



Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

Network Director's Update

September 2010



National News: (Click on titles to read full press release)

[Top VA Physician Appointed to PCORI Board of Governors](#) - Dr. Robert Jesse, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), accepted an appointment to the first Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's Board of Governors. (9/30/10)

[VA's Disclosure Policy Lauded in New England Journal of Medicine](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policy on disclosure of adverse medical events was praised as a "valuable resource for all health care institutions" in an article in a recent issue of the New England Journal of Medicine (9/29/10)

[VA Publishes Final Regulation on "Presumptive" Illnesses for Gulf War and Iraq, Afghanistan Veterans](#) - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki today announced the publication of a final regulation in the Federal Register that makes it easier for Veterans to obtain Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and disability compensation for certain diseases associated with service in Southwest Asia (including Iraq) or Afghanistan. (9/28/10)

[VA Improving Veterans' Access to Health and Benefits Information](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs is launching a multi-year initiative called Veterans Relationship Management (VRM) that will greatly improve Veterans' access to health care and benefits information. (9/21/10)

[VA Earns 'A' in Annual Small Business Scorecard](#) - VA has been recognized by the Small Business Administration with a rating of "A" on its Small Business Scorecard for its success in contracting with small businesses. VA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) collaborated with other VA acquisition professionals to achieve the high rating. (9/17/10)

[VA Honors Veterans on POW/MIA National Recognition Day](#) - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki wants former American prisoners of war (POWs) to be aware of the benefits and services available to them as Americans across the nation show respect and

appreciation for this special group of men and women during POW/MIA National Recognition Day. (9/17/10)

[VA Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) joins the Nation in saluting the country's largest ethnic group and its more than 1.1 million Veterans as it observes Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, as Hispanic Americans have fought in every American war. (9/15/10)

[VA Continues to Ensure and Protect Servicemembers', Survivors' Life Insurance Benefits](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reviewed the account administered by Prudential that includes Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) programs to ensure beneficiaries are protected, being treated fairly, and accorded the utmost care and respect. VA is also ensuring that benefits are delivered in a transparent way that clearly outlines all available options. (9/14/10)

[Message from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki on the Anniversary of September 11, 2001](#) - Today, September 11, 2010, we remember our fellow citizens who lost their lives nine years ago in New York City, at the World Trade Center, in Washington, D.C., at the Pentagon, and in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Every American was touched by those horrific events-those who reside in our largest cities and those living in our smallest towns. We all knew someone who was touched by those acts of terrorism. The pain of that touch is with us still. (9/11/10)

[VA Announces Contract for New Denver Medical Center](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs has selected the construction contractor to build the Denver VA Medical Center (VAMC) replacement hospital. The new hospital will be on the same campus as the University of Colorado Hospital complex in Aurora, site of the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. (9/8/10)

[VA Celebrates Workforce, Unions and Veterans](#) - The Department of Veterans Affairs workforce of more than 300,000 – including more than 90,000 who are Veterans – knows one of its objectives as it observes Labor Day is to help young Veterans find jobs. (9/3/10)

In New Video, President Obama Encourages Troops and Veterans to Claim 'Stop Loss' Pay
Deadline for application for special retroactive pay has now been extended until December 3, 2010. Service members should submit applications to www.defense.gov/stoploss

The White House, Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs jointly released a new web video in which President Obama encourages active duty troops and veterans whose service in Iraq or Afghanistan was involuntarily extended or retirement was suspended due to 'stop loss' to apply for the special retroactive pay to which they are entitled. Under legislation President Obama signed into law last year, servicemen and women who served between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2009 and whose service was extended due to 'stop loss' are eligible for \$500 per month in retroactive pay for each month their service was extended.

"As your Commander in Chief, I'm here to tell you that this is no gimmick or trick," President Obama says in the video. "You worked hard. You earned this money. It doesn't matter whether you were Active or Reserve, whether you're a veteran who experienced 'stop loss' or the survivor of a service member who did—if your service was extended, you're eligible."

To see the full video, click here: [LINK](#)

Eligible servicemen and women should submit their applications for this retroactive pay to www.defense.gov/stoploss. While by law, service members who received a bonus for voluntarily reenlisting or extending their service are not eligible, it is strongly recommended that all who may be eligible submit an application before the deadline. The deadline to apply is October 21, 2010. The tens of thousands of veterans who have already been approved have received an average of nearly \$4,000.

Special retroactive pay for servicemen and women impacted by 'stop loss' is just one of the many ways the Obama Administration is working to serve the men and women who have served our country. Since President Obama took office, the Administration has:

- Provided one of the largest funding increases in decades to help create a 21st century VA that provides our veterans better health care, better services, and better support, including in rural communities.
- Eliminated inpatient, outpatient and prescription co-pays for the catastrophically disabled, which today account for a historically large percentage of our veterans coming home from war.

- Worked to break the back of benefit claims backlog so vets don't have to wait years for the benefits they need, and continues to work to improve and modernize VA's delivery of services.
- Helped our veterans' transition back to civilian life by helping them get jobs and sending them to college through the post-9/11 GI Bill, which has already helped more than 300,000 veterans or their family members pursue their dream of a college education.
- Provided unprecedented resources to treat the wounds of today's wars -- traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress disorder -- and provided additional resources to help family members and caregivers who put their own lives on hold to care for their loved one.
- Made it easier for those suffering from PTSD to qualify for VA benefits. A veteran can now establish a claim based on his or her own testimony of events that caused PTSD without the requirement of corroborating evidence -- no matter which war they served in.
- Eliminated obstacles for about 200,000 Vietnam veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange to get the health care and benefits they need.

VISN 19:

Under Secretary for Health announces new VHA logo

Dr. Petzel, Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration recently shared the new Veterans Health Administration's mission and vision.



In a statement, he reinforced VA employees have all signed on for far more than a job....we have a mission and a debt of honor to the Veterans it is our solemn duty to care for. The new mission and vision statements are in concert with Secretary Shinseki's strategic direction for all of VA and provide a view of the future.

Dr. Petzel also introduced a new VHA logo that has been incorporated in the VISN 19 Network Director's Newsletter heading.

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Mission

Honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well being.

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Vision

VHA will continue to be the benchmark of excellence and value in health care and benefits by providing exemplary services that are both patient centered and evidence based.

This care will be delivered by engaged, collaborative teams in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery and continuous improvement.

It will emphasize prevention and population health and contribute to the nation's well-being through education, research and service in National emergencies.

Excellence has been demanded of all VHA employees as a core value in our service and we will strive toward this end.

Breaking the Back of the VBA Backlog

Last month, we reported on Secretary Shinseki's focus on the presidential mandate to transform VA into a 21st century organization and the great strides VBA is making towards transformation. That report was from a national perspective. This month, the Director of the VA Regional Office, Ms. Janice Jacobs provided local information.

- Last year, the first checks for Veterans were sent as part of the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill. Since that time, over \$4 billion in tuition, housing, and stipends for over 300,000 student Veterans and eligible family members have been issued. [The Denver VA Regional Office distributed 978 advance payment checks to Colorado veterans.](#)
- To respond to the growing needs of women Veterans, there are women Veterans coordinators at all regional offices to provide benefits assistance.
- VBA is working to ease service members' transition from DoD to VA by lowering the processing time for Disability Evaluation Service (DES) evaluation and the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program. [At the Denver VARO, the shorter processing time is dependent upon VHA's delivery of timely, accurate disability exams. The DES pilot at Ft. Carson is unique among other pilots in that it conducts most exams for soldiers on the base itself, using both DoD and VHA physicians.](#)
- Pilot programs have been developed to which have the potential to transform how quickly VA can process

claims for Veterans. [The Denver VA Regional Office piloted the "Fully Developed Claim" initiative, which is now a national effort. In this program, VBA gives priority processing to any claim which is submitted with all the necessary evidence for VBA to make a rating decision.](#)

VISN 19 MIRECC hosts conference for Suicide Prevention Week

The Third Annual Traumatic Brain Injury and Suicide Prevention Conference: The Impact of Substance Abuse was held on September 13, 2010 in Salt Lake City, Utah.



This collaborative effort between the University of Utah Brain Institute and the VISN 19 MIRECC was conducted with the overall goal of bringing together world-class researchers to address how substance abuse impacts risk for suicide in returning Veterans.

The morning sessions of the conference were didactic in nature with scientific overviews provided on the neurobiologic correlates of suicide. The afternoon sessions of the conference focused on the clinical approaches to treatment and limitation to care of Veterans with traumatic brain injury and substance abuse. After the presentations, the speakers discussed clinical questions that were provided by the audience.

The two keynote speakers talked about suicide and substance abuse in Veterans from differing perspectives. Mark Ilgen, Ph.D., from the VA Serious Mental Illness Treatment Research and Evaluation Center at the University of Michigan, spoke of characteristics and behaviors that are unique to suicidal Veterans and the demographic and clinical predictors of violent and nonviolent suicide among Veterans with substance use disorders. He also emphasized the importance of probing for suicidality in Veterans with substance abuse.

The second keynote address was provided by Richard McKeon, Ph.D., MPH, Acting Chief, Suicide Prevention Branch, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Dr. McKeon began his presentation discussing the impact of suicide on our nation and how despite substantial evidence, suicide is currently not fully recognized as a public health crisis. Dr. McKeon further discussed the importance of suicide research, particularly the relationship between substance abuse and suicide, barriers to care and treatment strategies for the mental health providers.

For a complete list of the speakers and their presentations, please visit: www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/thirdconference.asp

Updates on Establishing Ten Primary Care Telehealth Outreach Clinics (PCTOCs) to serve an estimated 7,023 veterans in rural and highly rural counties in Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming through the use of telehealth modalities.

- a) **Hamilton, MT:** OPERATIONAL
- b) **Plentywood, MT:** OPERATIONAL
- c) **Rawlins, WY:** OPERATIONAL
- d) **Moab, UT:** OPERATIONAL
- e) **Glenwood Springs, CO:** Grand Opening to be held in October.
- f) **Salida, CO:** OPERATIONAL
- g) **Idaho Falls, ID:** Grand Opening to be scheduled.
- h) **Price, UT:** Grand Opening to be scheduled.
- i) **Worland, WY:** OPERATIONAL
- j) **Evanston, WY:** OPERATIONAL

When PCTOCs are completed, 94% of the veteran patients will be within 60 minutes of Primary Care Services in VISN 19.

Eastern Colorado Health Care System



Denver, CO – Replacement Medical Center Facility

The Denver VAMC (parent Eastern Colorado Health Care System) is providing monthly updates on the status of the Denver Replacement Hospital. Updates are distributed via e-mail monthly and can be found on <http://www.denver.va.gov/projecteagle/index.asp>.

VA Announces Contract for New Denver Medical Center

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has selected the construction contractor to build the Denver VA Medical Center (VAMC) replacement hospital. The new hospital will be on the same campus as the University

of Colorado Hospital complex in Aurora, site of the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center.

“This new hospital demonstrates our continued commitment to serve America’s Veterans with the finest facilities and health care models,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “It will belong to the Veterans that it serves, and will be dedicated to providing them with the latest in state-of-the-art, Veteran-centric health care services. In the same way that we welcome Veterans of our military into VA, we now welcome this Veteran site of caring for our military into our mission.”

VA announced the selection of the joint venture of Kiewit-Turner, located in Englewood, on September 2. The contract award is for \$1,313,100 to begin pre-construction services.

The project provides collaboration and joint operation of both VA and Buckley Air Force Base/Department of Defense (DoD) medical services on the new site. DoD will have a separate clinic on the entire fourth floor of the south clinic building.

VA will increase the number of employees at the new hospital from the current 1,815 employees to more than 2,000. Of the 24 architecture, engineering and various supporting firms working on the new medical center, 17 are Colorado companies.

The contract provides pre-construction services to assist VA and the architect/engineer team in the design of a new 206-bed tertiary care medical center with approximately 1.126 million square feet. This includes remodeling the building currently on the south end of the site.

The project includes a new 120-bed inpatient bed-tower with a 30-bed spinal cord injury unit, plus a separate 30-bed nursing home community living center. The new hospital will be a state-of-the-art facility close to VA’s medical school affiliate, the University of Colorado’s hospital. This will ensure every patient receives an optimal complement of clinical services. Expanded telehealth, polytrauma and traumatic brain injury programs will be included.

Total project cost for the new VAMC is \$800 million. Construction is scheduled to be completed in 2014.

SUPPORT THE 2nd ANNUAL BARE LEG RUN

2nd Annual

Bare Leg Run
10/30/2010

Bare Your Legs For Those Who Bared Arms

5K Walk, Run, Roll at Denver City Park. This event will promote and raise funds to send local veterans to annual veteran rehabilitation events such as the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

Register online @ active.com
(or in person on Race Day)

Schedule of Events:
8:00 Race Day Registration @ City Park Pavilion
9:00am Runners 5K
9:05am Walkers and Rollers 5K
9:30am 10K Handcycle

Entry fees:	Prizes:
Before October 13th:	1st place Male and Female runners in age groups 0-17, 18-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+
Adults \$40	No age groups/awards for walkers
Children under 12 \$20	1st place male and female roller
After October 13th:	1st place male and female handcycles
Adults \$50	+ Prizes for best costumes!
Children under 12 \$25	

For more information email us at: barelegrun@gmail.com

Or contact: Rachel Thompson, Bare Leg Run Coordinator, rachel.thompson2@va.gov
Joan Spoden-Fenster, Bare Leg Run Co-coordinator, joan.spoden-fenster@va.gov

State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services offered a series of seminars to therapists in the community. Participants were offered the option of attending a live meeting held at Ft Harrison or attending via a conference call.

Presenters were Dr. David Fohrman, M.D., VA VISN 19 PTSD Prevention Coordinator, Cheyenne VA; Karl Rosston, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services; and Kellie LaFave, RN, VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

The topic drew much attention with a combined live and call attendance of 80 participants for Dr. Forhman's presentation, 72 participants for Mr. Rosston's presentation and 79 participants for Ms. Lafave's presentation. Attendees were therapists from Sidney, Glasgow, Plentywood, Billings, Livingston, Missoula, Bozeman, Fort Peck, Columbus, Red Lodge, Mile City, and Anaconda, just to name a few locations. The training was well received with the expressed desire to have more of this type of training in the future.

VA Montana Health Care System Receives \$40,000 Donation!

It's not often you see Jaguars, Shelbys, Ferraris, Aston Martins, and other valuable vintage cars parked next to tanks and helicopters on a military guard base.

Under a beautiful, blue "Big Sky" day on Saturday, September 11th, members of the "Going to the Sun Rally" out of Bozeman, Montana, gathered at the Fort William Henry Harrison Post located next to the VA Montana Health Care Medical Center.



The "Going to the Sun Rally" raises money annually for programs in need and this year, they chose Montana Veterans as the benefactor of their event.

A 1982 Corvette was donated and raffled off raising \$40,000 to be use for Montana Veterans. The winning ticket for the '82 Corvette was drawn by SSG John Bennett, a Special Forces ranger and Veteran from Cascade, Montana, who served in Iraq.

VA Montana Health Care System:



Mental Health Community Outreach

Late August 2010, VA Montana Healthcare Behavioral Health in conjunction with St. Peters Hospital and the

A sniper wound left Bennett, a father of four, disabled several years ago. Since then he has done whatever he can to assist other disabled Veterans. John was asked to be the spokesperson for the fund raiser by VA Montana's OIF/OEF Office and he fully participated in the rally by driving his own Camero which was retrofitted for him by some of the rally participants.

Robin Korogi, Director, VA Montana Health Care System, thanked the rally participants for choosing Montana Veterans. She went on to say that the money would be spent on the many needed programs such as homeless Veterans needs for bus tickets, phone cards, gas and furniture vouchers, rental and utility deposit assistance, dental care, food vouchers and many more.

The Going to the Sun vintage car rally was very successful and somewhat emotional for most of the attendees when John Bennett received his quilt from "Quilts of Valor."



Montana's Governor Brian Schweitzer who participated in the event was humbled by the presentation as we all were. The event was for a very worthy cause on a very appropriate day.

**VA Announces Sites for "Project ARCH"
Pilot Program Brings Health Care Access to Local Community**

Billings, Montana was chosen as a pilot site for the newest Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative to provide Veterans with greater access to quality health care.

The pilot program, Project ARCH (Access Received Closer to Home), intends to improve access for eligible Veterans by connecting them to health care services closer to their home. Under this program, Veterans will gain local convenience without sacrificing the quality of care VA provides Veterans within its system. VA will ensure that participating Veterans' medical records are shared between participating providers and VA so Veterans in the program experience seamless, quality health care

whether receiving that care in their community or at VA medical facilities.

"Project ARCH intends to expand VA's ability to serve our Veterans who live far from VA facilities," VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said. "This pilot program will also provide critical information about the role of contracted care in the future of VA's health care delivery system."

According to the law enacting Project ARCH, Veterans are eligible to participate in the program if they reside in a location where a pilot site is located and are enrolled for VA health care when the program starts.

In addition the law requires Veterans meet any of the following criteria:

- Live more than 60 minutes drive time from the nearest VA health care facility providing primary care services, **or**
- Live more than 120 minutes drive time from the nearest VA health care facility providing acute hospital care, **or**
- Live more than 240 minutes drive time from the nearest VA health care facility providing tertiary care

For additional information about Project ARCH, please contact VA Montana Health Care System Director, Robin Korogi, at 406-447-7300. In accordance with the law, the Project ARCH pilot will be operational for three years.

"We at VA will continue to work diligently to implement this program and to find the best ways to improve access for eligible Veterans by connecting them to health care services closer to their homes," Shinseki said. "Veterans traveled the globe in defense of this great Nation. They shouldn't have to for the health care they earned with their service."

VASLCHCS



VASLCHCS Joins Forces with Utah National Guard!

Thousands of National Guard troops and families in one place all at the same time! Not only was it an awesome sight, but what an opportunity for the VASLCHCS to reach out to Veterans.



Governor's Day in conjunction with VASLCHCS' Welcome Home event features all the brave men and women from the Air and Army National Guard. Each year this tradition brings the entire state together along with the Governor of Utah to celebrate their commitment and sacrifice.

This year Utah Governor Gary Herbert reviewed the troops with a salute and a smile followed by eloquent words of thanks.

Afterwards, the VASLCHCS OEF/OIF team, women's clinic and mental health staff met with approximately 200 Veterans to educate them on VA benefits. Many Veterans were already enrolled but for those who weren't, it was one-stop shopping with no hassles.

Many of the Veterans had just recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and were thankful for the information and passion shown by VA employees in sharing the information. Nice going everyone!

Ending the Summer with a big RING! Connecting with Veterans at the Utah State Fair

The Utah State Fair marks the unofficial end of summer in Utah, but instead of ending the summer with a "bang!" VASLCHCS ended it with a big "RING!!"

Visitors from all over the country flocked to the Utah State Fair this month to see the prize winning farm animals, the award winning photography display, eat fried Twinkies and fried Oreos, and give the 350 pound Veterans Tribute Tower Bell a ring!

The George E. Wahlen VA Medical Center and the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs teamed up to educate

Veterans about their VA benefits during this event. Veterans visiting our fair booth placed a pin on the giant "Show Us Where You Served" map and those who made a donation to help erect the Veterans

Tribute Tower rang the massive bell which resonated throughout the fair grounds.

VASLCHCS staff believes it is not enough to wait for our nation's Veterans to come to us; we must go to them and inform them about the benefits they have earned and are entitled to. One 70 year old decorated Vietnam Veteran stated "I didn't know I was eligible for VA benefits". A Gulf War era Veteran stated "I didn't know I was considered a Veteran let alone eligible to receive health care at the VA".

Thanks to our great employee volunteers, VASLCHCS staff was able to speak with a whopping 1,982 Veterans and inform them about VA health care, and VA benefits.

Women's Clinic educates VBA staff and other female Vets

The SLC Women's Clinic continues to educate and expand with more women Veterans enrolled every month.

Program Manager Gina Painter heard a rumor that some of the VBA Staff (a lot of them Veterans themselves) were not as educated on the Women's clinic as they need to be as VA employees.

In an informal open house, she invited Veterans and VBA staff to come in, ask questions and meet other female Veterans. Mammograms, appointments, lab results and services for some younger female Veterans were all discussed.



There was also a show of support from the Utah Department of Veterans Affairs. VASLCHCS' Women's Clinic has also recently expanded its waiting area to include a play area for children and a much more private check in area for our women.



We are also in the process of making mental health services more readily available for our women in the clinic on a routine basis.

Grand Junction VAMC:



Progress has been the name of the game at the Grand Junction VA Medical Center this month with several projects making major strides while with at least one fully completed.

The most visible of the many projects has been the 31,000 square foot expansion of the third floor. All the major steel work is in place and crews have begun pouring the concrete for the floors and roof. When completed the project will create a consolidate suite for surgery, recovery, ICU, sterilization and other related activities which will be easily accessible from the patient care wards.

The tower for the seismic upgrade continues to grow as well and is now at the third floor level with all of the tie-ins completed for the first two floors.

For years, the Medical Center was in an area with a low earthquake threat level, but the discovery of additional fault lines in the nearby hills increased the rating to moderate and the original buildings east and west wings, completed in 1949 need a little reinforcement to meet the new requirement.

Cost effective projects to green the facility are also a priority and the latest solar power project will feed energy directly into the medical center’s electrical system. The project is part of a new movement in many areas to take advantage of unused space in parking lots by mounting solar panels on masts several feet above the parking spaces.

This has the advantage of not disturbing the fragile roofing material used on most flat-topped buildings and not destroying green space for the installation. The project will also have the side benefit of supplying a little extra shade for the parking lot which is always a priority in the southwest.

Probably the facility’s greatest achievement this month was opening the new Inpatient Mental Health Ward to patients. Pictured below are two of several murals painted on the walls of the new Inpatient Mental Health Ward.



This new ward has several safety features that greatly increase both patient and staff safety. This starts as staff and patients enter the new ward through a sally port which only allows either an external or internal door to be open at one time.



Other features include 1 inch thick blast resistant glass in all windows, sand filled furniture, special fixtures in the bathrooms and artwork painted directly onto the walls.

Sheridan VAMC:



Sheridan VAMC opens two Primary Care Telehealth Outreach Clinics in Evanston Wyoming and Worland Wyoming.

The new Primary Care Telehealth Outreach Clinics (PCTOCs) in both locations will provide the same care to patients as the other six clinics administered by the Sheridan VAMC, but services will be offered through Telehealth and video conferencing.



Evanston Clinic Ribbon Cutting

VISN 19 Director, Glen Grippen attended both open houses and was thanked profusely by veterans, their families and several Wyoming Legislators, all who have seen a need for VA healthcare in their communities.

The state of Wyoming is embarking on several telehealth projects across the state and these grand openings provided the state leadership an inside look at what excellent healthcare VA is offering via telemedicine.



Worland Clinic Ribbon Cutting

Cheyenne VAMC:



The past month, Cheyenne VAMC has been accelerating on to the information super highway!

“Being informed is not a matter of searching for information anymore”, says Cheyenne VAMC Public Affairs Officer and Web Content Manager, Andrew Ruben, “it’s a matter of discovering relevant information streams.”

Radical enhancements to internet, social media and other methods of electronic communication are being driven through VA’s Office of Communications and are resulting in a steady growth of new information streams coming from VA Medical Centers all across the country including the Cheyenne VAMC!

Cheyenne VAMC’s Facebook site is located at <http://www.facebook.com/CheyenneVAMC> . You can also find the link to the new Facebook site from the traditional internet site, located at <http://www.cheyenne.va.gov>.



The trend for enhancing VA’s web presence is driven by VA Secretary Shinseki’s vision to help the VA evolve

to become a forward-thinking, Veteran-centric, 21st century organization. Prioritizing the information and services available through VA's electronic presence increases the ability for VA patients and their families to become more involved and informed with their healthcare.

By taking only a few minutes to review and register for a personal health record on VA's MyHealthVet website and also through VBA's eBenefits site, it becomes clear that these web-based tools have been designed with the Veteran in mind and implemented with the goal to improve the overall health care experience VA delivers.

Active progress on numerous projects at the Cheyenne VA Medical Center continues such as the beginning of construction on the new outpatient wing as well as completion of the upgrades on the surgical suite.

Parking projects from this summer are nearly complete and Cheyenne VA has completed the installation of one major solar array, with another separate solar array installation to begin this month.

Clinical achievements have also been made with the recognition of the Suicide Prevention Team's S.P.I.C.E. (Suicide Prevention In Case of Emergency) project.

And as of October 4th, the Medical Center's senior leadership team has added the newly appointed Associate Director of Patient Care Services and Nurse Executive, Dr. Polly Baird.

Please log onto Facebook or find us at <http://www.facebook.com/CheyenneVAMC> to stay up to date with all of the latest news from the Cheyenne VA Medical Center.



Defining
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