

Dear Polk Families and Staff,

My name is Bill Harriger and I serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer at Verland.

After several months of discussion, we are excited to share that the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), has approved Verland to construct as many as four Verland Signature Homes in the Venango County region, to serve as many as 32 current Polk residents.

Verland is planning on several town hall style meetings for the week of January 16, 2023 for residents and families to receive information and ask questions. These meetings will be Tuesday January 17 at 2pm and Wednesday January 18 at 5pm. The sessions will be both in person at the Quality Inn and Conference Center in Franklin and via Zoom over the internet. We ask that you respond to your participation for the specific date and if you will be attending in person or via Zoom. Town Hall sessions and meetings will also be held Tuesday thru Thursday for staff at several times throughout the day to learn more about career opportunities at Verland. These town halls will also be recorded for later distribution. All will be invited to comment and ask questions.

**There is a short window of time to initiate the process and several key decisions must be made,** the first of which is who among the remaining residents at Polk would be interested in staying in the region. The second decision is which of the Polk Center staff would be interested in continuing to work in this field by joining Verland and thereby be able to serve perhaps the same individuals. We apologize for the timing of this letter but we were just given the go ahead by ODP on Tuesday of this week and given a February 14, 2023 date for interested residents that will be transitioning to Verland to be identified.

For the project to be a success, we would need staff in sufficient numbers and expertise to meet the health and safety needs of the 32 residents. **Again, ODP is giving Verland until February 14<sup>th</sup> to have the list of residents able to reside at the Verland Signature Homes.**

Please visit [www.Verland.org/Polk](http://www.Verland.org/Polk) for a virtual tour of the Verland Signature Homes, updates in the Venango region and information about career opportunities. Please respond regarding your attendance at either date and if in person or over the internet. We will need your email address should you prefer attending over the internet. Please respond to [info@Verland.org](mailto:info@Verland.org)

Warmly,



William Harriger  
President and Chief Executive Officer