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Contact: (608) 266-0517
WDVA Office of Public Affairs

Assisted Living Center Faces Declining Demand *Center Residents to Transition to New Facilities*

MADISON — Following months of analysis, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) is taking steps to phase out its assisted living facility on the campus of the Wisconsin Southern Center at Union Grove due to declining demand and escalating costs.

“We want the very best for veterans,” WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar said. “Unfortunately, given the decline in demand we are experiencing coupled with the expense of operating an assisted living center, we had to make the tough decision to discontinue the service. We intend to make this transition as easy as possible for the eleven people living there. While some will be better served by skilled nursing, we will work to ensure that others will get as good or better care in the community.”

Currently, there are 11 individuals living in the assisted living facility, Fairchild Hall, on the Union Grove campus. Each of the individuals will have the opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with a social worker to discuss his or her options and receive assistance with making arrangements. Some individuals may qualify for skilled nursing care and may move into the Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove skilled nursing facility if they wish. Others may choose to relocate to the community.

The changes do not affect members of Gates Hall or Boland Hall, which are the skilled nursing facilities on campus.

The WDVA received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to notify individuals of the closing. The facility will remain open until April 12, 2020 unless all individuals relocate before. Staff at the assisted living facility will have the opportunity to transfer to positions within the skilled nursing facility if they choose.

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