

MINUTES
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER
500 W. Fort St., Boise, ID 83702
March 20, 2019 at 11:00AM

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ ESTABLISH QUORUM

Director Dan Gillies called the meeting to order at 11:05Am, and a quorum was established with all Directors present. (Dan Gillies, Lee Pierce, and Doug Meyer)

Others in attendance:

Michelle Heins, Administrator

Cathy Livingston, VA Representative and Physical Therapist

Kelly Odell, VA Representative and Recreation Therapist/Certified Aquatic Therapist

Guest: Vivian Meyer

II. VA MEDICAL CENTER

The Board met with Cathy and Kelly at the VA Medical Center in Boise to discuss partnership possibilities. After introductions Lee gave a brief overview and history of the WECRD. He then went into describing the components of the indoor pool facility. Lee explained the site plan and explained the Sprung structure.

Kelly began explaining his role with the VA as the Certified Aquatic Therapist. He explained how their partnership with the YMCA works and thought our indoor pool facility would be another great avenue for the same type of partnership. Kelly said there is a family trust fund that pays a 3-month membership fee for veterans to use their facility during rehab. Kelly explained there are 6-8 therapy sessions with the veteran before he allows them to go off on their own. He makes sure the veteran has a consult from the doctor and an evaluation before allowing them to get into the water. When they are at the YMCA they use the pool at the same time as everyone else. They have not had any issues working around the people, swim lessons and various events going on throughout the year. Some of equipment he uses for therapy are kickboards, pool noodles, resistance bands and belts, as well as buoyant cuffs. When the therapy sessions are over, the YMCA eliminates the initiation fee and then the cost to the veteran is like anyone else using the facility. The Community Center and the YMCA provide scholarships to veterans and use a sliding fee schedule since it can be a burden to incur those costs. The WECRD will look into a sliding fee schedule for the facility. Other partnership ideas Kelly suggested are doing various events such as triathlons or amputee running clinic for examples. There was discussion on the pool temperature, and how they like to work in warm water, 94-96 degrees is usually where the YMCA temperature is at. The WECRD was informed that the warm water/leisure pool could be 84-88 degrees. The YMCA has the advantage to use geothermal water to help heat up the pool, it would be expensive and not realistic for WECRD to heat the pool above the 88 degree mark. Kelly thanked us for our time and was excited about the possibilities, he did leave the meeting at this time due to another appointment.

Cathy gave an overview of the Boise VA and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation services. She believed that 80% of out-patients would benefit from a pool type therapy due to persistent pain issues. She felt having a pool in Mountain Home would be beneficial to the VA as well as the surrounding areas. Her ultimate goal would be to have a therapist in the VA office in Mountain Home. Realistically, at this time she felt their best option is to just refer people to the pool for continued pool therapy on their own. Cathy would like WECRD to provide her with the operating costs and membership fee schedule once we have it complete. Then she can have the information to move ahead with possibly funding opportunities. In the meantime she will give us any information she has on grant possibilities through the VA. Cathy will provide the WECRD with the utilization rate of veterans using the YMCA facility. She will find out how many veterans in Mountain Home and surrounding areas need or would utilize a type of water therapy. Cathy thanked the Board for their time and looks forward to working on a partnership.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Doug Meyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lee Pierce seconded the motion, and all Directors voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.

Submitted by:



Michelle Heins, Administrator

3/27/2019
Date

APPROVED: as written as amended



Dan Gillies, President

3/27/2019
Date