



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

Cabinet Meeting Materials

September 23, 2014



Mike Prendergast
Executive Director

State of Florida
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Rick Scott
Governor
Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer
Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

September 10th, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rick Scott
Honorable Pam Bondi
Honorable Jeff Atwater
Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda – Cabinet Meeting of September 23rd, 2014

The next public meeting of the Governor and Cabinet to transact the business of the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be at 8:00 a.m. (EST), September 23rd, 2014 in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Agenda and all required back-up materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, please call my Cabinet Affairs Officer, Bobby Carbonell, at (850) 487-1533 x7705.

cc: Karl Rasmussen, Director of Cabinet Affairs
Executive Office of the Governor

Cynthia Kelly, Director
Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Attachments

AGENDA
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Meeting materials for the following items are available on the web at:
<http://floridavets.org/2014-public-notices/>

MEMBERS

Governor Rick Scott
Attorney General Pam Bondi
Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater
Commissioner Adam Putnam

September 23rd, 2014
8:00 A.M. (EST)
LL-03, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida

Contact: Bobby Carbonell, Director, Legislative & Cabinet Affairs
(850) 487-1533

ITEM	SUBJECT	RECOMMENDATION
1.	Respectfully request approval of the minutes of the June 17 th , 2014 meeting. (ATTACHMENT 1)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
2.	Respectfully submit Agency Fourth Quarter Report Fiscal Year 2013-2014. (ATTACHMENT 2)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
3.	Respectfully request approval of Final Adoption for Rule 55-11.005 <i>Admission Eligibility</i> and Rule 55-12.004 <i>Admission Eligibility</i> . (ATTACHMENT 3)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
4.	State Veterans Nursing Home #7 Site Selection Recommendation (ATTACHMENT 4)	RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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2
3 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Next, I'd like to recognize
4 Executive Director Mike Prendergast with the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs to present his
6 agenda.

7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Good
8 morning, Governor Scott, CFO Atwater,
9 Commissioner Putnam. Earlier this month we marked
10 the 70th anniversary of D-Day when we pause to
11 remember and honor the memory of those brave men
12 that assaulted the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.
13 And indeed, Governor Scott, your father was a
14 participant in the invasion as a member of the
15 82nd Airborne Division, the esteemed elite
16 paratroopers of the United States of America, on
17 that day.

18 As you know, Florida has the second largest
19 population of World War II veterans; and we do
20 our best each and every day to serve those veterans
21 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as
22 all of the other patriots that we have across the
23 state from the many wars and conflicts across the
24 globe.

25 Also, on Saturday, we had the occasion to mark

1 the 239th anniversary of our United States Army.
2 And thank you, Governor Scott, for your
3 participation in the American Legion's, Department
4 of Florida annual meeting on Saturday. It was
5 great to have you down there with all of those
6 great patriots.

7 GOVERNOR SCOTT: A nice group of people.

8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: The
9 Department of Veterans Affairs has two agenda
10 items for you today. Agenda Item 1 consists of
11 the Cabinet Meeting minutes from May 13th, 2014,
12 and we respectfully request approval of these
13 minutes.

14 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

15 CFO ATWATER: So move.

16 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Second.

18 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Moved and seconded, show the
19 minutes approved without an objection.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you.

21 Agenda Item 2 consists of the notice for rule
22 making development for Rule 55-11.005 and
23 55-12.014, admission eligibility. These rule
24 changes incorporate the changes made in the Florida
25 GI Bill, House Bill 7015, which removed the

1 one-year durational residency requirement from our
2 nursing home facilities for eligibility to reside
3 at our nursing homes.

4 These rule changes align all rules with the
5 new statutes which take effect on July 1st, and
6 this gives the Department of Veterans Affairs the
7 opportunity to help Florida's veterans to get
8 world-class nursing care at one of our facilities
9 regardless of when they moved to the
10 Sunshine State.

11 We respectfully request approval of these
12 proposed rules for final adoption.

13 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a motion to approve?

14 CFO ATWATER: So move.

15 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Is there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER PUTNAM: Second.

17 GOVERNOR SCOTT: Moved and seconded, show the
18 minutes approved without objections.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,
20 Governor Scott, Commissioner Putnam, CFO Atwater,
21 and General Bondi for your support to our veteran
22 community. Have a great week.

23 GOVERNOR SCOTT: All right. Thanks, Mike.
24 Tell your wife hi.

25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRENDERGAST: Thank you,

Governor.

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Mike Prendergast
Executive Director

State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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Rick Scott
Governor
Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer
Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

July 22, 2014

TO: The Honorable Rick Scott
The Honorable Pam Bondi
The Honorable Jeff Atwater
The Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Mike Prendergast
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Prendergast".

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report – Fourth Quarter 2013-2014

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs submits this Quarterly Report for the Fourth Quarter of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year, covering the period April 1 – June 30, 2014.

This Quarterly Report is submitted pursuant to the procedures authorized by Rules 55-1.003 and 55-2.010, Florida Administrative Code. The report will be placed on the agenda at a future meeting of the Governor and Cabinet.

If you have any questions regarding any matter covered by this report, please contact me, Deputy Executive Director Al Carter, at (727) 518-3202, or our department Legislative Affairs Director Bobby Carbonell, at (850) 487-1533.

cc: Senator Denise Grimsley, Chairman, Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee
Senator Thad Altman, Chairman, Senate Military Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee
Representative Jason Brodeur, Chairman, Health Innovation Sub-Committee
Representative Matt Hudson, Chairman, Health Care Appropriations Sub-Committee
Representative Ronald Renuart, Chairman, Veterans and Military Affairs Sub-Committee
Cynthia Kelly, Director, Governor's Office of Policy and Budget

Attachment 1: FDVA Quarterly Report

ATTACHMENT 1

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS THIRD QUARTER REPORT April 1 – June 30, 2014

This report covers the activities of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) for the Fourth Quarter of the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year.

1. **Administrative Highlights:**

a. **Current Issues/Concerns**

- **Executive Direction:** This quarter, Executive Director Mike Prendergast continued his campaign of advocating with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and linking them to superior services, benefits, and support. Colonel Prendergast presented department overviews and updates on current federal and state legislative initiatives to veterans' groups, civic groups, and legislative committees. He met with local business and organizations within the state of Florida to discuss outreach programs and projects to assist veterans. Colonel Prendergast attended the dedication ceremony at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center Fisher House in Gainesville. He was the Keynote Speaker at Full Sail University located in Winter Park, at the 37th Annual Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialists, and the 96th American Legion (Department of Florida) Annual Convention in Orlando. Executive Director Prendergast attended the change of command ceremony for the Florida Air National Guard from Brigadier General Robert M. Branyon to Brigadier General James O. Eifert, and attended the Retirement Ceremony of Major General James D. Tyre at St. Francis Barracks Parade Field, St. Augustine. Colonel Prendergast attended and presented a letter of congratulations signed by Governor Scott at the 10th Anniversary of Operations Helping Hands Military Officers of Association of America (MOAA) Tampa Chapter located at the James A. Haley VA Medical Center in Tampa.
- **New State Veterans' Nursing Home:** This quarter the site selection committee toured the nine sites proposed by the six participating counties, evaluating each for suitability as the home of the next State Veterans' Nursing Home, the department's seventh skilled nursing facility. Next quarter, the committee will forward the scores of each site to the Executive Director for evaluation and recommendation to the Governor and Cabinet for final decision.
- **Division of Benefits and Assistance:**
 - **Bureau of Veterans' Claims:** Claims Services employees attended the Semi-Annual County Veterans' Service Officer Conference in Safety Harbor. Claims Bureau personnel worked with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to update and streamline the VA mail procedures, impacting how we receive and send veterans' documentation nationwide. The changes take effect on July 14, 2014, bringing the FDVA and the VA one step closer to a paperless claims process. Claims Bureau supervisors were installed as the point of contact for our organization in the Stakeholders Enterprise Portal (SEP). This is a seamless, web based entry portal that allows veterans, County Veteran Service Officers, and Veteran's Claims Examiners to file claims electronically. Claims Bureau personnel reviewed 9,684 Rating Decisions, received 25,204 phone calls and provided 11,573 letters and emails to Florida's

Veterans. Also reviewed were 589 scholarship applications for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and initiated 28,991 phone calls to veterans, their families or survivors. 46 veterans received representation at Personal Hearings, 77 veterans at Board of Veterans Appeals Travel Board Hearings, and we completed 31,534 actions on behalf of our veterans for the last quarter of 2014.

- **Bureau of Field Services:** Field Services Supervisors Reginald Fujimoto and Harry Rudy facilitated the County Veterans' Service Officers Association (CVSOA) introductory training for new service officers May 3-4, in Safety Harbor with 36 County Service Officers in attendance. The course covered various state and federal benefits. Field Service Supervisors presented training to all CVSOs following that introductory course, the week of May 7, which covered updates regarding VA Health Care in each facility in Florida. The Gainesville zone acquired additional office space at the Ocala Community Based Outpatient Clinic, enabling increased outreach and service to Florida veterans and their families. Field Services organized and facilitated the American Legion Post Service Office training June 12-13 in Orlando, with over one hundred Post Service Officers in attendance. The course covered various VA benefits, including: Disability Compensation, Pension, Healthcare, Life Insurance, Education, State Veterans' Nursing Homes, State Veteran Benefits, Burial, Waivers, Discharge Review/Military Records, and the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. Field Services Supervisor, David Austin provided training at the FDVA Certification course June 2-5, 2014. This quarter, Field Services attended 233 outreach events providing benefit information to 19,899 veterans and their families.
- **The Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Education and Training (or State Approving Agency/SAA):** During this quarter, in addition to performing school approval processes and compliance survey audits at schools associated with VA Education Benefits, the SAA performed several outreach and liaison activities to groups within the state, in our region and to those in far-reaching national groups. We delivered small group teaching presentations in Florida to groups such as the School Certifying Officials (SCO) from flight schools, the SAA also delivered presentations to large state organizations such as the Florida Advisory Council on Military Education, the Florida Association of Veteran Education Specialists, and the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. At the Regional and National level, the SAA participated in a flight teaching event which was held for Florida flight SCOs, for VA's twelve Education Liaison Representatives from the Southern Region states as well as for two of VA's four national Chief Education Liaison Officers. Cohesive group relationships and the sharing of knowledge help to promote and enhance the use of VA Education Benefits for veterans, school officials and agency administrators.

b. **Audits**

- Staff Assistance Visit (SAV) IA #1407 - Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home. The objective was to assist functional areas (i.e. safety, maintenance, human resources, accounting, inventory, pharmacy services, Resident Trust Fund, and time and attendance) with improving and refining processes, and prepare for inspections. The report is final and has been submitted to the home for follow-up corrective actions.

c. **Consultants**

- No new consultants were contracted, nor were any existing agreements changed this quarter.

d. **Contracts**

- Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home (SVNH) Building Rehabilitation contract (DMS Project Agent) completed; final payment/close out pending as of 6/30/14.
- Bennett SVNH HVAC Commissioning contract (DMS Project Agent) completed; final payment/close out pending as of 6/30/14.
- Lopez SVNH Chiller Removal and Replacement contract (DMS Project Agent) executed on 6/20/14; project commencement pending.
- FDVA Health Information Technology System contract Amendment No. 1 executed on 4/25/14; revised performance bond requirements.
- Jenkins State Veterans' Domiciliary Home (SVDH) Roof Repairs and Repainting contract completed; final payment/close out issued on 6/23/14.
- Bennett SVNH Nurse Call System contract executed on 4/17/14; project underway.
- Moore Stephens Lovelace Medicare/Medicaid Cost Reporting contract Amendment No. 7 executed on 5/15/14; amendment extended completion deadlines for "Pre-Admissions Process" Task's No. 3 and 4.
- Sachs Media Group Media Services contract Amendment No. 4 executed on 6/9/14; providing for the final contract renewal term of 7/1/14 to 6/30/15,
- Jenkins SVDH Air Handlers Removal and Replacements contract executed on 3/6/14; to be completed by 7/6/14.
- Jenkins SVDH Chiller Removal and Replacement solicitation is pending FDVA Homes Program approval of statement of work as of 6/30/14.
- Sims SVNH Additional Parking Facility solicitation is pending Bay County provision of design/construction plans, at no cost to FDVA, as of 6/30/14.
- FDVA "V-BOLTS (Veterans Benefits On Line Tracking System) Replacement solicitation is pending FDVA Benefits and Assistance and IT development of statement of work, as of 6/30/14.

e. **Leases**

- FDVA made no additions, alterations, or modifications to leased space this quarter.

f. **Lawsuits/Claims in Litigation or Settled this Quarter**

3 General Liability Claims (1 new this quarter): 0 won, 0 settled, 0 lost, 3 pending

2 Employment Liability Claims (1 new this quarter): 0 won, 0 settled, 0 lost, 2 pending

g. **Donations**

Cash Donations by State Veterans' Home

<i>FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>Total, Year to Date</i>
Jenkins SVDH, Lake City	\$1,308	\$156.62	\$524.26	\$0	\$1,988.88
Bennett SVNH, Daytona Beach	\$175	\$12,978.94	\$1,332.75	\$350	\$14,836.69
Lopez SVNH, Land O' Lakes	\$0	\$355	\$50	\$0	\$405
Nininger SVNH, Pembroke Pines	\$0	\$288	\$0	\$690	\$978
Sims SVNH, Springfield	\$25,000	\$250	\$150	\$315	\$25,715
Jacobson SVNH, Port Charlotte	\$356	\$100	\$100	\$0	\$556
Lassen SVNH, St. Augustine	\$345	\$297	\$110	\$170	\$922

Non-Cash Donations

- Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home: Great Northern Popcorn Machine
- Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home: Jazzy Select Power Wheelchair
- Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home: Books
- Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home: Two concrete benches, assorted snack items
- Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home: Asus Laptop X552E computer; LG DVD player; 75 Insignia personal cd players with headphones; misc. therapy items

h. **Memberships in Professional Organizations Paid this Quarter**

- \$917.76 for membership in Activity Connect, (\$114.72 per home plus the Program Office)
- \$530 for two memberships in the Florida Bar Association

2. Division of Benefits and Assistance: Statistics

- Summary of veterans' benefits derived vs. cost of the benefits staff: \$129:1 (ROI).

a. Bureau of Veterans' Claims

<i>EVENT 2013-2014</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</i>
Retroactive compensation	\$51,243,193	\$51,631,689	\$35,246,393	\$35,901,263	\$174,022,538	\$171,354,815
Largest single retro. benefit	\$376,635	\$355,782**	\$502,693	\$314,083	\$502,693	\$669,784
Debt relief	\$121,779	\$18,292	\$99,447	\$93,270	\$332,788	\$462,377
Notices of Disagreement	306	366	375	406	1,453	1,365
Statements of Argument in Appeals Cases*	326	269	346	268	1,209	1,362
Act as Representative at Hearings*	31	20	60	46	157	151
Veterans' Appeals Hearings*	48	66	48	77	239	185
Ratings Reviewed	10,059	9,992	8,497	9,684	38,232	33,376

* The appeals representation process includes formal filing of the appeal application, and paralegal representation with the veteran at the Regional Office and in teleconferences with the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA).

** Incorrectly reported second quarter. Corrected numbers shown above.

b. Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Training (SAA)

<i>EVENT 2013-2014</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</i>
SAA Programs Approved	1,907	2,521	2,329	1,949	8,706	5,052
Other Approval	453	426	496	508	1,883	1,200
Compliance Visits	36	28	25	24	113	122
Inspection Visits	8	9	10	7	34	45
Outreach Activities*	166	166	229	172	733	874
Liaison Activities**	269	236	138	157	800	1,023
Technical Assistance***	889	719	939	904	3,451	3,796

* Outreach Activities are any activity designed to inform or encourage those with entitlement to use it.

** Liaison activities are those that foster education about the SAA with other education and training professionals, which promote and encourage the exchange of information and support to raise awareness of the professional nature of the SAA approval function.

*** Technical assistance is any interaction designed to assist an individual or a facility with any aspect of the approval function.

c. Bureau of Veteran Field Services

<i>EVENT 2013-2014</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</i>
Issue Resolution	4,749	5,104	5,522	5,246	20,621	13,921
Total Amount	\$13,798,280	\$13,176,855	\$14,901,889	\$14,568,372	\$56,445,396	\$42,075,260
Outreach Visits	125	146	188	233	692	633
Veterans Served at Outreach	11,739	13,108	8,349	19,899	53,095	42,861
Bedside Interviews	5,306	3,895	3,816	3,685	16,702	22,855
Walk-ins/ Counseling	34,349	31,194	34,755	35,942	136,702	115,092
Claims	6,527	6,502	7,357	7,854	28,240	26,239
Voter Regis/ Pref forms	2,761	2,275	2,672	2,826	10,534	9,922
Homeless Walk In	1,010	522	463	369	2,364	2,211
Ratings Reviewed Orlando/W Palm	665	860	602	381	2,508	2,811

d. Outreach*

<i>EVENT 2013-2014</i>	<i>FIRST QUARTER</i>	<i>SECOND QUARTER</i>	<i>THIRD QUARTER</i>	<i>FOURTH QUARTER</i>	<i>YEAR TO DATE</i>	<i>PREVIOUS FY to this Qtr</i>
Reintegration and Pre-Deployment Events for Guard and Reserve units	6	7	0	4	17	24
Homeless Veteran Stand Down Events	8	6**	6	8	28	55
Medical Center Welcome Home events	0	3**	3	1	7	4
Congressional Open House events	5	4**	2	5	16	15
National Conferences	1	0**	0	0	1	3
New Patient Orientation	42	26**	49	79	196	221
Transition Assistance Briefings	3	5	12	12	32	37
Other	60	85**	113	124	382	272

* Supervisors and VCEs throughout the Division of Veterans' Benefits and Assistance provide presentation, orientations, and briefings on state, federal, and local veterans' laws and benefits.

** Figures incorrectly reported second quarter. Corrected figures reflected above.

3. State Veterans' Homes Program

State Veterans' Homes Census

FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014	FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS FY, same 1/4
Jenkins SVDH, Lake City	86.9%	87.0%	90.9%	95.9%	90.2%	86.0%
Bennett SVNH, Daytona Beach	99.7%	99.8%	99.6%	97.8%	99.2%	99.4%
Lopez SVNH, Land O' Lakes	99.6%	99.6%	99.5%	99.8%	99.6%	99.4%
Nininger SVNH, Pembroke Pines	99.0%	99.0%	99.2%	98.9%	99.0%	98.8%
Sims SVNH, Panama City	100%	99.9%	99.8%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Jacobson SVNH, Port Charlotte	99.6%	99.4%	99.1%	98.5%	99.1%	99.6%
Lassen SVNH, St. Augustine	99.6%	99.6%	99.6%	99.5%	99.6%	99.1%

- a. Quality of Care: Panama City has been chosen for the Gold Seal Award which recognizes nursing homes that demonstrate the highest standards of quality of life and care for their residents. They will receive a new facility license with the Gold Seal Emblem as well as a certificate signed by Gov. Scott. The Gold Seal Award will be in effect from July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2016.

The Gold Seal Award program was established in 2002 and developed and implemented by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care, which is composed of persons appointed by the Governor's Office, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Association of Homes for the Aging, Florida Health Care Association, Florida Life Care Residents Association and the State Long Term-Care Ombudsman. Nursing homes that wish to be considered for the Gold Seal Award are reviewed by the panel, which considers the criteria below and makes recommendations to the Governor. Gold Seal recipients must be in operation a minimum of 30 months prior to the date of application and the facility must:

- Meet a quality of care scoring and ranking that places them in the top 10 percent in their region or top 15 percent in the state and be a 5-star facility in the Nursing Home Guide
- Have no Class I or II deficiencies within 30 months preceding application
- Provide evidence of financial soundness and stability
- Participate in a consumer satisfaction process involving residents, family members and guardians
- Involve families and members of the community in the facility on a regular basis
- Have a stable workforce
- Have an outstanding record with the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Council within the 30 months preceding application
- Provide targeted in-service training to meet training needs identified.

- b. Occupancy Trends: There are 682 nursing homes in Florida, representing 83,229 beds. Those homes see an average occupancy rate of 85%, compared to the FDVA rate of 99%. *Economic*

Role of Long Term Care Facilities in Florida estimates that \$20.2 billion (2.7%) of Florida's economy is derived from long term care facilities, with contributions of nearly 259,250 jobs and \$9.1 billion in labor income through employment of both direct caregivers and support staff (i.e., food service, maintenance, social workers) which generates over \$2.3 million in state and federal tax revenue. Long term care facilities contribute to other businesses through a ripple effect, with each nursing home job resulting in two additional jobs or nearly \$5 of added economic activity within a local community. (Data provided by FHCA 2013 Key Facts)

c. State Veterans' Homes Program Renovations:

Daytona HVAC Renovation #12-018: Total Grant: \$2,000,000 -- Federal Funding (65%): \$1,300,000 - State O/M Trust Fund Match (35%): \$700,000.

AHCA final construction survey was conducted and approved. The project is considered completed by AHCA. As built documents and CD with CAD drawings received by this office. Reimbursement #4 was completed and sent to DVA, currently working with Fiscal for final reimbursement #5.

Total Grant Funding -	\$2,000,000.00
Total grant completed to date -	\$1,910,699.49

Land O' Lakes Renovation #12-016: Total Grant: \$2,830,000--Federal Funding (65%): \$1,839,500 - State O/M Trust Fund Match (35%): \$990,500.

d. Volunteer Hours: There are a number of registered volunteers in the State Veterans' Homes that provide invaluable services for our veteran residents. The multitude of hours that are contributed add to the quality of life for the residents as well as allow the skilled employees to attend to more complicated, professional level tasks associated with resident care.



Bob Whitman, resident at the Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes, was the first resident to use the lift on the new van purchased this year for resident transport.



Mike Prendergast
Executive Director

State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Office of the Executive Director

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Rick Scott
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Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer
Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

THROUGH: Al Carter, Deputy Executive Director

FROM: David R. Herman, General Counsel

SUBJECT: Notice of Development of Rulemaking
Rule 55-11.005 Admission Eligibility (Veterans Domiciliary)
Rule 55-12.004 Admission Eligibility (Veterans Nursing Homes)

DATE: July 31, 2014

CC: Bobby Carbonell, Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director
Connie Tolley, Acting Director, Homes Program

On March 31, 2014, Governor Scott approved CS/HB 7015 (ch. 2014-1, Laws of Florida). Section 22 of this legislation removed the requirement that a veteran must be a Florida resident for at least 1 year immediately preceding application to either the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida or the State Veterans Nursing Homes. A veteran must still establish residency in Florida to be eligible for admission.

The proposed amendments to Rules 55-11.005 and 55-12.004 align these rules to the legislative changes concerning admission eligibility.

The Governor and Cabinet previously approved publication of the Notice of Rule Development for this rule amendment on June 17, 2014. The Notice of Rule Development was published in the *Florida Administrative Register* on June 18, 2014. No rule workshop was requested by the public. The Notice of Proposed Rule was published on July 9, 2014. No hearing was requested by the public.

55A-11.005 Admission Eligibility

REASONS FOR RULE AMENDMENT:

The proposed rule amendment eliminates the 1 year state residency requirement for admission eligibility to the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida, in compliance with the statutory amendment (ch. 2014-1, Laws of Florida).

EXTERNAL INTEREST: None.

SIGNIFICANT POLICY ISSUES: None.

ACTION REQUESTED: We request that the Governor and Cabinet approve this Proposed Rule for Final Adoption.

Notice of Development of Rulemaking

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

55-11.005: Admission Eligibility

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Removes the 1 year residency requirement for eligibility for admission to the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida, consistent with the legislative change to Section 296.06, Florida Statutes (See Section 22, ch 2014-1, Laws of Florida).

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Admission eligibility for the State Veterans' Domiciliary Home of Florida

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: s. 292.05(3), Florida Statutes

LAW IMPLEMENTED: s. 296.06, Florida Statutes

IF REQUESTED IN WRITING AND NOT DEEMED UNNECESSARY BY THE AGENCY HEAD, A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE NOTICED IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Darryl Griffin, FDVA, The Capitol, Suite 2105, 400 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001, 850-487-1533 x7713

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS:

55-11.005 Admission Eligibility.

(1) To be eligible for residence, a veteran must:

(a) Have wartime or peacetime service as defined in subsection 55-11.003(17) or (12), F.A.C., of this chapter of the rules;

(b) Have been discharged or released from such service under honorable conditions or later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions;

(c) Be a resident of the state at time of application, ~~and for the 1 year immediately preceding application~~; and

(d) Not owe money to the Department for services rendered during any previous stay at a Department facility.

(2) –(7) No changes.

55-12.004 Admission Eligibility

REASONS FOR RULE AMENDMENT:

The proposed rule amendment eliminates the 1 year state residency requirement for admission eligibility to the State Veterans' Nursing Homes, in compliance with the statutory amendment (ch. 2014-1, Laws of Florida).

EXTERNAL INTEREST: None.

SIGNIFICANT POLICY ISSUES: None.

ACTION REQUESTED: We request that the Governor and Cabinet approve this Proposed Rule for Final Adoption.

Notice of Development of Rulemaking

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

[55-12.004](#): Admission Eligibility

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Removes the 1 year state residency requirement for eligibility for admission to the State Veterans' Nursing Homes, consistent with the legislative change to Section 296.06, Florida Statutes (See Section 22, ch. 2014-1, Laws of Florida).

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Admission eligibility for the State Veterans' Nursing Homes.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: [s. 292.05\(3\) Florida Statutes](#)

LAW IMPLEMENTED: [s. 296.36 Florida Statutes](#)

IF REQUESTED IN WRITING AND NOT DEEMED UNNECESSARY BY THE AGENCY HEAD, A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE NOTICED IN THE NEXT AVAILABLE FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Darryl Griffin, FDVA, The Capitol, Suite 2105, 400 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001, 850-487-1533 x7713

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS:

55-12.004 Admission Eligibility.

- (1) To be eligible for admission an applicant must:
 - (a) Be an eligible veteran as defined in subsection 55-12.003(2), F.A.C., of this Chapter of these rules.
 - (b) Be a resident of the state at the time of application ~~and for 1 year immediately preceding application.~~
 - (c) Be in need of nursing home care for a condition which requires services that fall within the level of care which the home has the resources and functional ability to provide.
- (2) No change.



Mike Prendergast
Executive Director

State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Office of the Executive Director
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www.FloridaVets.org

Rick Scott
Governor
Pam Bondi
Attorney General
Jeff Atwater
Chief Financial Officer
Adam Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture

September 10th, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Rick Scott
Honorable Pam Bondi
Honorable Jeff Atwater
Honorable Adam Putnam

FROM: Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
Mike Prendergast, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Site Selection Recommendation for State Veterans' Nursing Home #7

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs recommends the approval of the selection of the donated site proposed by St. Lucie County for construction of Florida's seventh State Veterans' Nursing Home.

The Department further recommends that the Cabinet consider Marion County as an alternate site choice in the event that the St. Lucie County site is later determined to be ineligible by the State of Florida.

The back-up materials regarding this site and the Department's site selection process have been provided to your office.

If you have any questions, please call my Cabinet Affairs Officer, Bobby Carbonell, at (850) 487-1533 x7705.

Respectfully,

Mike Prendergast
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Executive Director