

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs and the
National Association of State Veterans Homes**

1. Purpose

To continue the mutual goal of providing quality care to Veterans, the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to foster continuous improvement in the relationship and communication between the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH).

2. Background

There has been a longstanding relationship between VA and State Veterans Homes. The Federal government began payments to State Homes in 1888 for Veterans receiving domiciliary care. The Federal assistance to State Homes was expanded in 1939 to include hospital care. In 1964, Public Law (P.L.) 88-450 further expanded the Per Diem Grant Program to include Veterans receiving care in State Nursing Homes and initiated the State Home Construction Grant Program.

Within defined legislative authority, State Home Per Diem Grants and State Home Construction Grants are approved and administered by VA. Within defined Federal, State, and local authority, each state that chooses to participate in either or both of the State Home Grants Programs initiates and controls the overall establishment, management, and operation of a State Home. VA's oversight responsibilities include assuring that State Veterans Homes meet VA standards through annual surveys, audits, and reconciliation of records; therefore, the State Home Program is a Federal-State cost sharing program, with each entity having specific responsibilities.

Both VHA and NASVH's objective is to provide quality care to Veterans. To accomplish this shared objective, both organizations agree to share information that may identify areas for enhancing the quality of care for Veterans. The information sharing will be conducted by exchanging best practices, educational materials, and information concerning the care of Veterans.

3. Goals

VHA and NASVH will seek a meaningful relationship that will deliver improved quality of care and services for America's Veterans. The hallmark of this relationship will be effective communication, exchange of ideas and information, identification of emerging needs, and continuous reevaluation of existing programs. Our shared

goal is to continuously work towards more uniform, efficient, and effective programs that assure a seamless continuum of care and services at the Federal and state levels.

NASVH will:

- Exchange information on efforts to encourage and assist states to establish new homes and State Home programs.
- Exchange information on State Home resources that could be shared under current legislative authority governing each State Home.
- Provide an annual report of legislative resolutions and state best practices that exemplify VA strategic goals.

VHA will:

- Participate in NASVH Winter and summer annual conferences.
- Improve collaboration by providing a single VHA liaison responsible for communicating with the NASVH Executive Committee and coordinating with the VHA State Home Program Offices.
- Conduct quarterly meetings or conference calls with NASVH leadership to:
 - Exchange information, share expertise and knowledge, and discuss issues of mutual concern regarding the programs.
 - Seek methods to ensure the most effective use of existing resources.
 - Identify and share best practices that could be adopted by states to improve programs and the delivery of care for Veterans.
- Consult with NASVH, on regulations or legislative proposals that impact Veterans Homes operations as appropriate and if allowed to by statute or regulation.

VA and NASVH will:

- Strive to continually strengthen the relationship and trust between VA and NASVH and exchange information (when appropriate) on activities and events that provide a level of transparency.
- Establish a formal means of exchanging information (when appropriate) on the results of research and experiences related to the planning for, and provision of, long term care of Veterans conducted by VA, State Homes, NASVH, and/or other agencies or individuals involved in long term care.


4. Review and Termination

This MOU shall be reviewed annually. At any time, the parties reserve the right to update, change, or terminate this agreement; however, a 30 day written notification is required.

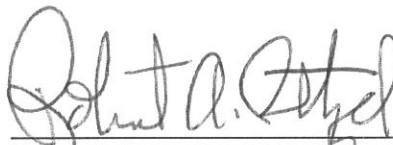
5. Authorized Representatives

In the spirit of this partnership, the undersigned are authorized to act in their respective areas related to this agreement and agree to designate appropriate representatives to establish objectives with strategies to meet the goals of this MOU.

The undersigned hereby endorse this MOU in the City of Washington, DC, on the 26th day of February 2014.



Brad Slagle
President, National Association of
State Veterans Homes



Robert A. Petzel, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health
Veterans Health Administration