



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

*Washington Veterans Home • 1141 Beach Drive E • Port Orchard, Washington 98366 • (360) 895-4700*

August 26, 2021

Dear Veterans Home Residents, Family and Representatives,

Our Washington Veterans Home is facing critical staffing shortages which are beginning to impact resident care. We have approximately 40 vacant direct care positions.

Our challenges were compounded with the COVID-19 outbreak, which affected several neighborhoods in the Home. Staff worked diligently to monitor and care for residents, while donning and doffing PPE dozens of times throughout the workday. I am happy to share that we are now out of outbreak status and 35 residents are considered recovered. If you have questions regarding visitation, please call the Washington Veterans Home visit line at 360-895-4369.

We are recruiting to fill vacant positions, and also using contracted agency staff, but the shortage of direct care staff is being experienced nationally. Because the care of our Veterans and their Families is our top priority, we have made the decision to temporarily transfer residents to other local facilities that have the ability to provide care at this time. We will make these transfers locally with VA contracted facilities to ensure no disruption in payment will be needed. This will occur on or around September 9<sup>th</sup>. You would have received a phone call from your Social Worker if your loved one will be affected. These transfers will allow us to temporarily vacate 40 beds and consolidate staff and continue to provide excellent care to our Veterans Home residents. We look forward to welcoming our residents' home as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued understanding.

Altruistically,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William McElya".

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*"Serving Those Who Served"*