



*North Carolina*  
**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## **Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government**

*Fayetteville State Veterans Home  
Resident Relocation and Home Closure Update*





# Agenda



- Opening Statement
- Veterans Administration State Veterans Home Program
- Requirements to live in State Veterans Home
- Funding
- Fayetteville State Veterans Home Background
- Relocation Decision Timeline
- Testing
- Mitigation Strategies
- Additional Considerations
- Engagement and Notification
- Resident Relocation
- Questions
- Exhibits



# Opening Statement





# State Veterans Homes Residents



Our State Veterans Homes are truly the Veteran's residence and those Veterans who meet the requirements live there by choice. We are fortunate to be able to offer them the opportunity to live in a place that provides them an outstanding continuum of care with their Veteran Brothers and Sisters. The residents of State Veterans Homes are free to choose other accommodations that meet their needs and individual preferences.



# Veterans Administration State Home Program



- State Veterans Homes are facilities that provide eligible Veterans with nursing home, domiciliary, or adult day care. These facilities are owned and operated by state governments.
- *Each state establishes eligibility and admission criteria for its homes, and some State Veterans Homes may admit non-Veteran spouses and Gold Star parents.*
- VA's State Home Program provides an economical alternative to constructing, maintaining, and operating facilities for the provision of care to eligible Veterans.
- The Veterans Health Administration's Office of Patient Care Services Geriatrics and Extended Care is the office of primary responsibility for the State Veterans Home program.



# Requirements to Live at Homes



- NC DHHS Adult Care Home FL 2 Form
  - Within 30 days of admission
  - Physician Verification that the resident needs assistance with “most activities of daily living and have medical and/or nursing need”
- Department of Defense Form 214 (DD214)
  - Served on Active Duty for other than training purposes and an Honorable Discharge
- Proof of North Carolina Residency in the immediate previous 24 months
- Veterans Administration Form 10-10EZ – Application for VA Health Benefits showing payable status for residence



# Home Funding



- Veterans Administration (VA) Grant-in-Aid Programs
  - Construction
    - The States may request up to 65 percent of the cost of construction or acquisition of State Veterans Homes or for renovations to existing State Homes.
    - Requires 35 percent State Match at time of grant
  - Resident Grant-in-Aid
    - The VA provides per diem payments to states for eligible Veterans in State Homes.
- Resident Forms of Payment
  - Private Pay or Private Insurance (in excess of 60% of residents)
  - Medicare/Medicaid (approximately 30%)
  - VA7 – 100% Disabled Veteran (generally less than 10%)



# Fayetteville Home Background



- The Fayetteville State Veterans Home was the first SVH authorized and constructed by North Carolina
- The Fayetteville facility is located adjacent to the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) on the federal compound.
- There are three wings with fifty beds in each wing. One of the wings includes a Memory Care Unit with 20 beds.
- 1994 - Authorization and Funding (State Match) approved by the General Assembly to build Fayetteville State Veterans Home.
- 1996 - Veterans Administration Grant funding approved. State bid process and permitting began.
- 1999 - Building opened to Veterans requiring Skilled Nursing Care
- When the relocation process started there were 85 Residents from 19 Counties across North Carolina





# Relocation Decision Timeline



Sep '18

- Hurricane Florence
- Significant Cape Fear River Flooding
- Required Emergency Evacuation Plan coordinated with NC Emergency Management – No Residents were evacuated

Apr '21

- Leaking Roof discovered in Dec '20
- SCO investigation in early 2021 determined need for major roof repair
- SCO “Emergency” approved in order to hire design firm for additional investigation and roof repair design work

'21 Cont

- Additional investigation in support of roof repair design work determined roof replacement was necessary
- Investigation, design, and drawings done for new roof submitted to SCO early '22. Bidding approved Jun '22

Aug '22

- Continued assessment in support of new roof design determined structural deficiencies in roof trusses
- Significant water infiltration discovered from roof and other sources
- Unable to begin roof replacement until structural and water infiltration issues are repaired

2023

- Jan'23 – determined that water infiltration was coming from roof, exterior walls, and from under the concrete slabs
- Feb-Oct '23 – determined extensive work required to fix the facility and site could not be completed while occupied
- Oct/Nov '23 – Relocation decision made



# Testing



- Core Samples of Concrete Slab
  - Less than 2" at multiple sample locations vs. 4" requirement
  - Poor or nonexistent vapor barriers
- Ground Sampling
  - Extensive ground water levels
  - Significant erosion at several locations
- Drywall Sampling
  - Extensive Moisture in and behind drywall
- Air Quality Sampling
  - Latest Sampling done November 2023 by Southeast Environmental Microbiology Labs
  - 4 of 21 Test Sites showed a common plant allergen



# Mitigation Strategies



- Closed most affected wing to residents
- Water and Moisture diversion projects
  - Ground water drainage enhancements and redirection
  - Air Scrubbers and axillary Air Filters leased beginning in Sept 23
- Continued Environmental Testing



# Engagement & Notification



- Decision to relocate residents was made on 13 November 2023
  - DMVA Leadership
  - Pruitt Health
  - State Veterans Home VSO Task Force
- Engagement Plan focused on Residents, Care-givers, and/or Powers-of-Attorney
  - DMVA Leadership *Fireside Chat* at Fayetteville SVH on 21 Nov 23
  - DMVA Press Release(s) and Press Engagement(s) beginning 22 Nov 23
  - Pruitt Health outreach (Formal Letter, Email, Phone Contact) beginning 21 Nov 23
  - State Veteran Home VSO Task Force on site numerous occasions





# Resident Relocation



- Each Resident received an individualized and tailored relocation plan
  - Focused on Resident's choice
  - Coordinated with Resident, Caregivers on Powers-of-Attorney on record
  - Plan included but not limited to:
    - Resident's desired location
    - Continuity of Care
    - Maintaining Resident's current or like type healthcare options
    - Payment continuity
    - Transportation Support
    - Handover to VSO Team (if applicable)
- Department formed a Relocation Task Force to assist Residents, Representative Groups Listed below:
  - NC DMVA State Veterans Home Veteran Service Officers
  - Pruitt Healthcare
  - Veterans Healthcare Administration
  - Veterans Benefits Administration (as applicable)



# Questions



# Exhibits



# Fayetteville Background

