
From: ChapaLaVia, Linda [Linda.ChapaLaVia@Illinois.gov]
Sent: 11/15/2020 3:47:03 PM
To: Kolbeck, Tony [Tony.Kolbeck@Illinois.Gov]
Subject: FW: IVHL Update letter
Attachments: 11_15_2020 family ltr.docx

Good morning.



Linda Chapa LaVia, Director
Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
833 S. Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62794
217-785-4114 or 312-814-2460
Linda.ChapaLaVia@illinois.gov



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2020**
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From: Mehlbrech, Angela
Sent: Sunday, November 15, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Dooley, Bridget ; Hawkins, Brittany ; Brennan, Amy ; Daugherty, Brian ; Rapps, Carla ; Pence, Chris
Cc: Kolbeck, Tony ; Vaughn, Anthony J. ; ChapaLaVia, Linda
Subject: IVHL Update letter

*Angela Mehlbrech, B.A., LNHA
Senior Public Service Administrator
Illinois Veterans' Home of LaSalle
1015 O'Connor Ave
LaSalle, IL 61301
(815) 410-8396*

Fax: (815) 223-5815

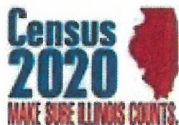
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From: [ChapaLaVia, Linda](#)
To: [Dooley, Bridget](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Press release Dec 7th Remembrance
Date: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:36:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Dec 7th Remembrance.docx](#)

Linda Chapa LaVia, Director

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
833 S. Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62794
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Linda.ChapaLaVia@illinois.gov



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From: Anthony Ward Sr
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:19 PM
To: wfldassignmentdesk@foxtv.com; tips@chicagotribune.com; metro@suntimes.com; desk@wgntv.com; [REDACTED]; atugade@shawmedia.com
Cc: ChapaLaVia, Linda ; kevin@chicagovets.org; Gary Kremkowski ; Homer Bizzle III ; Josefina Frances
Subject: [External] Press release Dec 7th Remembrance

Here is a Press release for our annual Dec 7th Pearl Harbor Remembrance.
If there are any Questions Please call me

Anthony B. Ward Sr.

Combined Veterans of Berwyn

President

708-484-6151 Home

708-800-1705 Cell

[REDACTED] [net](#)

From: [Dooley, Bridget](#)
To: [Rubin, Jason](#); [Greene, Charity](#); [Abudayyeh, Jordan](#); [Bittner, Emily](#); [Fazio, Evan D.](#)
Cc: [Brennan, Amy](#); [ChapaLaVia, Linda](#); [Kolbeck, Tony](#); [Mehlbrech, Angela](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Interview Request
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 7:08:11 AM

FYI

From: Mehlbrech, Angela
Sent: Friday, December 4, 2020 7:07 AM
To: Dooley, Bridget
Cc: Kolbeck, Tony
Subject: FW: [External] Interview Request

Angela Mehlbrech, B.A., LNHA
Senior Public Service Administrator
Illinois Veterans' Home of LaSalle
1015 O'Connor Ave
LaSalle, IL 61301
(815) 410-8396
Fax: (815) 223-5815

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From: Patrick Pfingsten, The Illinoize <patrick@theillinoize.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 9:05 PM
To: Mehlbrech, Angela <Angela.Mehlbrech@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] Interview Request
Hi Angela,
I write the political newsletter "[The Illinoize](#)."
Do you have a few minutes to chat? 217-722-5990.

--

Patrick Pfingsten
(217) 722-5990
Subscribe now: www.theillinoize.com

From: Kolbeck, Tony [Tony.Kolbeck@Illinois.Gov]
Sent: 11/16/2020 3:21:51 PM
To: Whitehorn, Lizzy [Lizzy.Whitehorn@Illinois.gov]; Brennan, Amy [Amy.Brennan@Illinois.gov]
Subject: RE: Lasalle Veterans Home

The language concerning visitation was included in the letter that went out to families that we would allow the families of those that are positive to visit their family member. (Companionate visit).

I can safely tell you there aren't any positive residents with negative residents. I previously addressed her one issue with an employee telling her we were making her work when she had been quarantined.

From: Whitehorn, Lizzy
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Kolbeck, Tony ; Brennan, Amy
Subject: FW: Lasalle Veterans Home

FYI

Lizzy Whitehorn
First Assistant Deputy Governor, Health & Human Services
Office: 312-814-5298
[REDACTED]

From: Rapelyea, Sean <Sean.Rapelyea@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Flores, Sol <Sol.Flores@Illinois.gov>; Whitehorn, Lizzy <Lizzy.Whitehorn@Illinois.gov>; Newbern, Tiffany <Tiffany.Newbern@Illinois.gov>; Harris, Aaron <Aaron.Harris2@Illinois.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Lasalle Veterans Home

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From: State Rep Stephanie Kifowit <stephanie@ildistrict84.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 8:05:26 AM
To: Rapelyea, Sean <Sean.Rapelyea@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] Fwd: Lasalle Veterans Home

Sean,

I am very concerned about the situation in the LaSalle Home. I have gotten numerous emails of mismanagement from staff and family. This is a glaring example of mismanagement by the Administrator. In addition, I have gotten calls of residents know. To have COVID being put in rooms of healthy residents, no posted COVID protocols, and a slew of other concerning behaviors that have contributed to this situation, including forcing staff to work when they are displaying symptoms but didn't get a note to verify.

This is all very concerning and there are serious management issues that need to be addressed to put in an individual that doesn't casually say "they cannot guarantee that the visitors will not contract the virus". They are contributing to community spread by allowing visitors!!

Thank you!
Stephanie

State Rep Stephanie Kifowit MPA
USMC Veteran 1990-1994

Office: (630) 585-1308

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: November 16, 2020 at 7:32:36 AM CST
To: stephanie.kifowit@att.net
Subject: Lasalle Veterans Home

My dad, [REDACTED] is a resident at the Lasalle Veterans Nursing Home. It has come to my attention that they are allowing visitors (see attached newspaper article). Even with providing PPE, allowing visitors does not seem prudent and in fact, dangerous. Our Veterans deserve the utmost safety during this pandemic. I disapprove of allowing visitors and I'm quite disappointed in this decision. Please contact the Administrator of Lasalle Veterans Nursing Home and urge them to not allow visitors. Please respond to me with your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

6:37

X ← www.illinoisne... → ...



Two more residents at the Illinois Veteran's Home in La Salle are dead due to complications related to COVID-19. Another dozen coronavirus cases were announced on Sunday in a letter from the home's administrator. There have been a total of 15 COVID-19 related deaths at the home in November. The number of confirmed cases is up to 93 residents and 90 employees.

Administrator Angela Mehlbrech says anyone who has a loved one affected by the virus can request to visit them in person and while the home will provide the appropriate PPE, they cannot guarantee that visitors will not contract the virus.

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From: [ChapaLaVia, Linda](#)
To: [Doelling, James \(HIN\)](#)
Subject: Re: checking in!
Date: Sunday, November 22, 2020 11:12:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello James,
Looking forward to growing a stronger relationship.
Just a heads up, I have asked my Chicago Veterans Home Administer, T'Kira Wilkerson to reach out to you and introduce herself.
My Chief of Staff, Tony Kolbeck will be emailing you the IDVA 104 for the Senior Administration Position that is open, any assistance with finding candidates would be greatly appreciated.
May the new year bring us all hope, health and happiness.

In your Service, Your Sister

Dir. Linda Chapa LaVia
[REDACTED]

Administration
only cares
About Chicago?

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From: Doelling, James (HIN)
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 10:43:10 AM
To: ChapaLaVia, Linda
Subject: [External] checking in!

Good morning-

I hope you are having a good weekend. Wanted to check in as I learned that the new Chicago SVH may be assigned....which will make us the only VA with three SVH to provide oversight to. I believe it will be a great partnership, but was also checking to see if you can forward me the link to the Director position we had spoken about.

I am also planning to 'introduce' you via email to the Marion VA Director if that is something you still believe will be helpful!

Thanks again and look forward to chatting again soon.

Respectfully,

James Doelling

Hospital Director

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital

From: Doelling, James (HIN)

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 5:08 PM

To: ChapaLaVia, Linda

Cc: Brahm, Victoria P

Subject: follow up

Good afternoon-

It was great to speak earlier and I am pleased to know that our collaborative efforts are beneficial, specifically at LaSalle SVH. I am going to reach out to the Director at Marion VA in the morning and then connect you. In addition, I have copied my supervisor and the VISN 12 Network Director, Ms. Brahm, and thought it would be great for you to both connect as well. Have a great evening and stay safe. I look forward to our next conversation and eventual face to face meetings.

Respectfully,

James Doelling

Hospital Director

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital



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From: ChapaLaVia, Linda [Linda.ChapaLaVia@Illinois.gov]
Sent: 11/29/2020 3:02:18 PM
To: Kolbeck, Tony [Tony.Kolbeck@Illinois.Gov]
Subject: Re: IDVA Homes Report

Roger.



Now that the virus has run thru our three homes of Manteno, LaSalle and Quincy (at different degrees) we do not want our employees to think they are invincible to not contracting COVID again or a new contingent.

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From: Kolbeck, Tony
Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2020 5:25:13 AM
To: Kolbeck, Tony
Subject: IDVA Homes Report
No changes from yesterdays report.
Tony Kolbeck
Chief of Staff
IL Dept. of Veterans Affairs

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From: ChapaLaVia, Linda [Linda.ChapaLaVia@Illinois.gov]
Sent: 12/3/2020 1:25:31 AM
To: Kolbeck, Tony [Tony.Kolbeck@Illinois.Gov]
Subject: Fwd: Different Link for Illinois ?
Attachments: illinois-nursing-home-dashboard-november-2020-aarp.pdf

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From: Basta, Paula
Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 12:20:42 PM
To: ChapaLaVia, Linda
Cc: Vaughn, Anthony J.
Subject: FW: Different Link for Illinois ?

Hi again –

Here is the Illinois Nursing Dashboard ...

Thanks,

Paula

Paula A. Basta, M.Div.

Director

Illinois Department on Aging

She/her/hers

www.illinois.gov/aging

160 N. LaSalle, 7th floor

Chicago, IL. 60601-3117

Office: 312-814-4179

Fax: 312-814-2916

Paula.Basta@illinois.gov

One Natural Resources Way, #100

Springfield, IL. 62701-1271

Office: 217-785-2870

Fax: 217-785-4477

Cell phone: 217-494-0007



Illinois Department on Aging



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From: Anderson, Mary E

Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2020 11:50 AM

To: Basta, Paula

Subject: [External] RE: Different Link for Illinois ?

Paula,

That is so weird – apologies that you are having issues. The most recent dashboard for IL is attached, as well as a direct link below:

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/pdf/2020/11/illinois-nursing-home-dashboard-november-2020-aarp.pdf>

Let me know if I can get anything else for you.

Regards,

Mary E. Anderson | Director of Advocacy & Outreach – Northern Illinois
(pronouns: she, her, hers)

AARP Illinois | 222 N. LaSalle St., Suite 710 | Chicago, IL

Office: 312.458.3636 | Cell: 312.579.7337

www.aarp.org/IL

manderson@aarp.org



From: Basta, Paula <Paula.Basta@Illinois.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11:24 AM

To: Anderson, Mary E <manderson@aarp.org>

Subject: Different Link for Illinois ?

Hey Mary –

Sorry to bother you but I'm trying to open up the Illinois section for the report but can't seem to with this link below – is there another one you know of or can send me with the Illinois stats ?

Thanks so much,

Paula

<https://www.aarp.org/ppi/issues/caregiving/info-2020/nursing-home-covid-dashboard.html>

Paula A. Basta, M.Div.

Director

Illinois Department on Aging

She/her/hers

www.illinois.gov/aging

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Paula.Basta@illinois.gov

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Fax: 217-785-4477

Cell phone: 217-494-0007



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