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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Medical Foster Home Project Certified at VA BHHCS

When living at home becomes difficult, most people would rather remain in a home-like setting than move to an assisted living center. In moments like this, the VA Medical Foster Home (MFH) program can help.

“Some Veterans do not have anyone they can live with when they need a higher level of care,” said Michelle Hough, MFH Coordinator at VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS). “For many, that has meant going into a facility. MFH offers them the option of staying in a home setting, with the care they need and deserve.”

MFH provides an alternative to nursing home placement for a Veteran who may be chronically or terminally ill with limited social support. The program begins when a private individual or couple decides they want to become Caregivers, and take Veterans into their home. VA ensures the home and Caregivers meet high standards through inspections, background checks, references and CPR and First Aid certifications.

Once the home and Caregivers are approved, the MFH Coordinator will work with Veterans and family members towards placement. This involves the Veteran, and any family members, visiting the MFH and meeting the Caregivers to ensure a good fit.

When a Veteran is placed in a home, they are assisted through the VA Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Program. This program provides a team of medical professionals who offer primary care in the home setting. The Veteran pays the Caregiver directly and VA continues to provide the medical care and oversight.

The MFH program at VA BHHCS was officially certified on Wednesday, August 29. There is currently one approved home in the Black Hills with two Veterans placed. If you are interested in becoming a Caregiver to a Veteran in need, please contact Gary McClure at 605-745-2000 ext. 92325.

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