET – David

- i. David- Advocacy meetings, things going well for senior benefits program. Health issues are going well to, lots of great advocacy for senior issues. Advocating for a long term budget.
- ii. Bob- cooperative meeting with lots of agencies in Feb. Was very productive, learned a lot about what others are doing throughout the state. Came to some agreements on what to advocate for so that legislature is getting the same message. Visited a lot of places providing senior services within Juneau. Must understand what all is being provided and get rid of duplicated efforts as the budget is shrinking.

- iii. Amanda- First year that AGENET has had a priority for Pioneer Homes to maintain funding. It is great that the largest advocacy group is advocating for us. We are one part of the continuum and need to make sure that we are all working together to care for all seniors. It was really informative, great presentation from AARP on long term services and support in AK. We still have the fastest growing population of seniors in the country.
- iv. Rosemary- positive meeting, feel like there is support from the Governor and Lt. Governor. First time to have personal contact from the Governor, so this is very positive. AGENET naming the Pioneer Homes as a legislative priority is very valuable. Connecting back to the fact that we need the Homes to care for seniors to take some of the pressure off of others in the state.
- v. Bob- Governor and Lt Governor are very responsive to the concerns of seniors and understand the constraints. Nice to have the big state meeting to see all of the people in the cooperative effort advocating on behalf of seniors.
- vi. David- The Governor was genuine and he has personal interest in the Homes. His father lived in the Palmer home. Thankful for all of the advocacy work occurring.
- vii. Rosemary- Was not present for AARP presentation, did they have any solutions to suggest?
- viii. Bob- Presentation was more statistic based.
- ix. Amanda- They hired a consultant HMA to do research on background for other waiver options in AK, they are trying to determine if some type of specific waiver for family care givers would be an effective tool to support families and reduce long term care costs. Relief waiver, Seniors and Disabilities Services Director Duane Mayes, Senator Micciche, and, Representative Spohnholz, went to WA to have more conversations on how this could work. Anticipate more momentum moving around this over the next year. Also discussion about 1915i option because it targets those with ADRD with significant behavioral issues. Need to monitor this and try to leverage it moving forward.
- x. Rosemary- Has anything developed to make people with only diagnosis of ADRD to be eligible for Medicaid services
- xi. Amanda – No, this option has not become available. 1915i would be the option to help these individuals.

7. New Business

A. New board member – Phil Hokenson

- i. Phil- Appointed from Veterans Advisory council, member since 2013, selected to chair the Council in February 2018. Left active duty in 2011, and established the veterans resource center at UAF campus while working as a Veterans Service Officer for the Vietnam Veterans of America. He currently works for the VA as an outreach program specialist in the Rural Health Dept. Been working on behalf of veterans for 7 years. Did not know a lot about the Pioneer Home system. Ron took him to the Juneau Home and recently went to the KPH home. Very interested in learning more about what has been done for veterans and what can we do to help. AVAC is very supportive and looking forward to pitching in any way he can.
- ii. Bob- There are a lot of veterans in the homes, especially in Palmer. Palmer home now has a resource officer in the home.
- iii. Amanda- Phil, welcome and let's connect by phone soon. Currently have 110 veterans in all the homes, 53 of which are in Palmer. Have a veteran getting ready to go back

east on the honor flight. Three sets of brothers in the Palmer home that are all veterans.

- iv. Bob- Welcome Phil, looking forward to how we can improve things for veterans across the state.

B. Agenda requests for next meeting?

- i. Legislative updates, will hopefully be finished with session
- ii. Facility updates- capital projects and maintenance

8. Reports

A. Division Director's Report – Amanda

- i. Thank you everybody! We just finished Senate finance presentation and have also presented to the House. Rep. Gerr and the committee were very supportive and interested in the homes. Very interested in staffing analysis to help adjust budget to align with needs. Till and Ryder gave presentation during first couple of week of the session and used Pioneer Homes as an example of how we use vacancy factors to meet budget needs. Called out that when you transition funds to receipt authority, it makes things difficult for people to work within the budget.
- ii. Use staff analysis to make budget recommendations moving forward without negatively impacting elders.
- iii. Talked about staff analysis, strategic plan, quality assurance, increasing electronic health records use.
- iv. Potential privatization of contracting for hospitality services
- v. Highlighting elder demographics, levels of services, payor sources
- vi. Are getting more elders onto waiver for level 3 elders, staff working really hard on this, also working with Dept. of Public Assistance to get through some of the backlog.
- vii. Over 100 elders over the age of 90, 6 over the age of 100.
- viii. Both bodies had the willingness to work with us but we need to do our due diligence first
- ix. Bob- in discussion with level of care, are we still considering looking at adding more levels
- x. Amanda- working with Mental Health Trust to put out request for staffing analysis. Are also asking this to include looking at the levels of service we should be having. We need to consider this and hopeful that staffing analysis will help answer some of these questions. Would be great to discuss at next retreat.
- xi. Bob- talked with a lot of legislators, had a lot of different responses from "we don't have the money" to "we need to build more homes". They understand the growing need. Overall we have support if we can justify the need.
- xii. Amanda- Senator Giessle shared at the hearing that her mom lives with us and she praised the staff which meant a lot to us. Senator Coghill and I spent time at airport talking about the elders and the buildings. At what point should we start talking replacement as repair costs continue to increase?
- xiii. Bob- Efficiency of design of buildings, we can do a much better job.
- xiv. Amanda- Long overdue for conversation about what we really want the homes to look like. As we know the needs in the communities are changing and how do we continue

to meet these needs in the continuum. The staffing analysis is the first of many partnerships with the Mental Health Trust. Need to really be careful to not cause any unintended consequences for our elders.

- xv. Bob- Consider things like taking seniors out of correction centers for mental health issues. How will the admissions and waitlist work and what is our ability to handle those within the facilities. Definitely a longer question that requires careful consideration.
- xvi. Amanda- Site visit from VA, they got a deficient free report, which is great. This does not happen frequently across the nation. Looking at converting 14 beds into skilled care. Looking at finding a contractor to be the medical director for those 14 beds.
- xvii. Bob- What does that person need to do?
- xviii. Amanda – Must be an MD, needs to review all policies and procedures, sign off on critical incident reports, quarterly quality assurance meetings, visits with new residents within 90 days then can delegate these to someone else. Working with VA for medical services, have great relationship with them and want to make sure that this does not change. VA has been great in working with us.

B. Administrative Operation Manager's Budget Report, Budget updates – Clinton

- i. Clinton- Thanks Bob, good morning everyone. Continue to work with Administrators on reviewing monthly budget meetings with all homes and pharmacy. This allow us to better analyze costs, payroll and admissions. Now that everyone has a better idea on how the budget works. Pioneer Homes have been running a deficit for past few years. Will likely be the same deficiency this year but are making a lot of improvements. Cost of doing business has gone up by 500K this year as the cost of providing benefits for employees has gone up. We have been maintaining this. Have found that some expenditures are not being assigned to the right year. We have decided that this year is the time to true up the budget. The NANA contract runs 200K-250K per month. The month of June has typically been charged to the new fiscal year. We will change this this year and make sure it goes towards the June month, so it will give us a more accurate cost this year.
- ii. Clinton- Administrators and staff are really doing a good job. We have had 39 deaths in the past 3 months, but have also added 34 new elders, so we are doing a better job of maintaining our numbers. This is a big improvement over the past.

Getting better at getting people on the Medicaid waiver faster. We have 12 additional people on waiver this year compared to last year, which translates into 60k additional revenue each month.

In Juneau we contract out housekeeping, laundry and food services. All other homes just contract out food services. The RFP is out right now, option one is to maintain current configuration. Option 2 would be to have the contract take over all hospitality services. This will close May 1. Will send out a copy to everyone. Anticipate that there will be pushback from the union as this could affect 140 staff members. Will really look at what is best for elders and staff.

Bob- In regards to union contract, would we have to do a further analysis?

Clint- Yes, we would have to do a cost analysis, RFP would be a part of this analysis. This came from legislative intent a couple of years ago. Hard to pass red face test when Juneau has a contract for all hospitality services since 1988 but never looked into the other homes, this is the right thing to do.

C. Alaska Veterans Advisory Council Report- Phil

- i. Phil- One thing that came up is what VA programs would be beneficial to the residents. VA aid and attendance program which provides supplementary income to VA that need assisted living services. Any money spent out of VA income is deductible from their income. VA allows 22K per year after deductions so this should be looked at for vets in the homes. Requires a physical exam. Other supplementary income that would potentially be available if on disability. The other program that is underutilized is the veterans directed home based care program which allows vets to manage different options for long term care and gives them a budget up to \$4500 per month to help pay for long term care. Pioneer Homes may be part of the option. SAIL and Homer have been the two using this the most. May be able to use Pioneer Homes as a temporary fill for some of these, as respite care.
- ii. Ron- Plan on getting more to help getting vets in the homes some help. Will continue to explore these options
- iii. Amanda- Thanks Phil and Ron for their advocacy and for Ron helping set up some meetings. Federal changes for veterans directed care at assisted living homes is strictly prohibited, Senator Sullivan may look at changing this. Also per diem is the same across the nation and looking at ways to have geographical rates.
- iv. Bob- only get domiciliary care if in Palmer Home?
- v. Amanda- yes this is correct. Our facilities do not meet the needs of requirements to be a veterans home. This is where some of the other veterans programs may be useful.

D. Board Chairman's Report – Bob

- i. Thanks for all of the report and continued advocacy. Have been watching what the legislature is doing. Staffing analysis request for information is a big step forward. Next year will be an important advocacy year that we will need to gear up for.
- ii. Ron- Mandatory furlough, there is a lot of people that think we should exempt the 24 hour staff. Legislatures thought this would be a good idea, look at changing this next session. This policy actually costs the State money at 24 hour facilities.
- iii. Amanda- there is a lot of talk around this, must be looked at during contract negotiations with the unions. Will need this brought up during those negotiations.

9. Chair's request for comments:

- i. Dave: curious to hear more about long range plans for building new homes.
- ii. Rosemary:
- iii. Gordon: Amanda commented that a resident going on Honor flight, will also be on the same flight in April. Looking forward to the trip!
- iv. Teri: none
- v. Jana:
- vi. Ron: none
- vii. Phil: Thanks for having me, excited to keep working with everyone, really impressed with the operations so far!

10. Chair's Closing statement – Bob

- A. Bob- Pioneer Homes provide a great service to seniors and are very professional and caring! Highbred system in senior care, portions look like nursing home care and others that are

minimal assistance. Most residents are able to age in place. Thanks to staff for everything that they do! The level of care and compassion is amazing.

- B. Amanda- Thanks to everyone for your continued support and everything that you do for us and your appreciation for our staff. The staff are the shining stars of the Division! Pharmacy relocation is moving forward, will have updates at the next meeting. Pharmacy will take over the PT space, found a great space for PT to move to. Everything should continue to progress over the next three to six months
- C. Clint- Thank everyone and welcome Phil. A new administrative assistant has been hired for Central Office, will transition to have this person as your support person. Will make this transition over the next three months.
- D. Emily- Thank you everyone for your support and dedication to Pioneer Homes. Please don't hesitate to ask if you need anything from me.

11. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn
 - i. Motion by Ron, Gordon second, all approved.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 09:24

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