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Governor



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## **Nevada State Veterans Home Independent Review Panel (NSVH) Special Meeting Minutes**

October 2, 2015 @ 0930

Meeting held at Nevada State Veterans Home, Boulder City

**Call to Order:** Bob Garlow, Chairman

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call & Brief Introduction**

**Present:**

Bob Garlow, Nevada Veterans Assistance League  
Julie Johnson, Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Ron Michalski, American Legion  
Peggy Randle, Women Veterans of Nevada  
Art Stern, Veteran and family member of Resident at NSVH

**Absent:**

Robert Besser, Humana  
Daniel Mathis, Nevada Health Care Association  
Jim McCawley, CWV  
Richard Small, VVA/MOPH  
Richard Walker, Disabled American Veterans  
Ron Williams, Humana

**NDVS Attendees:**

Mark McBride, Administrator, NSVH  
Kristy Waggener, Recording Secretary, NSVH  
Jim Full, Compliance Officer, NSVH  
Nicole Brown, Physical Therapy Program Manager, NSVH

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**Public Comment**

Susan Garlow

**New Business**

1. Review Mobility Garden Project Plans

Mark McBride distributed a copy of the mobility garden plans/blue prints to the Panel members for their review. Mark shared that this has been an ongoing project to improve the outside patio area behind the physical therapy department.

Mark explained that the need for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy is extremely high. The physical therapy gym is always full with therapists and residents so moving additional therapy to the patio will expand their working area.

Nicole Brown, Physical Therapy Program Manager stated she has 11-12 therapists at one time working and bringing in residents with them to utilize the gym equipment. Nicole stated that many of the residents are taken on outings with family members and need assistance with transfer training to and from vehicles. Transfer training therapy includes getting in and out of vehicles, training for balance when standing on the curb, walking on uneven surfaces, as well as basic walking skills for daily living in the home to prevent falls.

Mark McBride shared that the physical therapy patio is already used for therapy such as walking up and down the stairs and using the railing but that is the extent of therapy in that location. The project idea is to convert a small portion of the patio into the mobility garden. There will be a railing installed in addition to the existing railing to assist residents in walking, and strength training, 10' parallel bars will be added with soft ground on either side to assist with arm and back strength. The biggest feature of the mobility garden will be the addition of a vehicle, a fleet vehicle will be painted and decals will be added and the car will be relocated to the patio to assist with transfer training. The vehicle that will be put in place is a temporary fill as Jim Full, Compliance Officer, is working on getting a classic car donated for the patio. There will be one planter that will be reduced in size, one tree removed, and additional concrete that will be poured.

Mark explained that the new mobility garden will be seasonal according to the weather because it is outside. The expansion of the physical therapy hours during those seasonal times is being considered. The mobility garden

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will add the capability to perform additional therapy so more staff may be needed as well.

Art Stern asked "Will this sacrifice unrelated admittance to the facility to where we will only be actively pursuing disabled Veterans that can be rehabilitated?" Mark McBride advised that there will be no change in the admission process and the mobility garden will be here to service the Veterans in their recovery.

Bob Garlow asked "Why removable fence rather than standard fence?" Bob Robinson stated the removable fence is being installed so the vehicle can be taken in and out if it is replaced with a classic vehicle. Bob Garlow expressed concerns with installing a classic vehicle because the height is lower than most vehicles today that the residents will actually be transferring in/out of. Nicole confirmed that it would be most useful if the vehicle was not a classic vehicle.

Bob Garlow stated he has seen other private care facilities that have similar mobility gardens but NSVH is the first state Veterans home to provide a mobility garden. Nicole stated she has done research and has not seen any other facility with this type of therapy concept. Nicole shared that her company Functional Pathways has 150 facilities across the US and none of the homes that they are in have this type of training.

Nicole stated just last week she did transfer training with five residents. The safety department parks the sedan in the front of the facility at the curb for their use. The training causes issues with other vehicles picking up and dropping off at the front of the home. The training had to be done because these five individuals had to get the therapy as they were all scheduled for upcoming outings with family members. Mark also stated there is a safety concern with the current training, if the fire department or ambulance is called out or there is an emergency the residents could be in harms way. Nicole Brown expressed how beneficial the mobility garden will be for her department and the Veterans, the panel strongly agreed.

The Panel visited the mobility garden site and Mark McBride explained the plans, the Panel then returned to the meeting room.

**Recommendation to Move Forward on the Mobility Garden Plans**

Motion made by Peggy Randle

Seconded by Ron Michalski

Decision: Unanimous

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**Public Comment**

Susan Garlow commented that she is happy the project is being added to the home; she has seen the Therapy Department providing the transfer training and knows it is a much needed improvement.

**Future Meeting Dates/Locations**

Next meeting: January 6, 2016  
Time: 0930 – 1200  
Location: Nevada State Veterans Home  
100 Veterans Memorial Drive, Boulder City, NV 89005

**Adjournment**

Motion made to adjourn by Art Stern  
Seconded by Ron Michalski  
Decision: Unanimous