

9.b.. Community Support Factors – County Board Resolution of Support for Veterans Home

Provide certified copy of County Board Resolution of Support for Veterans Home program in accord with principles outlined in Exhibit D.

See Attached Resolution

## RESOLUTION 2013-

WHEREAS, on or about June 11, 2013, the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County has requested from the County Board of Supervisors certain resolutions to assist in the proposal to be presented for the replacement of the Central Nebraska Veterans Home.

WHEREAS, in November of 2011, Buffalo County received a letter written by the Nebraska Veterans Council stating a move of the Veterans home out of Hall County, and that Hall County dissolves their Veterans Home Committee and discharges the Hall County Veterans Service Officer.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County leaders and community members were contacted by various Veterans and Veterans groups requesting involvement in the relocation and rebuilding of the home.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is centrally located with access to the Holdrege, Nebraska, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic serving central Nebraska and north-central Kansas, and the Grand Island, Nebraska, United States Department of Veterans Affairs Community Living Center and Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is home to Good Samaritan Hospital which offers the only advanced cardiac services and open heart surgery between Lincoln and Denver. Good Samaritan Hospital offers state of the art cancer treatment as one of only a few selected treatment centers in the National Community Cancer Centers Program. And, as designated by the State of Nebraska, is the region's trauma center with a verified Level II trauma center and ground and air transport.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County is home to the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center with enrollment from all 93 counties and over 700 students enrolled in pre-medical or nursing programs.

WHEREAS, Buffalo County and the Buffalo County – County Veterans Service Office has a history of supporting Veterans, and Veterans programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUFFALO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS that the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County shall be authorized to pursue the project, locally named PROJECT HONOR, with the following commitments on behalf of the County of Buffalo County where Buffalo County will or already does:

**Commit that Buffalo County and the Buffalo County – County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) will not interfere or attempt to dictate any operational control or changes of the facility.**

- 1. Positively promote Veterans Home services, programs, activities and initiatives.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to encourage Veterans and their families to tour the Central Nebraska Veterans Home (CNVH) facilities. Promote involvement of volunteer work and programs at CNVH. Work closely, and as directed by, CNVH administration and activities coordinator(s) to ensure Buffalo County meets the CNVH objectives and to include CNVH in the many Veterans activities already occurring in Buffalo County.

**2. Assist with inquiries on service lines and with applications to the State Veterans Home programs.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to support, and as directed by the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, the completion of Veterans home applications and proactively assist the state in the collection of the proper documentation necessary for proof of eligibility. Buffalo County has and will continue to ensure the Buffalo County CVSO and staff, have thorough knowledge of the operation of the Veterans Homes, eligibility requirements, and the Veterans Home Board "Guidelines". The Buffalo County CVSO has and will continue to provide information to applicants and families regarding service lines any applicable fees directed by the state.

**3. Recognize that the State Veterans Homes must comply with regulations and standards of care and provide support and understanding to member families regarding compliance with these regulations and standards.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO recognize and supports that CNVH must comply with both regulations and standards of care as set by Federal and State law. Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will assist CNVH administration, as directed by CNVH, with compliance of regulations and standards of care.

The Buffalo County Veterans Service Committee shall cooperate and assist the Department of Veterans Affairs in the performance and discharge of its duties and functions, as directed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**4. Provide positive and supportive communication between Veterans programs and school and civic events.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO encourage youth to be active in Veterans programs and will make every effort to inform the community, schools, and the local media of the achievements of CNVH, including distribution of the CNVH newsletter. Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO, as directed by the CNVH administration and activities coordinator(s), will encourage visits by area schools and encourage community support and participation in civic events.

**5. Assist the Veterans Home with grant and donation enterprises to support the Home's long term goals and Veterans service functions.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO have worked in conjunction with the Veterans service organizations to support activities which encourage donations and charitable events that promote good spirits and morale of the residents of the Grand Island Veterans Home. Buffalo

County and the Buffalo County CVSO will support CNVH administration with seeking donations for the CNVH. Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will provide letters of support and documentation to CNVH for any grant requests or foundation requests.

**6. Provide positive community relationship building programs to serve Veterans, spouses of Veterans and Gold Star parents.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO are committed to introduction and support of the CNVH administration and residents to existing Veterans programs and community activities. And, with the support and approval of CNVH Administration, develop new programs that fit the needs of Veterans, spouses of Veterans and Gold Star parents.

**7. Promotion in serving member burial needs.**

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to work with funeral directors to insure each Veteran, spouse, and family member(s) are treated with fairness, respect and dignity as they approach their final journey.

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to support Veterans, and their families, with assistance in completing applications, if so required, for final assistance, burial amenity applications, and applications for benefits.

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will continue to insure Veterans receive military rites at their service, a bronze grave marker and flag, and that all grave markers remain in place.

Buffalo County and the Buffalo County CVSO will support the CNVH administration, the Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs, and the United States Department of Veterans with support of existing programs, or the development of new programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2013.

ATTEST:



William McMullen, Chairman  
Buffalo County Board of Supervisors



Janice I. Giffin  
Buffalo County Clerk