

# Family Council Matters Newsletter

## MVH-Minneapolis



January 2026

### Your 2026 Family Council Officers

The MVH-Minneapolis Family Council is a volunteer organization that consists of family members or friends who have, or have had, a loved one living at the MVH-Minneapolis. Family Council Officers are also volunteers, elected annually at the December Meeting. The following officers were reelected for 2026 at the December 2025 Meeting.

#### Co-Chairs

Kirk Larson  
Diane Windham

#### Secretary

Jane Hanzalik

#### Treasurers

Kirk Larson / Diane Windham

#### Members at Large

Sandy Gibson  
Cindy Hauwiller  
Amy Schall

These officers are committed to the Family Council's vision, which is "families supporting families." Family Councils are mandated by law; specifically, Federal Statutes 42 C.F.R. Section 483.10 (f) (5) – (7), and Minnesota Statutes Sections 144.651, Subd. 27, 144A.10, Subd. 8b, and 144A.101, Subd.6.

The Family Council is a formal vehicle for communication and information sharing between family members and friends of residents, with the MVH-Minneapolis Administration and staff, through which the following are accomplished.

- Projects developed that are aimed at improving the quality of life, wellbeing, and happiness of our loved ones, as well as for all residents living at the Vets Home.
- Input provided on Vets Home decisions.
- Nursing home consumer and resident rights are safeguarded.
- Channels of communication between residents, families, Vets Home staff and Administration, as well as the general public, are strengthened.

Please Join Us for the  
Monthly Family Council Meeting

In Person  
And Online (Listen Only)

Building 21, Theater Room  
Saturday, January 10, 2026

Come Early for the Social Half-Hour  
11:45am till 12:15pm

Followed by the Meeting  
12:15pm till 2:00pm

Speaker:  
**Carmelle Hanson**  
**Assistant Director of Nursing**  
**Building 22**

- Information and support are provided to the families of past, current, and prospective residents.
- Goodwill and fellowship are promoted among members.

Please consider this article to be your personal invitation to attend the next meeting. Join with other family members and friends of residents on the Family Council, and participate in this ultimate partnership with the MVH-Minneapolis Administration, which helps to ensure that your loved one receives the very best of care. In fact, as your loved one's representative at the Family Council's monthly meetings – your ideas, your concerns, and your successes – are invaluable input about which the Family Council wants to be informed. Without a doubt, you are a vital link in the chain that delivers dignified and respectful care to your loved one, and by attending Family Council Meetings, that chain is strengthened. Won't you plan to join us at the next meeting? Hope to see you there!



*Our condolences go out to the families and friends whose loved one recently passed away.*

## 2026 Meeting Dates

**Second Saturday of Each Month at 12:15pm  
In-Person and Online (Listen Only)**

**January 10**

**February 14**

**March 14**

**April 11**

**May 9**

**June 13**

**July 11**

**August 8**

**September 12**

**October 10**

**November 14**

**December 12**

**Family Member Support Group  
Wednesday, January 14, 1:00-2:30pm  
Building 22 Community Room**

At our January 14 Meeting, the large group will include some fun and lighthearted get-to-know-you activities, to help you connect with one another. Plus, treats will be provided by the Chaplains! The small groups will continue to be led by facilitators and organized by building.

The Family Member Support Group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. As Caregiver to your loved one at the MVH-Minneapolis, you're invited to come, connect with others, share, and receive care. Chaplain Brandon is your contact. There's no need to sign up ahead of time. Feel free to email him directly at [brandon.newton@state.mn.us](mailto:brandon.newton@state.mn.us) with questions, to receive past resource materials, and to be included in all future notifications.

## Thank You's

A heartfelt thank you to Judith Costello for making a generous donation to the Family Council.

One more heartfelt thank you to the Hugo American Legion Post 620 for making another generous donation to the Family Council.

Also, heartfelt thank you's to BBGF Best Buy Payments, and BBGF Wells Fargo Payments, for making several generous donations to the Family Council.

Another heartfelt thank you to the family of William Campfield, for making a generous donation to the Family Council.

One last heartfelt thank you to John Ward, for making a generous donation to the Family Council.

### **Officer of the Day (OD)**

**MVH-Minneapolis**

**612-221-6389 or 612-210-6295**

**Call at Night and on Weekends**

**At Other Times,**

**Please Call Unit or Building Manager**

### **Ombudsman for MVH-Minneapolis**

**Anna Solowiej**

**651-703-6290**

**Email: [anna.solowiej@state.mn.us](mailto:anna.solowiej@state.mn.us)**

**Website: <https://mn.gov/ooltc/>**

### **Family Council Officers Contact Information**

#### **Co-Chairs**

**Kirk Larson, 612-708-8483**

**[kirkisatwin@gmail.com](mailto:kirkisatwin@gmail.com)**

**Diane Windham, 763-657-1443**

**[diane@dwindham.net](mailto:diane@dwindham.net)**

#### **Secretary**

**Jane Hanzalik**

#### **Treasurers**

**Kirk Larson/Diane Windham**

#### **Members-at-Large**

**Sandy Gibson**

**Cindy Hauwiller**

**Amy Schall**

**Website: <http://mn.gov/mdva/homes/minneapolis/>**

**Email: [mvhfamcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:mvhfamcouncil@gmail.com)**

#### **Mailing Address**

**MVH-Minneapolis Family Council**

**5101 Minnehaha Avenue South**

**Minneapolis, MN 55417**

**The MVH-Minneapolis Family Council is a volunteer not-for-profit**

**501(c)(3) organization.**