

LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE OR BOARD:	VETERANS, AGING & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING:	MONDAY, June 5, 2023
MEETING PLACE:	Lakeview Health Center & Assisted Living, Community Center 962 Garland Street, East, West Salem, WI 54669 Click here to join the meeting
TIME OF MEETING:	8:00 A.M.
PURPOSE OF MEETING:	MONTHLY MEETING
1.	Roll Call/Call to Order
2.	Public Comment
3.	Approve Veterans, Aging & Long-Term Care Committee Minutes of May 8, 2023
4.	Director's Report (Informational): a. Census b. Staffing Update c. Hillview Survey Update
5.	Conference/Meeting Report
6.	Closed Session: The committee may entertain a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat., S. 19.85(1)(g), Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. TO WIT: VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICE CLAIM. The Committee will reconvene to open session at the conclusion of the closed session, and may, before proceeding to the next agenda item, take action on the closed session issue.
7.	Hillview Campus Planning Update
8.	Lakeview Campus Update
9.	Approval of Veteran Disability Assessment Contract
10.	Next Committee Meeting: July 10, 2023
11.	Future Agenda Items
12.	Adjourn

NOTICES FAXED/MAILED TO:

NEWS MEDIA

La Crosse Tribune
Other Media

OTHERS

Ryan Westpfahl
Krista Heinz/Coulee Cap
Bryan Jostad
Jennifer Briseno

DEPARTMENTS

County Administrator
County Board Chair
County Clerk
Facilities

EMAIL:

Wanda Plachecki
Audra Martine
Kelly Kramer
Jane Brannan Tamboli

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roger Plesha, Chair
Dan Ferries
Peg Isola
Grant Mathu
Gary Padesky

MEMBERS: If unable to attend, call the County Clerk's Office at 608-785-9581.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Committee may receive information from the public, but the Committee reserves the right to limit the time that the public may comment and the degree to which members of the public may participate in the meeting.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you need accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the County Clerk's Office at (608)785-9581 as soon as possible.

DATE NOTICE FAXED/MAILED/POSTED: June 2, 2023

This meeting may be recorded, and any such recording is subject to disclosure under the Wisconsin Open Records Law.

VETERANS, AGING & LONG-TERM CARE COMMITTEE
Monday, May 8, 2023
Administrative Center
Conference Room 1107

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Roger Plesha (Chair), Peg Isola, Grant Mathu, Dan Ferries, Gary Padesky
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	None
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Roger Plesha called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVE MINUTES:

Veterans Aging & Long-Term Care Committee – April 10, 2022. **MOTION** by Mathu/Isola to approve the minutes of April 10, 2022. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

The director’s report was distributed to members.

The direct care wage survey has been completed. The results are being compiled and collated. A report detailing the findings from this survey will be presented at our next meeting. The interdepartmental team will make recommendations concerning next year’s budget in terms of salaries, vacation time, earning extra paid day off, sign-on bonus, etc.

Lakeview Health Center did have their annual survey. No health survey cites were given. Two minor life safety codes were cited. The infractions have been resolved and no fines were levied.

Hillview Health Care Center had a survey due to a self-report. There may be a fine associated with this self-report. Surveyors were very complimentary regarding the Hillview administration response to this self-report.

CONFERENCE/MEETING REPORT: None.

Approval of Pharmacy Contract Extension:

The current pharmacy contract is with Health Direct, a national pharmacy firm that specializes in long-term care. Health Direct has a state-wide contract thru Leading Age Wisconsin but the present Lakeview and Hillview contract is more advantageous from a financial perspective. A three-year extension of the current contract is being requested. **Motion** by Padesky/Ferries. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Veteran’s Services Update:

Jane Brannan, Veteran’s Service Officer, gave a brief overview the number of clients seen the first four months of 2022 and 2023, what the services were being requested, where community outreach services can be found, and goals to work on in the future.

Power point is attached.

HILLVIEW CAMPUS PLANNING UPDATE:

Hoffman associates presented a power point with four different building outlays presented along with bridge housing and daycare options. A decision will be made this week on which option to pursue. This will allow Hoffman to contact contractors for bid estimates.

More detail to be presented at future meetings.

Power point is attached.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: June 5, 2023, at Lakeview Health Center and Assisted Living

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Padesky/Mathu to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 a.m.
Motion carried unanimously.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting. Joyce Mc Laughlin, Recorder

Veterans Service Office Update

May 2023

Client Visits (Jan-Apr)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
2023	89	156	226	157	628
2022	154	145	191	137	627
delta	-65	11	35	20	1

Reference: Office visitor log

Services (Jan-Apr)

Year	Compensation	Pension	NOD, Appeal	DIC	Survivors Pension	Post 9/11 / Other Federal Education)	VocRehab	Burial / Markers / Life Ins.	Flag	Home Loan (COE)	Medical (10-10, Travel)	Champ VA	Records Request	Education (WI GI Bill, VetEd)	Homeless (VAF, HudVash, La Crosse Housing)	State Grants	State Eligibility / Property Tax / Park / Licence	Commission	Notary	Veterans Court	DD214 Request	Sign Paperwork	Pickup Paperwork	Miscellaneous	Total
2023	368	7	1	16	5	11	2	37	30	4	72	8	12	18	5	0	32	25	0	3	16	13	12	53	750
2022	261	5	18	4	1	8	1	58	44	3	65	6	14	17	4	1	45	40	2	0	19	59	33	45	753
delta	107	2	-17	12	4	3	1	-21	-14	1	7	2	-2	1	1	-1	-13	-15	-2	3	-3	-46	-21	8	-3

Reference: Office visitor log



Outreach

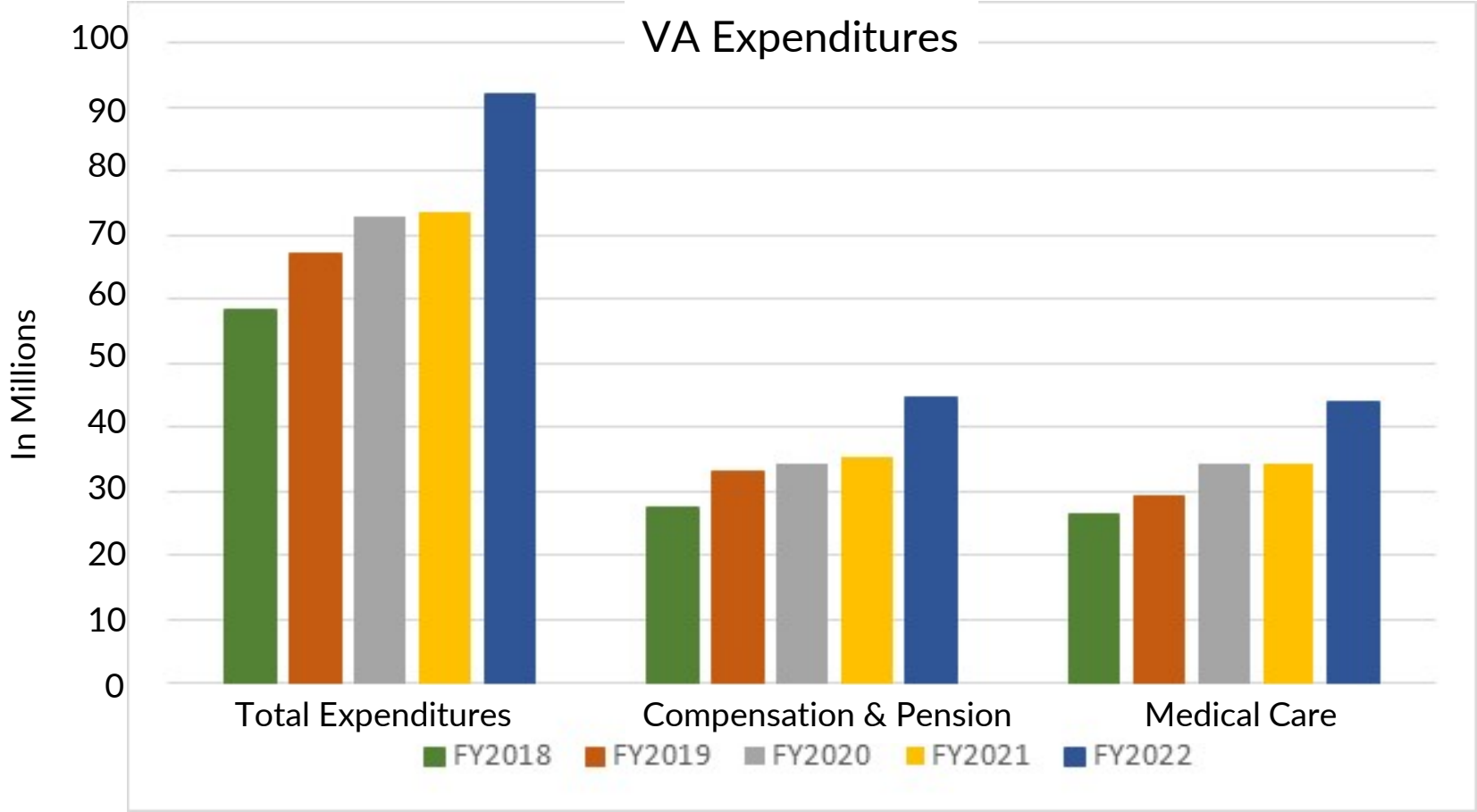
Large Group Presentations

- 7 Rivers Region Chapter of Credit Unions
- American Legion County Meeting
- Before the After
- Freedom Honor Flight
- La Crosse Sport Show
- VFW Regional Convention

Reoccurring Community Sites

- Holmen American Legion
- Holmen Public Library
- La Crosse Public Library
- Onalaska American Legion
- Onalaska Public Library
- REACH
- University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- Viterbo University
- West Salem American Legion
- West Salem Public Library
- Western Technical College

VA Expenditures in La Crosse County



Fiscal Year (1 Oct – 30 Sep)

Reference: Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2022, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs [GDx reports] www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp

**For county data, open the Expenditures Tables and select year report

VA Expenditures in La Crosse County



Fiscal Year (1 Oct – 30 Sep)

Reference: Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2022, the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Department of Veterans Affairs [GDX reports] www.va.gov/vetdata/Expenditures.asp

**For county data, open the Expenditures Tables and select year report

Priorities/Way Ahead

- Customer service
 - Reduce wait times for appointments
 - Provide immediate service for emergent issues
 - Same day/next day appointment opportunities
- Personnel
 - Training & accreditation
 - Culture- mission, vision, strategic plan
- Efficiency & accuracy
- Partner with County and community resources



Questions?



VALTC Update



Hillview Health

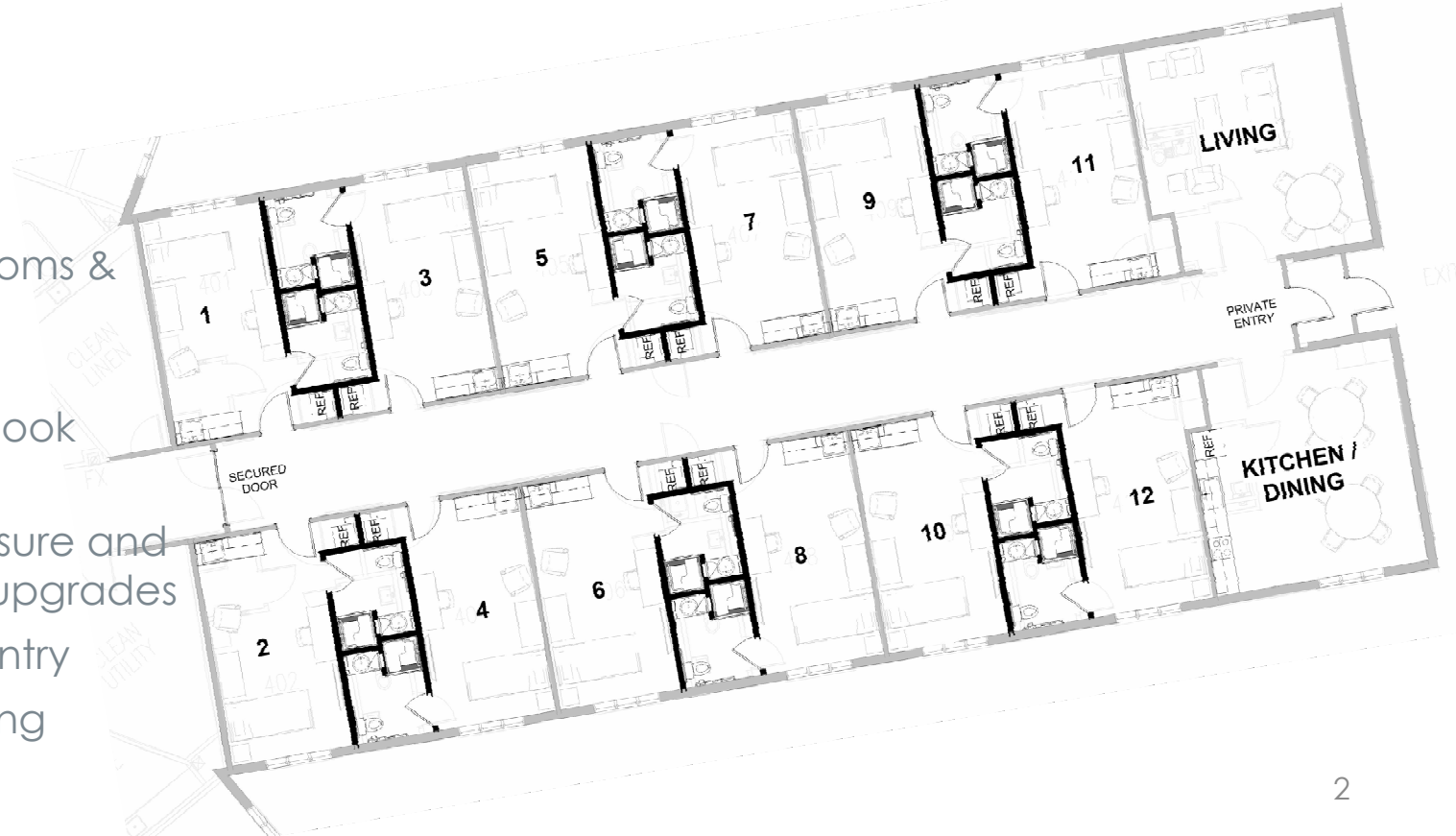
May 8, 2023

Housing

Bridge Housing /

Apartments

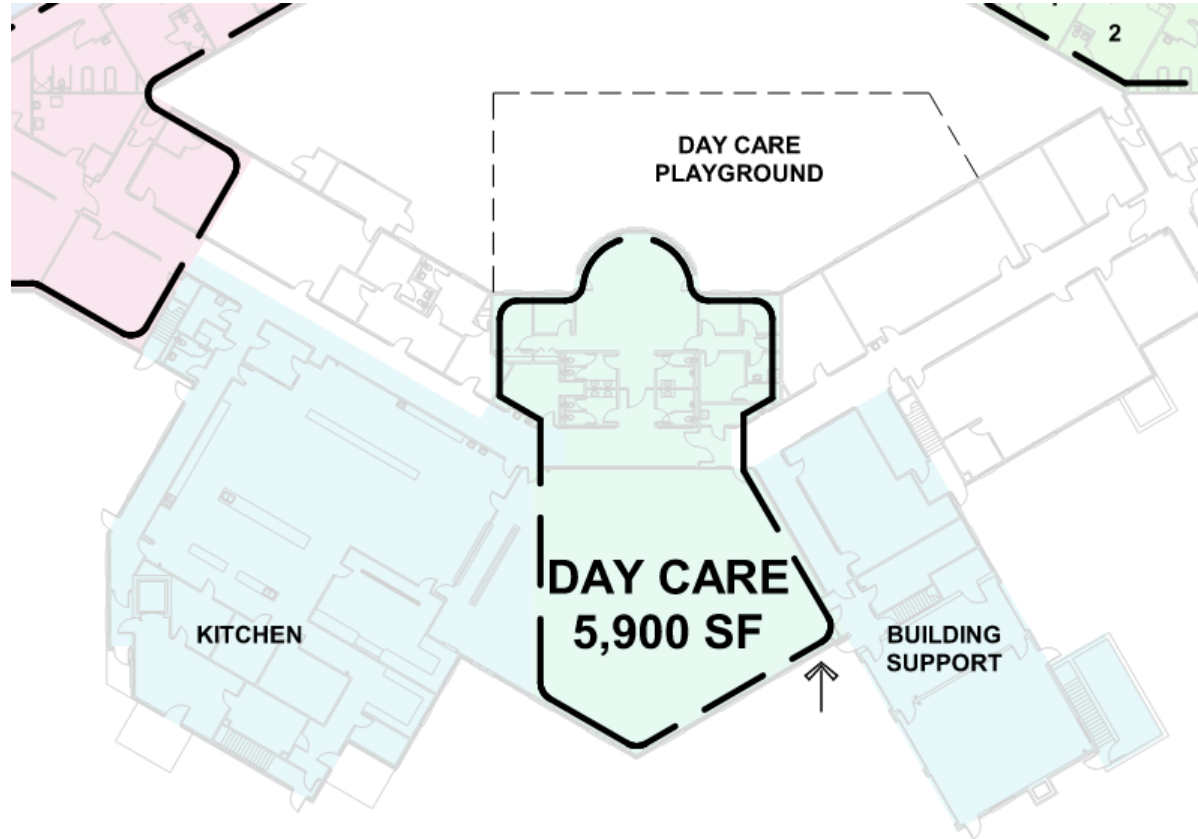
- 12 Studio Units
- Private Bathrooms & Showers
- Shared living/dining/cook spaces
- Building enclosure and infrastructure upgrades
- Private wing entry
- Outdoor parking



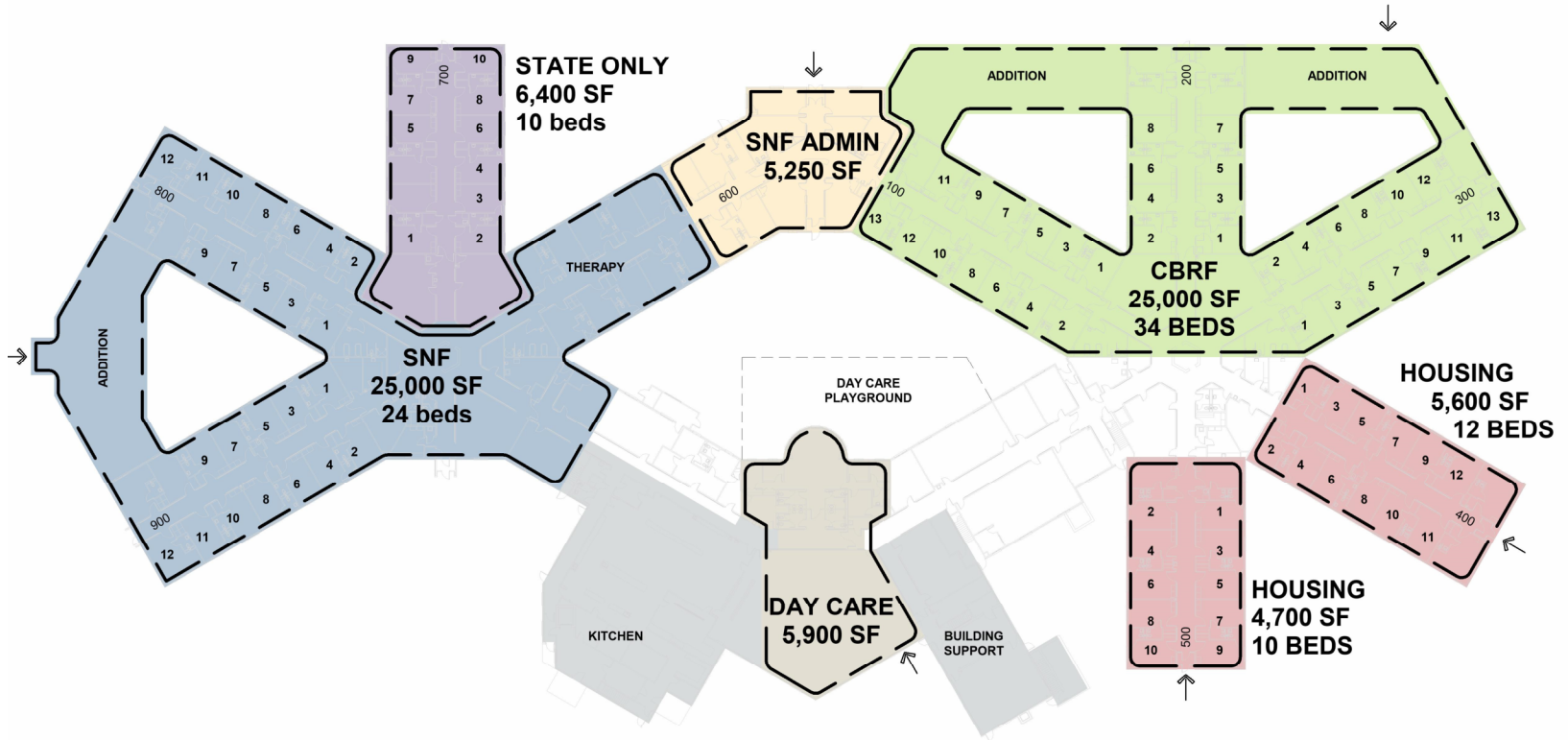
Day Care

Scope

- Infrastructure Updates
- New corridor doors / delayed egress
- Door security hardware
- Minor interior remodel
- Playground fence / playscaping (FF&E by others)
- Dedicated entry (parking, vestibule)



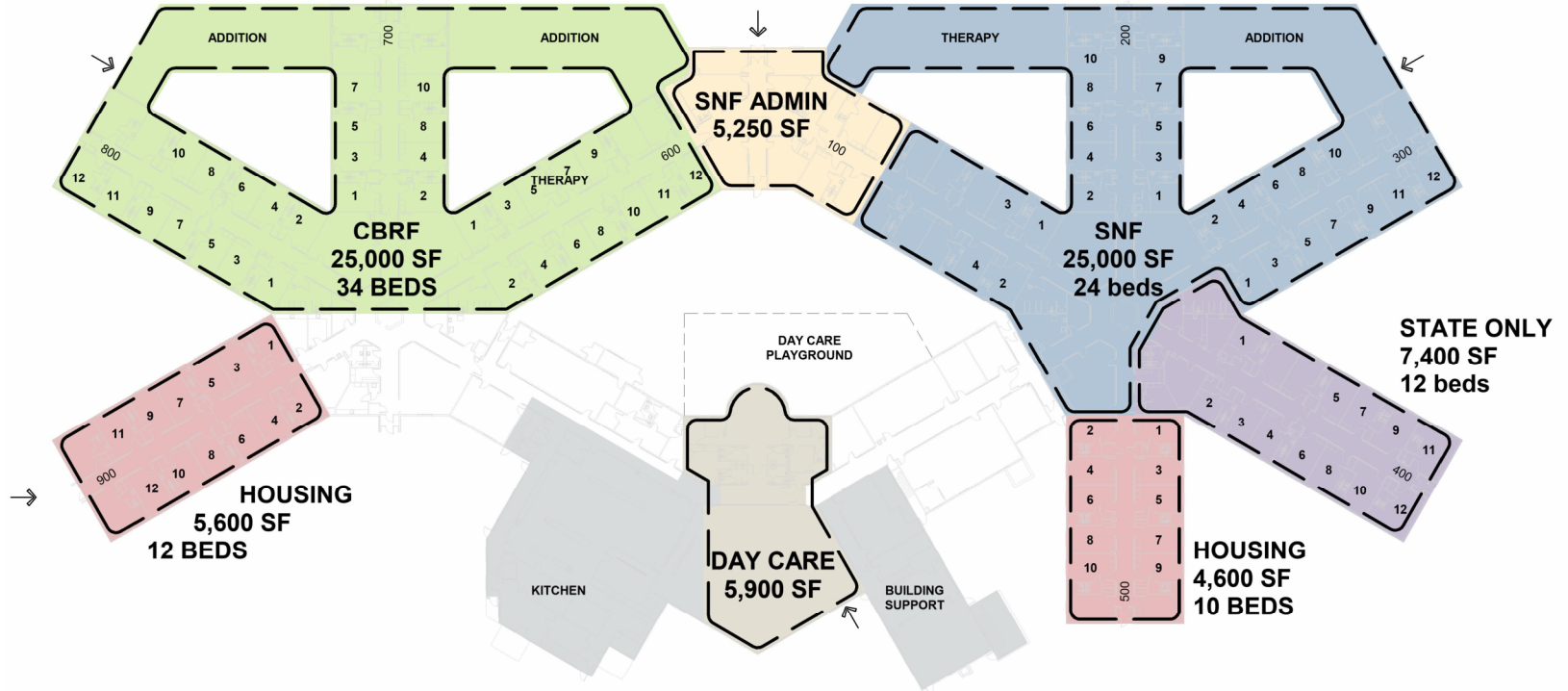
Blocking / Stacking Option 1



(Kelly's sketch)

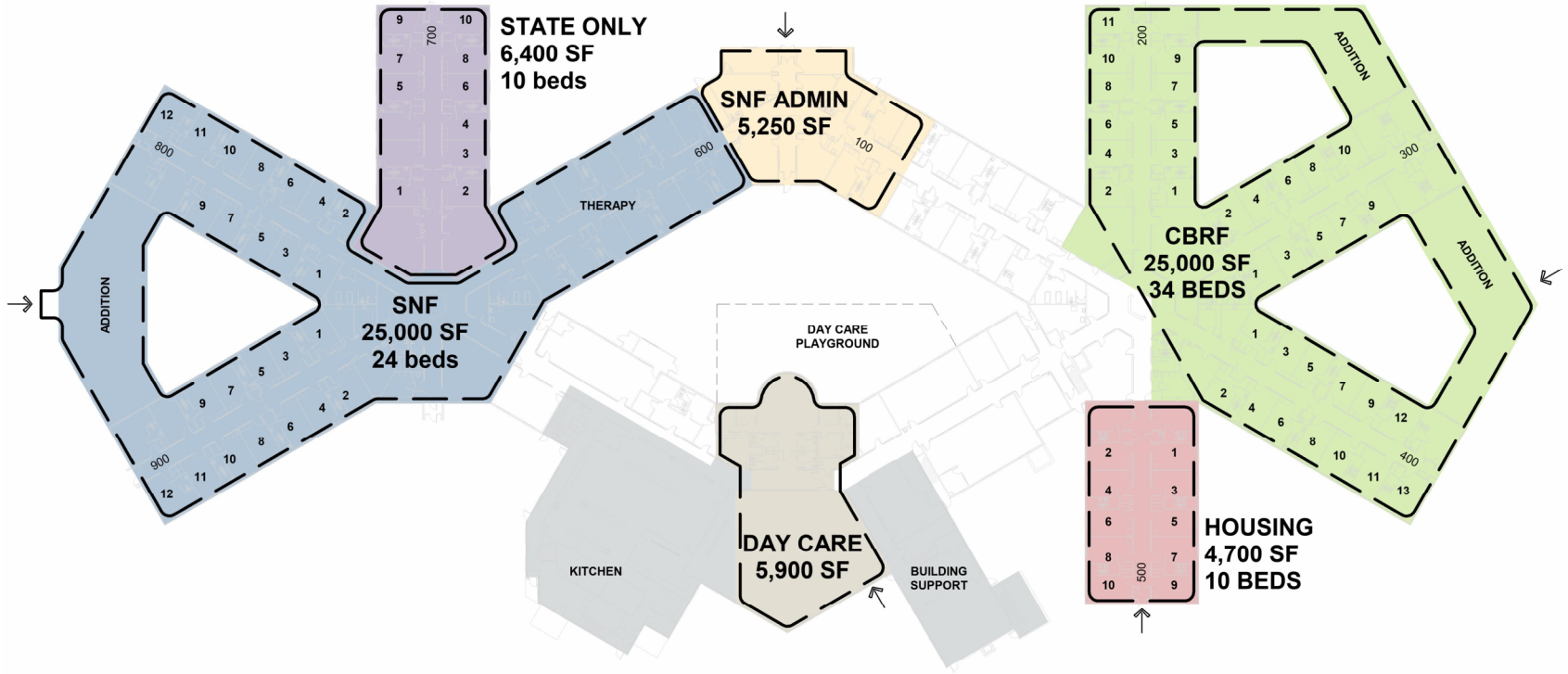
UNDEFINED
FIRST FLOOR: 10,300 SF
BASEMENT: 30,000 SF

Blocking / Stacking Option 2



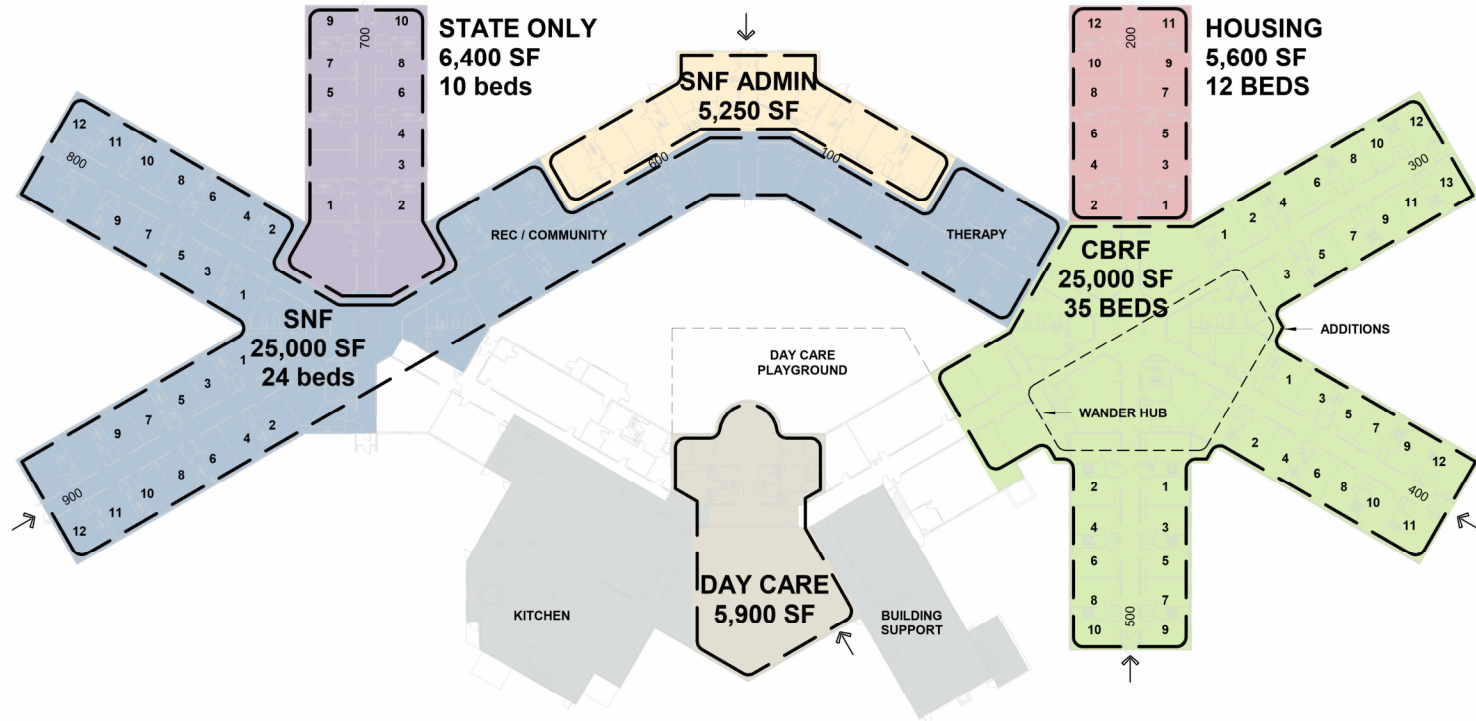
UNDEFINED
FIRST FLOOR: 11,700 SF
BASEMENT: 30,000 SF

Blocking / Stacking Option 3



UNDEFINED
FIRST FLOOR: 14,800 SF
BASEMENT: 30,000 SF

Blocking / Stacking Option 4



UNDEFINED
FIRST FLOOR: 6,200 SF
BASEMENT: 30,000 SF

Thank You!





LA CROSSE COUNTY
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

Long Term Services, Wanda Plachecki/Executive Director

TO: VALTC members
FROM: Wanda Plachecki, NHA
DATE: June 5, 2023

CENSUS UPDATES

Lakeview Health Center & Assisted Living Campus

Census for the Lakeview campus is:

- Lakeview Health Center
 - Census: 48
 - Licensed Beds 50
- Ravenwood
 - Census: 9
 - Licensed Beds: 10
- Maplewood
 - Census: 15
 - Licensed Beds: 15
- Neshonoc Manor
 - Census: 15
 - Licensed Beds: 15
- Monarch Manor
 - Census: 7 (1 admission planned for early June)
 - Licensed Beds: 8
- Regent Manor
 - Census: 3
 - Licensed Beds: 4

Hillview Health Care Center & Assisted Living Campus

Census for the Hillview campus is

- Hillview Health Care Center
 - Census: 52 (plus 1 bedhold)
 - Licensed Beds: 60
 - 53.8 average daily census for May 2023 and 54.1 year-to-date average daily census. Average rehab days are up slightly at 8.9

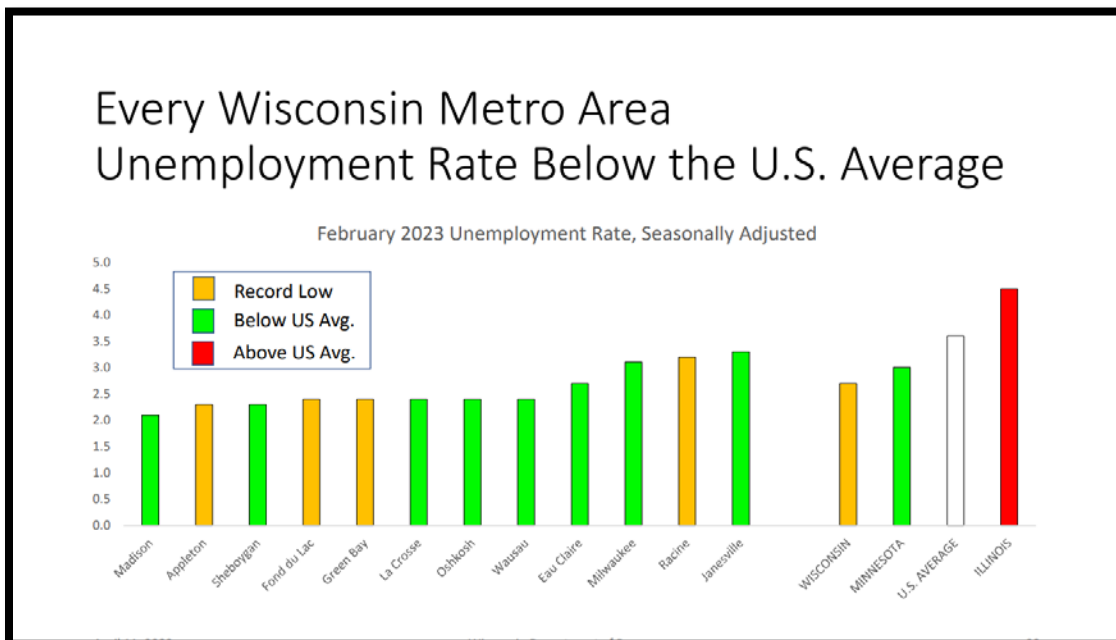
- NOTE: Notice of the rate increase approved at the May meeting was sent to all parties. No feedback or concerns have been received to date.

- Carroll Heights
 - Occupied Apartments: 53
 - Licensed Apartments: 55
- Hillview Terrace
 - Census: 23
 - Licensed Beds: 30
- The Oaks
 - Census: 4
 - Licensed Beds: 10

STAFFING UPDATE

Data collected from our recent wage study include the following:

- State of Wisconsin unemployment rate remains very low – currently 2.5%
- Number of unemployed people in Wisconsin is at a record low – only 1.2% of eligible workers are available in the entire state



- Resident Care Assistants noncertified
 - **LaCrosse County \$15.45 - \$17.91**
 - County Homes \$14.06 - \$19.29
 - Private Facilities \$14.50 - \$18.00
- C.N.A.
 - **LaCrosse County \$16.56 - \$19.20**
 - County Homes \$16.16 - \$21.72
 - Local Hospitals \$16.48 - \$23.74
 - Private Facilities \$18.00 - \$23.00
- LPN
 - **LaCrosse County**
 - County Homes \$21.06 - \$27.53
 - Local Hospitals \$20.04 - \$28.27
 - Private Facilities \$27.00 - \$34.00

- RN
 - **LaCrosse County \$32.12 - \$37.23**
 - County Homes \$28.54 - \$38.84
 - Local Hospitals \$27.00 - \$51.11
 - Private Facilities \$34.00 - \$44.00
- Other incentives offered
 - Shift differential
 - Weekend differential
 - Referral bonus
 - Sign on bonus
 - “Pick-up” incentives
 - Employee meals
- Total Compensation
 - Paid time off
 - Health Insurance
 - Short Term Disability
 - Long Term Disability
 - Retirement
 - Supplemental Insurance
 - EAP/Mental Health
 - Wellness Benefit
 - Tuition Reimbursement

A set of recommendations related to total compensation for our direct care staff is being developed based on this data. It is expected that a phased-in approach will be suggested with the initial set of recommendations designed to address the positions that are most challenging to fill and those that have the highest turnover rates.

HILLVIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER SURVEY UPDATES

As reported in last month’s director’s report, Hillview Health Care Center had an on-site survey related to a self-report. A citation was issued, and an extended survey completed as a result of this survey. No additional citations were issued after the extended survey process. The Hillview administrative team had corrected this deficiency before the survey was completed. As a result, they were issued the one citation but did not have to complete any additional plan of correction. A civil money penalty is expected because of this survey deficiency, but no details are available at this time as to amount of this penalty.

Please contact me with any questions you may have related to this report or other long term care issues. You may contact me at 608-612-0640 or wplachecki@lacrossecounty.org.

Recommendation for Approval

Standing Committee: VALTC

Department: Veteran Services

Subject: Approval of Veteran Disability Assessment Contract

Background information:

Over 11% of male and 7% of female veterans who served in Vietnam still suffer from PTSD¹ and current research suggests that 10-18% of Iraq/Afghanistan/Middle East veterans are likely to suffer from PTSD and other mental health disorders caused by their military service².

VA provides monthly disability compensation to veterans in recognition of the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service in accordance with 38 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Part 4.

To become service-connected for a disability, the veteran must have a current medical diagnosis, documentation on the severity of the symptoms, and a medical nexus from a doctor that links the mental health condition to their military service.

The Veteran Service Office sees a large volume of mental health claims denied due to lacking a formal diagnosis or medical nexus. A mental health diagnosis must meet DSM-V standards and provide sufficient details on the severity. The medical nexus connects the veteran's traumatic experiences from military service and their mental health diagnosis.

Veterans face obstacles in obtaining the required elements for disability claim approval. The VA's Vet Center offers counseling for combat veterans but are not allowed to render a diagnosis. VA mental health providers rarely write nexus statements and civilian providers may not have the necessary skills to write adequate nexus statements.

VA disability compensation is paid directly to veterans. This monetary award positively contributes to the household income level and affects their quality of life.

Evaluation Information:

There are limited therapists and mental health providers that can render clinical diagnoses that align to DSM-V standards, possess knowledge of 38 C.F.R., and have expertise in writing nexus letters.

Contracting with a provider who possesses the necessary skills could increase the potential for more VA mental health disability claim approvals.

Cost of contracting for eight days per month for a licensed therapist is estimated at \$4,800 per month (\$57,600 per year).

Recommendation/Action Requested:

Approve the contract for a licensed therapist to perform mental health assessments and written narrative summary in support of VA disability service connection claims at a cost of up to \$4,800 per month (\$57,600 per year).

¹ U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. (2016). PTSD and Vietnam veterans: A lasting issue 40 years later. <https://publichealth.va.gov/exposures/publications/agent-orange-summer-2015/nvvlis.asp>

² U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. (2022) PTSD: National center for PTSD. [Combat Exposure - PTSD: National Center for PTSD \(va.gov\)](#)