

HANDOUT #1

Memorandum

FOR: Members of the Arkansas Veterans Home Task Force

FROM: State Representative John Charles Edwards

SUBJECT: 3 Recommendations

DATE: July 8, 2013

The purpose of this memorandum is to lay out 3 recommendations I to make to insure we keep the focus on quality care for our Arkansas Veterans with a new Veterans Home. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Invite Mr. Bryon Hines, the administrator of the North West Louisiana Veterans Home in Bossier City, Louisiana, to testify before the task force. He has lead a very successful state owned and operated veterans home since 2007. Mr. Hines has an established record that we can all learn from. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. His contact information is as follows: 318-741-2763; email-bhines@nwlwvh.com. I will gladly pay out of my own private funds any cost to have him come to a future meeting.
2. Keep our focus on a facility that has skilled nursing home care. That is what the enabling legislation for the Veterans Home is for. If other worthy items are considered, we must make sure there are ways they can be sustained from a fiscal point of view. Having fiscally unsustainable programs was one of the reasons the Little Rock Veterans Home had problems.
3. Whatever design is selected for a Veterans Home, it must be one that makes sense from a staffing and maintenance point of view. This is a reason why I think it is critical to hear from individuals who actually have experience in leading the homes that care for our Veterans.

As of this time, it appears I will be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for tomorrow, but if anyone has any questions of me, I can be reached at 501-680-5248.