



Wyoming Military Department

Joint Transportation, Highways and Military Affairs Interim Committee 22 October 2018





Agenda

- **Military Department Update**
- **Veterans Home Skilled Nursing Facility**
- **Draft Bills**
 - **Adjutant General Responsibilities W.S. 19-7-103**
 - **Cheyenne National Guard Museum W.S. 19-14-112**
 - **Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery W.S.19-14-108**
 - **Military Code Jurisdiction W.S. 19-12-101**





Military Update

Air Guard Deployments

- Air Traffic Control Squadron Deployed 15 members to CENTCOM in April 2018
- Security Forces Squadron deployed 7 members to CENTCOM in July 2018
- Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron will deploy 23 members to CENTCOM, EUCOM & CONUS in January 2019
- Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System (MAFFS) supported firefighting in California and Colorado with numerous personnel July-September 2018

Army Guard Deployments

- G Company will deploy 30 Soldiers – Jan 2019
- Det 6 will deploy 6 Soldiers – May 2019
- 2-300 FA will deploy 120 Soldiers - May 2019
- 115 FA BDE will deploy 92 Soldiers - July 2019
- Target Accusation Platoon will deploy 23 Soldiers - July 2019
- 2-300 FA will deploy 30 Soldiers - September 2019

Projects

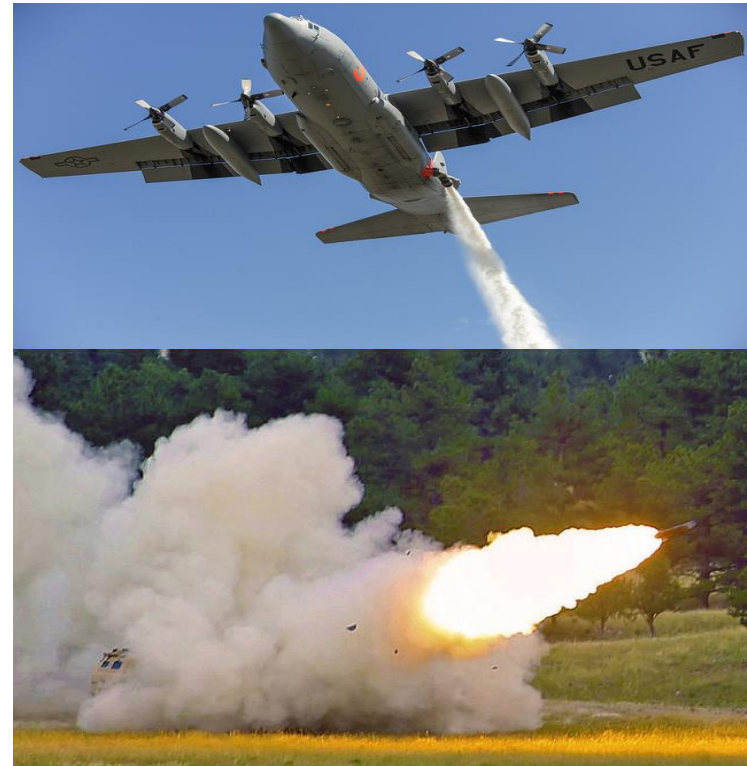
- Air Guard Supply Building
- Regional Training Institute (RTI) 43% complete
- Laramie Readiness Center 73% complete

State Support

- 58 Mutual Aid

WCCA Update

- Returning to the 75/25 model, \$2M has already been reverted to the school foundation.
- Accreditation of WCCA as an educational institution is still on track.





Veterans Home Skilled Nursing





VA State Home - Skilled Nursing Facility

Col. Steve Kravitsky, USAF, Ret.

Director

Wyoming Veterans' Commission

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Policy Analyst

Wyoming Department of Health

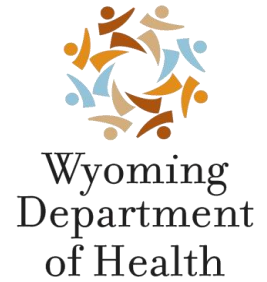


Wyoming
Department
of Health





Agenda



- **Background**
- **Mission**
- **Capacity**
- **Location Criteria**
- **Location Trade-Offs**
- **Estimated Costs**
- **Operations**
- **Next Steps**





Background: Legislative Requirements



- **Senate Enrolled Act 21 from the 2018 Budget Session**
- **Requires the Veterans' Commission, Dept. of Health, and Construction Dept. to pursue Level I / Level II study for Veterans' State Home Skilled Nursing Facility.**
- **These studies are defined in W.S. § 9-5-108**
 - **Level I - "reconnaissance studies"**
 - **Level II - "feasibility studies"**
 - **Level III - "construction and operation plans"**
- **VA pays 65% construction if State commits 35% match.**





Mission

- **Two-part mission:**
 - **Provide *subsidized long-term care benefit* that veterans cannot access in Wyoming today.**
 - **Serve as a *safety-net* for veterans who cannot be served in private facilities.**
 - **~15% safety-net (assaultive or self-injurious behaviors)**
- **No more than 10% non-veterans**



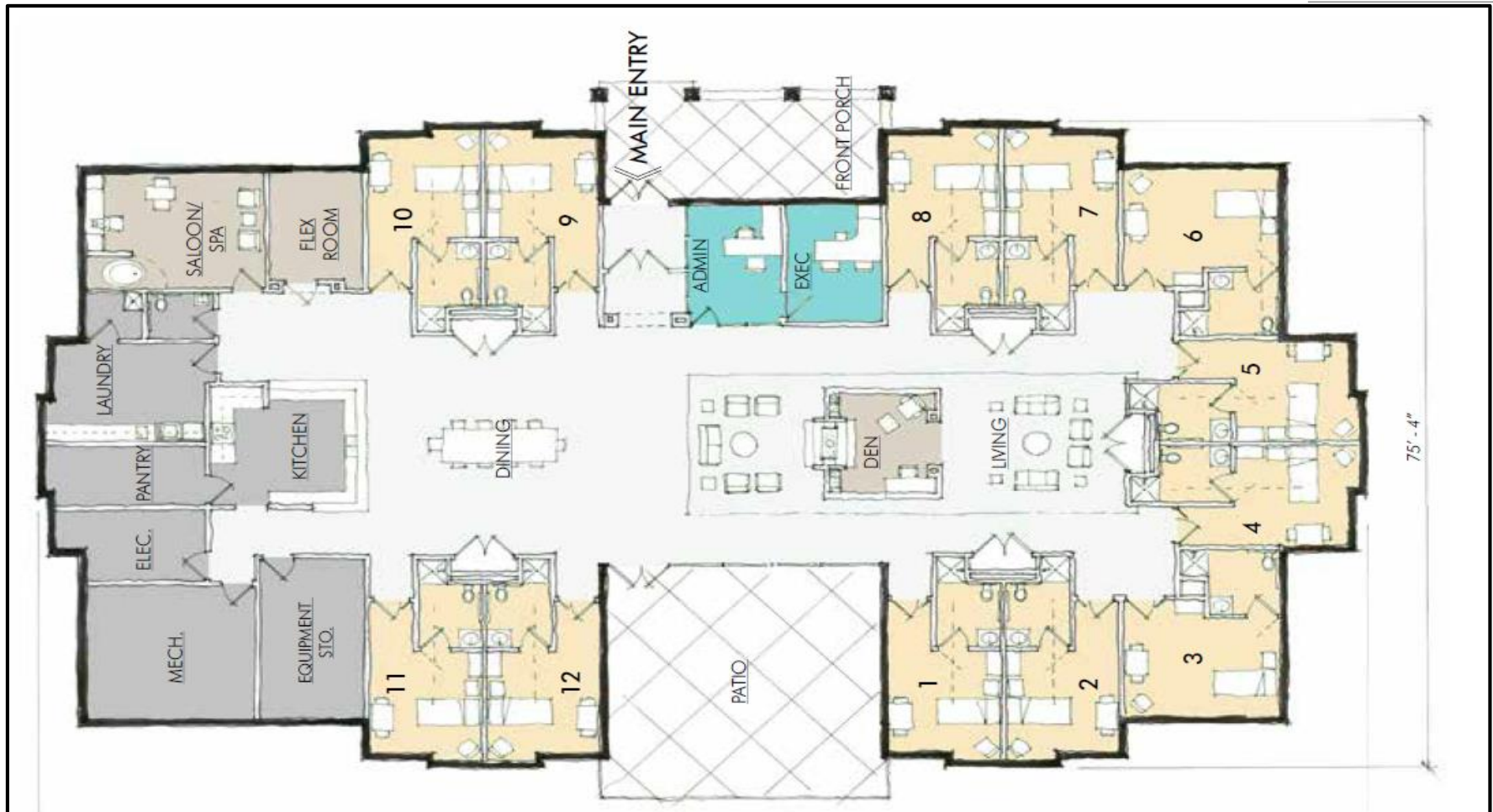


Capacity

- Modeled with **36 beds** in **3 x 12-bed cottages**.
- Est. **300** veterans requiring SNF-level care.
- At single location in State, travel-time likely means no more than **170** veterans.
- Limited to **45 - 85** beds based on VA cap (if existing domiciliary beds reduced)
- Start small



Notional Floorplan



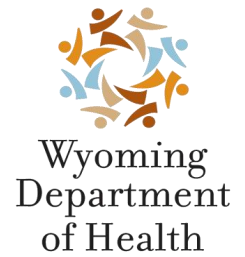


Site Layout





Notional Rendering





Process & Public Feedback

City	Date Visited	Attendance	Purpose	Tasks
Cody	4/3/18	2	Initial public meetings held by agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Developed initial criteria and survey -Built website to educate and solicit additional feedback -Obtained veteran and community feedback -Refined criteria with weights based on feedback -Reduced potential locations from 13 to 8 based on scores (see Needs Analysis)
Riverton	4/4/18	14		
Thermopolis	4/4/18	1		
Basin	4/5/18	3		
Casper	4/17/18	42		
Buffalo	4/17/18	39		
Sheridan	4/18/18	22		
Newcastle	4/18/18	8		
Gillette	4/18/18	24		
Lander	5/3/18	8		
Rock Springs	5/4/18	16		
Cheyenne	5/17/18	7		
Laramie	5/17/18	1	Level I meetings held by agency and contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Continued to assess initial criteria and assessed site specific criteria to include: -Cost Zone and climate -Geo-technical properties, site access, site characteristics and site configuration -Scored eight sites on objective criteria and selected top 3 for Level II Study
Gillette	7/10/18	24		
Sheridan	7/11/18	36		
Buffalo	7/11/18	13		
Laramie	7/16/18	5		
Cheyenne	7/16/18	10		
Riverton	7/17/18	63		
Lander	7/17/18	53		
Casper	7/18/18	79	Level II meetings held by contractor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Performed design workshops in final 3 locations -Architectural/engineering design for 3 sites -Developed estimated construction costs
Casper	8/22/18	30		
Buffalo	8/27/18	30		
Sheridan	8/27/18	55		





Location

Criteria	Weight
Proximity to family	31%
Low cost long-term care	25%
VA medical care proximity	14%
Low cost community	7%
Outdoor aesthetics / recreation	6%
Local amenities	6%
Veterans' orgs	5%
Specialty care access	5%





Location Scores

Level I

Site	Rank	Score
Casper	1	0.68
Buffalo	2	0.55
Cheyenne	3	0.35
Sheridan	4	0.24
Laramie	5	0.17
Gillette	6	-0.10
Thermopolis	7	-0.15
Rock Springs	8	-0.28
Lander	9	-0.30
Basin	10	-0.32
Newcastle	11	-0.35
Riverton	12	-0.50

Level II

Site	Rank	Score
Casper		29
Buffalo		29
Cheyenne	No site identified	
Sheridan		29





Location - Indicators

Indicator	Site											
	Buffalo	Casper	Cheyenne	Sheridan	Gillette	Lander	Riverton	Laramie	Thermopolis	Rock Springs	Newcastle	Basin
Est. number of WY vets served	109	133	119	97	99	93	98	113	97	93	89	79
Est. percent out-of-state vets served	0.9%	1.5%	54.2%	2.0%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	28.5%	0.0%	5.1%	12.7%	1.3%
Continuity of care	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Existing workforce in city	104	861	692	527	321	119	159	169	77	125	143	179
Access to CNA graduates	79	138	130	82	68	41	58	107	45	80	22	34
CNA graduate quality	72.6	66.3	75.2	72.2	76.0	63.7	64.4	77.6	69.5	85.2	78.9	75.4
Median CNA wage	\$12.16	\$13.80	\$13.87	\$12.77	\$14.34	\$14.45	\$14.45	\$11.72	\$14.15	\$13.98	\$14.34	\$14.36
Median RN wage	\$28.62	\$28.73	\$31.98	\$32.01	\$30.71	\$29.85	\$29.85	\$27.57	\$30.88	\$28.12	\$30.71	\$30.04
Overhead consolidation potential	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Free land potential	1	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Drive time to closest VAMC	45.2	171.3	1.9	10.2	100.3	332.2	317.6	53.4	228.7	173.4	93.1	143.2
Drive time to closest CBOC or VAMC	45.2	8.7	1.9	10.2	3.4	43.3	2.2	53.4	52.0	2.6	93.1	47.3
Cost of living index	97	95	103	99	98	96	96	99	93	98	90	90
Trees — percent forested	23%	7%	0%	15%	1%	15%	0%	5%	2%	0%	26%	0%
Mountains — Terrain Ruggedness Index	9.6	6.2	3.6	10.6	5.3	9.8	3.7	5.1	9.8	7.8	6.6	5.0
Count of amenities	149	480	498	263	264	167	145	257	81	267	74	66
Count of VFW and AL posts in city	2	3	8	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	2
Specialist depth score	-2	5.2	11.6	0.3	2.9	-7.7	-5.6	6.6	-3.8	-2.4	-3	-2.2





Location - Standardized Indicators

Indicator	Site											
	Buffalo	Casper	Cheyenne	Sheridan	Gillette	Lander	Riverton	Laramie	Thermopolis	Rock Springs	Newcastle	Basin
Est. number of WY vets served	0.51	2.15	1.19	-0.31	-0.18	-0.59	-0.25	0.78	-0.31	-0.59	-0.86	-1.54
Est. percent out-of-state vets served	0.50	0.47	-2.75	0.44	0.32	0.56	0.56	-1.18	0.56	0.25	-0.22	0.48
Continuity of care	3.18	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29	-0.29
Existing workforce in city	-0.71	2.19	1.55	0.91	0.12	-0.65	-0.50	-0.46	-0.82	-0.63	-0.56	-0.43
Access to CNA graduates	0.15	1.75	1.52	0.22	-0.17	-0.88	-0.42	0.90	-0.78	0.18	-1.39	-1.08
CNA graduate quality	-0.07	-1.07	0.34	-0.14	0.45	-1.48	-1.36	0.71	-0.56	1.91	0.92	0.36
Median CNA wage	1.63	-0.11	-0.18	0.98	-0.68	-0.79	-0.79	2.09	-0.48	-0.30	-0.68	-0.70
Median RN wage	0.91	0.83	-1.43	-1.45	-0.55	0.05	0.05	1.64	-0.67	1.26	-0.55	-0.08
Overhead consolidation potential	1.13	-0.81	-0.81	1.13	-0.81	1.13	-0.81	-0.81	1.13	-0.81	-0.81	1.13
Free land potential	1.20	0.09	-1.02	0.09	0.09	1.20	-1.02	-1.02	1.20	-1.02	-1.02	1.20
Drive time to closest VAMC	0.85	-0.29	1.24	1.17	0.35	-1.74	-1.61	0.78	-0.81	-0.31	0.42	-0.04
Drive time to closest CBOC or VAMC	-0.51	0.73	0.96	0.68	0.91	-0.44	0.95	-0.79	-0.74	0.94	-2.13	-0.58
Cost of living index	-0.22	0.31	-1.80	-0.75	-0.48	0.04	0.04	-0.75	0.84	-0.48	1.63	1.63
Trees — percent forested	1.62	-0.09	-0.82	0.72	-0.73	0.73	-0.82	-0.28	-0.61	-0.80	1.92	-0.82
Mountains — Terrain Ruggedness Index	1.06	-0.30	-1.32	1.44	-0.64	1.15	-1.29	-0.74	1.16	0.36	-0.14	-0.74
Count of amenities	-0.53	1.76	1.88	0.26	0.26	-0.41	-0.56	0.22	-1.00	0.28	-1.05	-1.11
Count of VFW and AL posts in city	-0.32	0.23	2.96	-0.32	-0.32	0.23	0.23	-0.86	-0.32	-0.86	-0.32	-0.32
Specialist depth score	-0.36	0.93	2.08	0.06	0.52	-1.38	-1.00	1.18	-0.68	-0.43	-0.54	-0.39





Location - Weighted Components



Indicator	Site											
	Buffalo	Casper	Cheyenne	Sheridan	Gillette	Lander	Riverton	Laramie	Thermopolis	Rock Springs	Newcastle	Basin
Est. number of WY vets served	0.11	0.47	0.26	-0.07	-0.04	-0.13	-0.05	0.17	-0.07	-0.13	-0.19	-0.34
Est. percent out-of-state vets served	0.03	0.03	-0.17	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	-0.07	0.03	0.02	-0.01	0.03
Continuity of care	0.10	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Existing workforce in city	-0.01	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.00	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
Access to CNA graduates	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-0.01	0.02	-0.02	0.00	-0.03	-0.02
CNA graduate quality	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.00	0.01	-0.03	-0.03	0.01	-0.01	0.04	0.02	0.01
Median CNA wage	0.10	-0.01	-0.01	0.06	-0.04	-0.05	-0.05	0.13	-0.03	-0.02	-0.04	-0.04
Median RN wage	0.02	0.02	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.03	-0.01	0.03	-0.01	0.00
Overhead consolidation potential	0.07	-0.05	-0.05	0.07	-0.05	0.07	-0.05	-0.05	0.07	-0.05	-0.05	0.07
Free land potential	0.06	0.00	-0.05	0.00	0.00	0.06	-0.05	-0.05	0.06	-0.05	-0.05	0.06
Drive time to closest VAMC	0.09	-0.03	0.13	0.12	0.04	-0.18	-0.17	0.08	-0.09	-0.03	0.04	0.00
Drive time to closest CBOC or VAMC	-0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	-0.02	0.03	-0.03	-0.03	0.03	-0.07	-0.02
Cost of living index	-0.02	0.02	-0.13	-0.05	-0.03	0.00	0.00	-0.05	0.06	-0.03	0.11	0.11
Trees — percent forested	0.05	0.00	-0.03	0.02	-0.02	0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03	0.06	-0.03
Mountains — Terrain Ruggedness Index	0.03	-0.01	-0.04	0.05	-0.02	0.04	-0.04	-0.02	0.04	0.01	0.00	-0.02
Count of amenities	-0.03	0.11	0.11	0.02	0.02	-0.02	-0.03	0.01	-0.06	0.02	-0.06	-0.07
Count of VFW and AL posts in city	-0.02	0.01	0.15	-0.02	-0.02	0.01	0.01	-0.04	-0.02	-0.04	-0.02	-0.02
Specialist depth score	-0.02	0.05	0.11	0.00	0.03	-0.07	-0.05	0.06	-0.03	-0.02	-0.03	-0.02
Total weighted score	0.55	0.68	0.35	0.24	-0.10	-0.30	-0.50	0.17	-0.15	-0.28	-0.35	-0.32





Estimated Construction Costs

Est. Costs (FY 2021, in millions)

Cost category	Buffalo	Casper	Sheridan
Direct	\$12.15	\$13.43	\$13.31
Indirect	\$1.27	\$1.31	\$1.30
Escalation	\$1.61	\$1.77	\$1.75
GC overhead	\$0.75	\$0.82	\$0.82
Soft costs	\$4.14	\$4.55	\$4.52
Total	\$19.92	\$21.88	\$21.69
State Match:	\$7.0	\$7.7	\$7.6



Estimated Construction Costs

- At 2% interest over 15 years, the State Match can be seen (or paid off, if loaned) as an annual expense of:
 - **~\$543,000 for Buffalo**
 - **~\$594,600 for Casper**
 - **~\$587,900 for Sheridan**





Location trade-offs (Casper)



Strengths:

- Would serve the largest number of veterans due to its central location.
- Large existing CNA workforce and access to CNA graduates.
- Many local amenities for residents and visiting families.
- Above-average access to medical specialists.
- Above-average number of veterans organizations.
- Donated land.

Weaknesses:

- Most expensive construction cost
- No consolidation potential or continuity of care with existing facility.
- Below average access to VA medical care.
- CNA graduate pools have below-average pass rates.



Location trade-Offs (Buffalo)



Strengths:

- Lowest construction cost
- Above average number of Wyoming veterans served.
- Good opportunities for overhead consolidation and continuity of care with existing Veterans' Home.
- Good access to VA medical care.
- Relatively low labor costs.
- Most scenic location.
- State-owned land.

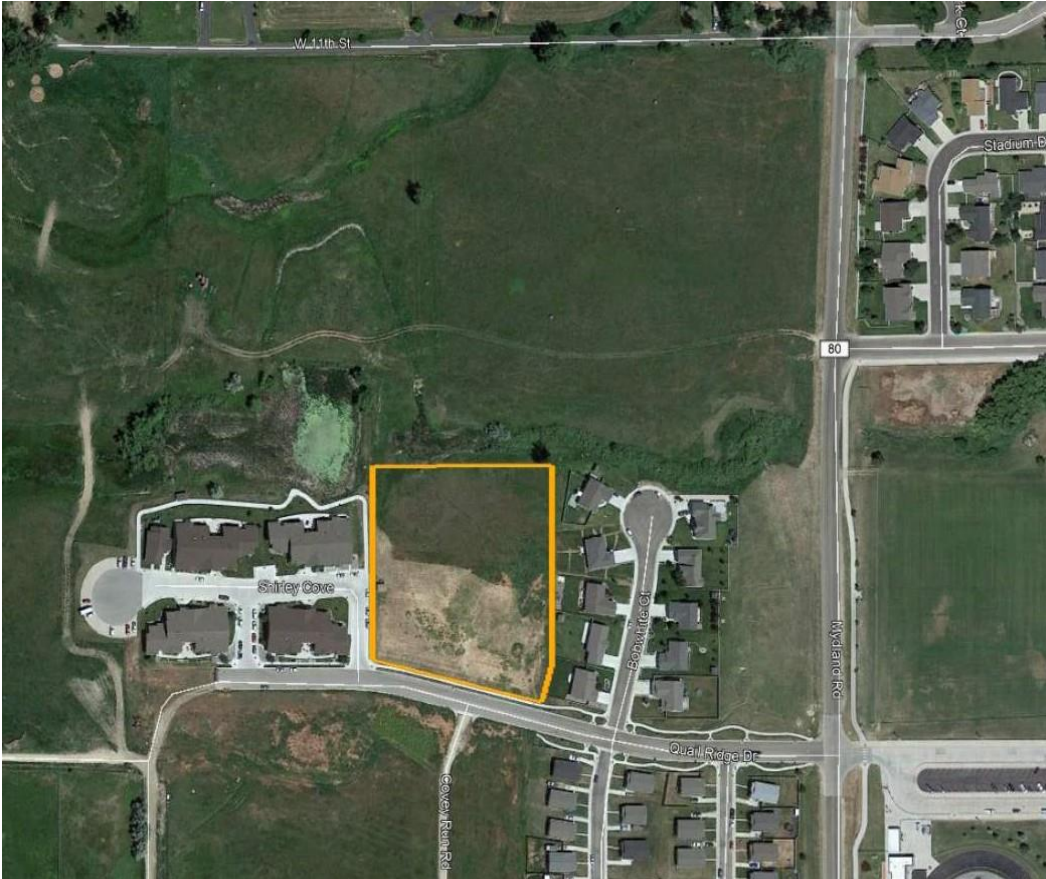
Weaknesses:

- Smaller existing pool of CNA labor means larger potential impact to local private SNFs.
- Below-average number of amenities and veterans organizations.
- Higher than average cost of living.





Location trade-offs (Sheridan)



Strengths:

- Best access to VA medical care.
- Opportunity to consolidate with existing Green House Living for Sheridan. Land will be donated, and facility has the only extensive Green House model experience in the State.
- Above-average access to existing CNA workforce and graduation sources.
- Above-average scenery and outdoor recreation.
- Donated land.

Weaknesses:

- Below-average number of veterans served due to location in the far north of the State.
- Higher than average cost of living.



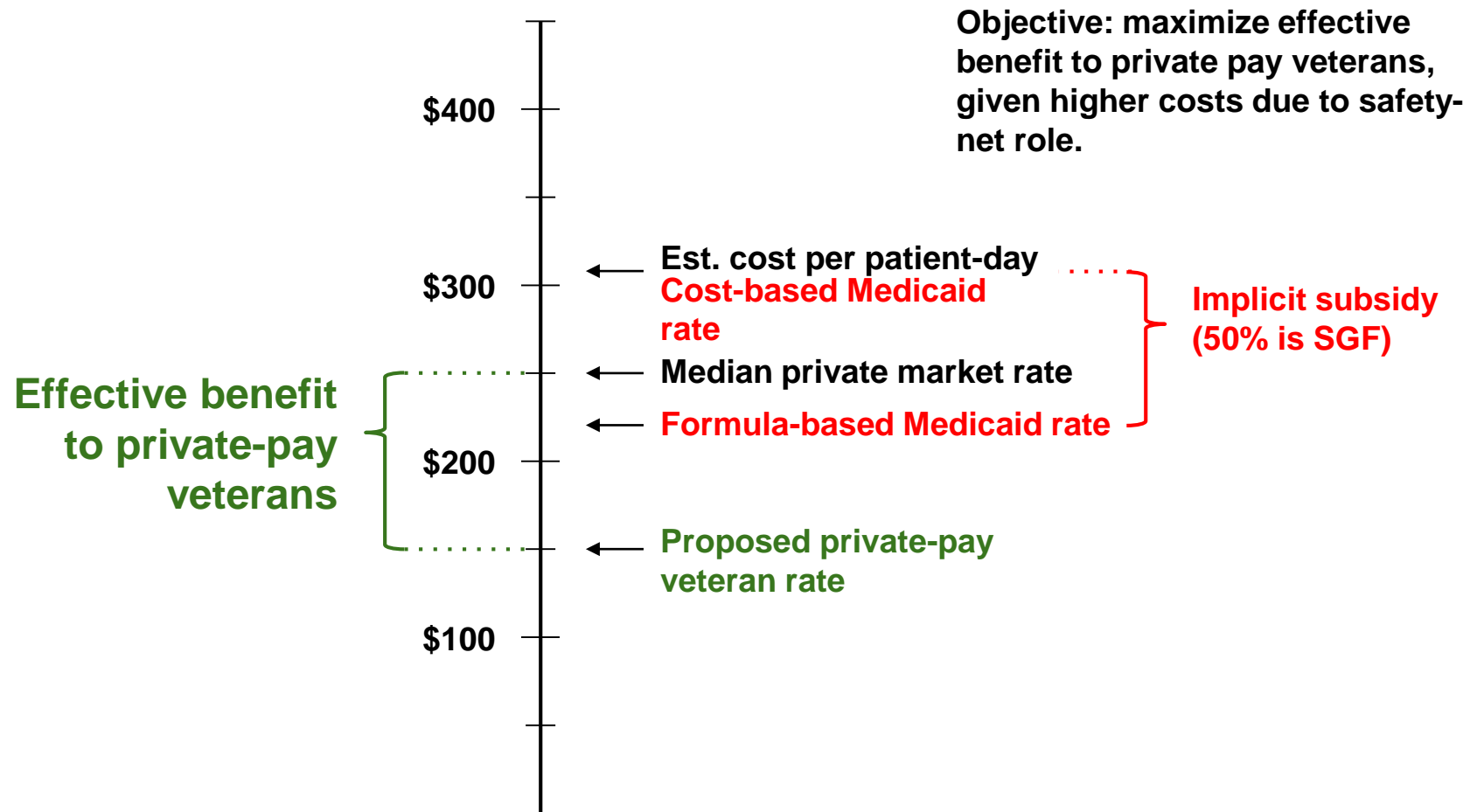
Operations

- **With VA per-diem, will be self-sufficient. The key decision: how much are private-pay veterans charged?**
 - **Per the mission of the facility, should be lower than market (\$150/day compared to \$250/day).**
 - **However, the safety-net aspect of the facility requires higher operating cost than private facilities.**
 - **Cost-based Medicaid rate would allow benefit to average veteran, while preserving safety-net, but comes at annual cost of ~ \$250K SGF + \$250K FF.**
 - **“Formula-based” Medicaid rate (i.e., no net operating cost to SGF) would likely mean giving up safety net mission.**
 - **Note, however, that “safety net” veterans would still need to be served somewhere else (e.g. WSH/WLRC/WRC).**





Operations





Next Steps



Request the JTIC to accomplish the following:

- **Make recommendation on a final location**
- **Authorize and fund a Level III Study for the final location**
- **Separate bill to authorize the State to file for a VA State Home Grant and appropriate 35% SGF match.**





Questions?





Draft Bills





TAG Responsibilities

W.S. §19-7-103

Issue: Legislature approved numerous revisions to T19 concerning the Guard the past few years to update the statutes. Interim Topic concern whether additional changes are needed and whether past changes require revisions to TAG responsibilities in W.S. §19-7-103.

Discussion:

- In 2017 Legislature passed SF 39 and SF 40 updating T19 on senior officer composition, clarifying TAG's title, and allowing electronic record keeping and related provisions
- W. S. §19-7-103 has three (3) subparagraphs that should be updated to reflect current electronic form/book use.

Recommendation: Committee at June 2018 meeting directed LSO draft bill to make revisions to 103. Draft bill before Committee as 19LSO-0014.





19LSO-0014





Update Title 19

National Guard Museum

W.S. 19-14-112

Issue: The 1936 historic National Guard armory at 624 E. Pershing Blvd., Cheyenne, stores and displays Guard artifacts. Location not identified in statute as museum unlike Veterans Museum in Casper. This was 2018 Interim Topic.

Discussion:

- WOHS vacated building in 2008. Artifact storage and display greatly expanded with increased room
- Since 2010, Building maintained on federal facility list
- In 2014, all National Guard artifacts moved there – now over 100,000 items
- With donations and grants, etc., contract employees/volunteers exhibit items and operate as museum open to public part-time

Recommendation: Committee at June 2018 meeting directed LSO draft bill to add property as a museum. Draft bill before Committee as 19LSO-0015.





19LSO-0015





Oregon Trail State Veterans Cemetery Funds W.S.19-14-108

Issue: W.S. 19-14-108, *Veterans' cemetery; acquisition and maintenance; eligibility for burial*, restricts all funds received from the VA and social security to be used **ONLY** for capital improvements.

Discussion:

- Current statute mandates that burial reimbursement funds from the Veterans Administration shall be applied for [cemetery] capital improvements only.
- The Wyoming Veterans Commission (WVC) would like the authority to also utilize the reimbursement funds for operations and maintenance at the cemetery saving the State money.
- Account currently has approximately \$100K that is not committed for future capital projects.

Recommendation: Amend W.S. 19-14-108 to allow funds collected to be “applied to the cemetery for capital improvements, **operations and maintenance**”... . Draft bill is before the Committee as 19LSO-0016.





19LSO-0016





Military Code Jurisdiction

W.S. 19-12-101

Issue: As part of the Interim Topic concerning updating existing military related statutes, an ambiguity was identified in the applicability of the Wyoming Military Code to Wyoming National Guard members outside of their time at duty. This was briefed at the June JTIC meeting.

Discussion:

- W. S. §19-12-101(d) concerning the Wyoming Military Code jurisdiction uses the term “duty status” without defining the phrase.
- This is a potential issue with, for example, illegal drug testing we perform monthly since the use most likely occurred before the member enters duty and provides a testing sample such as on a drill weekend.

Recommendation: Committee at June 2018 meeting directed LSO draft bill to amend existing statute to correct ambiguity. Draft bill is before the Committee as 19LSO-0017.





19LSO-0017





Guidance from the Committee

