President's Note

The Residences at Brighton Marine

In what seemed like a blink of an eye—from a pile of dirt and ceremonial shovels to moving boxes—the Residences at Brighton Marine project is complete. In fact, the first few tenants moved into this beautifully architected and carefully designed community that offers a unique living experience for those who have proudly served our country, those currently serving and their families. Residences at Brighton Marine offers modern studio, 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments, a premium amenity package and convenient onsite resident services.

The journey to get here was collaborative and mission-driven, bringing together (our partner) WinnCompanies as well as City and State leaders. In February, we welcomed our first tenants who were excited and honored to be selected as part of public application process.

In the coming months, we will gather as we did for the groundbreaking and celebrate the official opening of the Residences at Brighton Marine. We look forward to saying “Welcome Home” to the first-ever group of tenants (plank owners) that will join our community.

COVID-19 Update

Amid public safety concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, Brighton Marine has enacted the following measures to protect our guests, partners and employees. Please contact your provider for any specific guidance regarding health appointments.

Veteran Services Walk-in Hours:
Military and Veteran families are welcome to call 888.887.3107 or go to www.coordinatedvetservice.org to get assistance. We have suspended all in-person meetings.

Conference Rooms:
All conference rooms (1, 2, 3, 2nd Floor training room) have been closed until further notice.

Fitness Zone:
The fitness zone has been closed.

We encourage everyone to follow the guidance on the CDC and MA Public Health websites to manage their own personal risk of exposure. Stay well!
CEO Message

The year has been off to a quick start here on campus. From the soft opening of the Residences at Brighton Marine to welcoming new network partnerships, our mission is growing stronger every day. By creating affordable housing opportunities and providing access to coordinated care, Brighton Marine is proud to be doing our part in supporting the Veteran community.

A perfect example of how common missions working together can be impactful is through our partnership with Soldier On. Through this partnership and in conjunction with the Boston Housing Authority, we are able to provide 25 eligible veterans housing and supportive services under the HUD-VASH program.

Our work with Soldier On is especially exciting due to our collaboration with James “Jim” Baer. Jim, who has been with Soldier On since 2010, is a case manager in the Per Diem program and the Building Resident Liaison in Soldier On’s permanent housing facility in Chicopee.

Baer’s track record in supporting the community is truly inspiring. In addition to case management, Baer manages the Permanent Housing program and Veteran Pod within the Cybulski Correctional Institute in Somers, CT. The groups range from Living Sober to MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy).

As a graduate of Westfield State University’s Addiction Counselor Education (ACE) program, Baer later became a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor (CADC). Prior to working at Soldier On, Baer worked as a precision sheet metal worker for 20 years.

Baer’s military connection started when he enlisted in the U.S. Marines at the age of 17. After four years of active duty, he was honorably discharged as a Lance Corporal (E-3). When you don’t find Baer working in the community, he’s riding his motorcycle when the New England weather permits.

I and the rest of the team at Brighton Marine are thankful for Jim’s partnership and for his continued commitment to helping veterans.

Learn more about Baer in his video interview here: https://youtu.be/yaK0N57c1pM.

Michael Dwyer, President & CEO

Building 9 Update

Our partnership with Soldier On continues to move forward and the excitement is building for the official opening of this building, which will feature 25 studios of housing specifically designed for veterans eligible for supportive housing assistance.

In partnership with Boston Housing Authority, VA Boston and Soldier On, housing and supportive services will be provided to eligible Veterans under the HUD-VASH program. The HUD-VA Supportive Housing program provides Veterans with comprehensive case management and wraparound services delivered on and off campus – including clinical health care, mental health treatment and, if needed, substance abuse counseling – that help them further their recovery while achieving housing security and independence.

Early this summer, we will host a small event to officially open Veterans Housing in Building 9 and welcome residents to their new home.
**Colonel’s Corner**

The saying goes, “If you’ve met one veteran, you’ve met one veteran.” For anyone serving and supporting veterans, you know this well. Not only are we all different by the normal aspects of diversity - age, gender, race, etc., our experience as veterans is just as diverse – branch of service, era served, type of occupational specialty, etc. It means none of us are the same nor do we need the same support. From this viewpoint, it is easy to understand why Massachusetts has a vast palette of service providers; we want to help everyone who served. From this dual-sided diversity, we can see how challenging it can become for a veteran (or family member) seeking assistance. Partners in the Greater Boston Coordinated Veterans Services network continue to reduce the stress of those looking for help. A connection to one partner, is a connection to all. That is powerful collaboration – for each unique veteran.

*Bob Notch, Program Development Officer*

**COBOVS On Campus!**

We are excited to have the City of Boston Office of Veterans Services on campus each Wednesday to provide walk-in or appointment assistance for city, state and federal veteran programs.

A case manager will be available to help veterans and their families during office hours on Wednesday from 9AM – 3PM in Building 2. Come stop in!

**Coordinated Veteran Services**

The Coordinated Veterans Services network continues to be an integral part of our mission at Brighton Marine. To date, we have 37 veteran-focused nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, municipalities and others who have joined the ranks. The collaboration within the network provides a single stop for Veterans to receive a variety of services. Whether continuing education, healthcare, career counseling or other areas of need, the Coordinated Veterans Services network is quickly becoming the most expansive entity of its kind in Massachusetts, having served over 200 clients. Our most recent partner is Massachusetts Soldiers Legacy Fund ([https://www.mslfund.org/](https://www.mslfund.org/)).

Our network efforts were recently recognized by Massachusetts National Guard leaders. We are here for those actively serving as much as we are for veterans. Stay tuned for more exciting news on this front.

Our work is not done, and we invite those organizations wishing to support our Veterans from a whole-of-community approach to contact us and inquire about becoming part of the network.