

### Consistent Themes in previous VVH Reports:

- Prior State Funding via General and Global Commitment Funds
- Financial viability of the Home
- Level of Involvement of the Board of Trustees
- Level of Involvement by the Agency of Human Service
- The need for various policies and procedures to improve the operation of the Home

### Responses to Creative use of the facility and its property:

(140,000 square feet of building complex on ~ 88 acres of property)

- Potential for a new tenant to build on the property
- The Board does not want to see the property over run with additional buildings.
- Suggestion: build a facility to house homeless Veterans. Funding needed.
- Homeless grant funds are available to community providers but not State Veterans' Homes... could jeopardize VA Construction Grant status, research needed.
- Suggestion: build a Center to address PTSD. Funding needed.
- Hesitation to include either in the current facility due to a lack of mental health professional, staffing issues and safety concerns.
- After bed reduction and creation of additional private rooms for short term rehabilitation and hospice the facility can charge extra for these rooms and suites.

### Flexibility to section off a unit to be released to a community provider, agency or business. Barrier identified:

- Reconfiguration would reduce private rooms and community space.
- Already many open commercial and office space available in Bennington.
- Tenant and guests could not risk the safety of Veterans

- Leased area would need its one entrance and be sectioned off from the rest of the facility.
- Having used VA Construction Grants for renovations any reconfiguration could trigger federal recapture regulations if the facility is no longer a State Veterans' Home. Note: given recent funding request potentially that ~ \$11,000,000 would be recaptured after two –three years.

**OPTIONS** (2016 Summer Report pg. 21-22)

1. Continue with current model with the understanding that 25% of the Home's operating budget will need to be supported. Note: Recent funding request was 28%.
2. Move the Home to operate within the Agency of Human Services with the understanding that state fund will still be need, the percentage to be determined. More research is needed.
3. Hire a private management firm to be responsible for the day to day management of the home. This does not guarantee the Home will be free from need for State appropriations. More research is needed.
4. Close the home requiring residents to find new and appropriate places to live. Noting that Veterans would lose their daily stipend not living in a designated Veterans' Home. In turn this would add to Vermont's Medicaid costs. Also it would have and adverse economic impact on employees and on the Bennington area.