



# KANSAS COMMISSION ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Governor Sam Brownback

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Executive Director Gregg Burden

## House Social Services Budget Committee

RE: Kansas Veterans' Home plan to increase services to veterans

Veteran demand for long-term care (LTC) and Alzheimer's/dementia services at Kansas Veterans' Home in Winfield is greater than current capacity. Current LTC census is greater than 95% with an active waiting list of 20 veterans.

The plan at KVH is to relicense the first floor of Triplett Hall for 40 beds. Relocate a 25 bed unit from Bleckley Hall to Triplett Hall. Convert the vacated unit in Bleckley Hall to a 20 bed Alzheimer's/dementia unit. The result doubles the number of Alzheimer's/dementia beds plus increase LTC beds by 15.

Demand for dementia services in Cowley County and the 5 adjacent counties are significant. There is an estimate of 49,000 veterans in the target market of the 6 counties. Of those veterans, a prevalence estimate of 1100 veterans in an age group greater than 80 would have Alzheimer's or dementia. KVH has the only Alzheimer/dementia unit for veterans in Kansas. The current unit is always full. Social workers from the Wichita VA indicate a new 20 bed unit could fill within 90 days.

The VA is committed to the veterans with 70% or greater service connected (SC) disabilities. LTC services for that population are paid by the VA at 100% cost of care. In the same 6 county market, there is an estimate of 1200 SC veterans with a disability rating greater than 70%. Currently KVH has 4 SC and 3 SC on the waiting list. Wichita VA prefers to place the SC veterans in a veterans facility. The increase in LTC beds will increase the SC veteran census.

KVH is a recently certified Medicare facility. Providing Medicare A services started in August 2011. Currently KVH is averaging 5 Med A residents per day for January. In a facility the size of KVH and with beds available, Medicare A services should be averaging 10% of the licensed beds or averaging 10+ patients per day. Unfortunately, a full facility does not have opportunity for new admissions associated with Med A rehabilitation. Opening Triplett Hall increases LTC beds and opens the opportunity to increase Med A services.

All cost associated with the expansion plan are to be covered by increases in revenues from a new dementia unit, service connected veterans, Medicare A services, and census growth. No State General Funds are requested for the expansion.