



Monday, August 28, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: King Audit Confirms Alarming Staff Reports

On Friday, August 25, The Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released additional materials on the King Home for Veterans that confirms many of the alarming reports made by staff and investigative reports conducted by the Capitol Times.

According to the audit, overtime hours for staff increased by more than 75% in the last two years and nearly 10% of full-time nursing positions are vacant.

LAB also conducted a survey of King staff which found that over 86% of employees felt there was a shortage of staff at King.

Dozens of employees also reported witnessing members abuse, neglect or misappropriation of member property, but 40% of employees didn't always report those incidents for fear of retaliation.

In a devastating critique of WDVA's management of the facility, 3 out of 4 staff survey respondents rated staff morale at King "poor" or "very poor".

In an effort to find the silver lining in the damaging audit, WDVA Secretary Dan Zimmerman pointed to King's consistently high scores in quality of care. He praised King staff for their exceptional hard work without acknowledging the hurdles his department has placed in their way to achieve this high standard, including the 65,100 hours of overtime worked by nursing staff in 2015-16.

"WDVA has an obligation to Wisconsin's veterans and to meet that obligation they need to address the massive morale problem at King," said Rick Badger, Executive Director of AFSCME Wisconsin. "It should come as no surprise that a facility whose staff are forced to work mandatory overtime and haven't received a real pay increase in years would report abysmal morale. It is time for Walker's WDVA to give staff at King a real pay raise and address the massive staff vacancy problem."

For more information contact Michael Horecki (mhorecki@afscme32.org)

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