

3/01/12

**Presentation:
Overview of
the Alaska VA
Healthcare
System**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>3-01-12 Presentation
Overview of the Alaska VA Healthcare
System</SUBJECT><COMM>HMLV27</COMM></TARGET>

**Script for House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee
Thursday, March 1, 2012**

(GAVEL IN)

Let's call this meeting of the House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee to order.

Let the record reflect that it is ____ p.m. on Thursday, March 1, 2012.

Present today are:

Representative Thompson, Co-Chair

Representative Gatto, Vice-Chair (excused)

Representative Austerman

Representative Lynn

Representative Cissna *NO*

Representative Miller

and Myself, Representative Saddler

Before we start, please turn off your cell phones.

Just turning them to vibrate will interfere with the recording system.

Thank you.

In today's meeting we will be hearing from
Mr. Alex Spector, Director of Veterans Affairs Healthcare.

Alex will give us an overview of the Alaska VA healthcare system and will cover a wide range of topics in his power point presentation.

This meeting is being teleconferenced; however it is a "Listen Only" presentation.

With that.....

Please come up to the table, state your name on the record, and proceed.

*(Dan: you could ask Alex if would prefer questions at the end
or just ask as he goes along.....)*

End of presentation.....

Any more questions?

Thank Alex for coming, etc etc.

There will be NO Military and Veterans Affairs Committee meeting next week due to Energy Council break and Legislators going back to their districts for town hall meetings

At _____ p.m., I adjourn today's meeting of the House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

(GAVEL OUT).



Alaska VA Healthcare System Military & Veterans Affairs Commitee Update

Mr. Alex Spector, VHA Director
Vic Rosenbaum, Acting VHA Associate Director
Dr. Cynthia Joe, Chief of Staff
Linda Boyle, R.N., Associate Director
for Nursing and Patient Services

March 1, 2012

GAPS - travel budget is always stretched in AK.

TOPICS

- **Demographics**
- **Basic Eligibility**
- **Alaska VA – Scope of Clinical Services**
- **Sites of Care**
- **Joint Venture Relationship with 673d Medical Grp**
- **Alaska Federal Healthcare Partnership**
- **OEF/OIF/OND**
- **Eliminating Homelessness**
- **Rural Health**
- **Care Closer to Home**
- **Health Information Exchange**



VHA Demographics

- **FY11 Veteran Population**
(Source www.va.gov/vetdata) **77,351**
- **Projected 2015 Veteran Population**
(Source www.va.gov/vetdata) **77,012**
- **FY11**
- **Overall Enrollees** **30,022**
- **Total Unique Patients** **16,595**
- **VA Outpatient Clinic Visits** **170,281**

38.8% Veteran Population enrolled – Market Penetration

*highest %
enrollment*

enrolled in VA

90

Alaska Veteran Population Distribution

By Area of the State	FY11 Veteran Population	% of Vet Pop	FY11 Enrollees for Alaska VA Healthcare	% of Vet Pop in Area Enrolled
Anchorage	31,190	40.3%	13,922	45%
Fairbanks	13,034	17%	4,534	35%
Mat-Su	10,532	13.6%	4,433	42%
Southeast	7,987	10.3%	1,158	14.5%
Kenai	6,580	8.5%	2,421	37%
West/SW Alaska	2,846	3.7%	526	18.5%
Northern Alaska	2,576	3.3%	375	14.5%
Kodiak	1,304	1.7%	329	25%
Valdez/Cordova	1,302	1.7%	383	29%



Basic Eligibility for VA Medical Care

- **8 Priority Groups** - Veterans upon VA's receipt of application are assigned to one of the groups with Group 1 being the highest priority and Group 8 the lowest.
- Dependent on level of income and service-connected disability, some Veterans are required to pay a co-payment for medications, outpatient care, and inpatient care. VA bills the Veteran's third party insurance for care that is not related to service-connected disabilities.
- For detailed information, Health Care Benefits Overview dated September 2010, is in the briefing folder.

******MOST IMPORTANT: Veterans should apply to find out if they are eligible. ******

Who signs up? - those w/out private insurance
- returning veterans, many staying in AK



Alaska VA Healthcare System Scope of Clinical Services

- Primary Care to include Home Based Primary Care
- Lab/Radiology/Pharmacy/Dental
- Social and Behavioral Health Service
- Homeless Veterans Programs
- Limited Specialty Care
- Ambulatory Surgery
- Coordinated Care Home Telehealth
- Rehabilitation Services
- Prosthetics (Durable Medical Equipment/Home Oxygen)

- within 20 mile
radius of Anchorage

- dental doubled, housed in primary
care offices.

*
limited
dental
service



Sites of VA Care

Anchorage
Muldoon Clinic



VA/DOD Joint Venture Hospital
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson



Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation
Treatment Program

Benson & C Street



VA Sites of Care, cont.

Mat-Su VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic



Fairbanks VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic



Homer VA Outreach Clinic

In SPA



Juneau VA Outreach Clinic

federal building

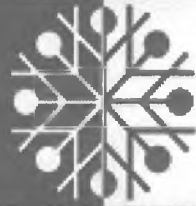


VA/DOD Joint Venture Teamwork

673 MDG Elmendorf AF Base



- Designated VA Hospital for Alaska (60 total inpatient beds)
- Preferred Emergency Room for Anchorage Bowl
- Over 70 VA staff embedded into facility
- Joint Incentive Fund Projects
- Increased use of specialty services such as Orthopedics, ENT, Ophthalmology, and GU when capacity exists
- Best Hospital in the Air Force 2008 – 2nd Year in a Row!
- 2009 Installation Excellence Award
- 2009 Best Hospital in DoD



Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership



Advancing Healthcare





AFHCP - Initiatives

- **Home Telehealth Monitoring**
- **Federal Education Sharing Group – 4 offerings a year**
- **Medical Oncology**
- **Pain Management**
- **Emergency Planning**
- **GME – AK Psychiatry Residency Program**
- **Behavioral Health Assessment/Outreach for returning military members & families**

Alaska 
Healthcare System
& Regional Office 



Serving America's Veterans
... Our most treasured resource

OEF/OIF/OND



OEF/OIF/OND Veterans Access VA Care

(September 11, 2001 – January 2012)

- Registered- 6,357
- Empanelled to Primary Care – 2,696 (42%)
 - Anchorage- 1,767
 - Fairbanks- 615
 - Kenai- 79
 - Juneau - 36
 - Mat-Su- 199
- New Mental Health (MH) 1071 (39.7%) of empanelled
 - New Substance Abuse - 103 (9.6%) of MH patients
 - Combined PTSD/Substance Abuse - 638 (59.5%)
- Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Approximately 360 (13.3%) of Veterans empanelled in Primary Care screened positive.

OEF/OIF/OND Veterans Services

- Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) assignment
- 1st Primary Care visit - Post-Deployment Screening by Social Worker
 - Alcohol use
 - Depression
 - Suicide Prevention
 - PTSD/TBI
- Based on screening referred to specialty mental health servers, alcohol treatment, and/or Vet Center Services
- Social Worker on PACT provide case mgt serices based on severity of issues



Eliminating Homelessness

NATIONAL CALL CENTER
for Homeless Veterans



1-877-4AID-VET
1-877-424-3838

Scope of Homeless Services

- **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT):** 60 Veterans served during FY11. 21 have gained independent employment, 2 are pursuing education full time, and 2 retired/disability. 25 are currently working in the program.
- **Incentive Therapy (IT):** 39 Veterans served in FY11.
- **Funds distributed to Veterans in the CWT/IT programs:** \$301,364.33
- **Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence:** 50 Veterans served during FY11. 14 are currently housed in the program; 34 discharged to improved housing; 1 chose to return to living with family shortly following intake, and one was discharged to detoxification.



Scope of Homeless Services, cont'd

- **Grant & Per Diem Program** provided 10,197 bed-days of care to 91 individual Veterans. 29 qualified for and received dental care through the Homeless Dental Initiative for Veterans.
- **Housing & Urban Development/VA Supported Housing (HUD/VASH):** Increase from 95 to 120 vouchers in FY2011. Cumulative utilization rate exceeds 130%. 42 new Veterans housed during FY2011.
- **Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCMV)** patients completing the program: 47 of 80 Veterans discharged in the DCHV program completed the program with a planned discharge. Representing 59% of discharges having a planned successful outcome.

Anchor receives \$1



Scope of Homeless Services, cont'd


- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program**
 - \$350,000 Grant awarded to Catholic Social Services
 - Provide supportive services to very low-income Veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing.
- **Homeless Veterans Supported Employment Program (goal is rapid job placement). Positions in Anchorage and Fairbanks.**
 - As of January 2012, , 24 Veterans placed; 9 in process



Eliminate Homelessness

- **Current HUD Point-In-Time count of Chronic Homeless Veterans in Alaska, (as of January 27, 2012) is 265, down 49.9% over the past two years.**



Alaska 
Healthcare System
& Regional Office *



Serving America's Veterans
... Our most treasured resource

RURAL HEALTH CARE



Rural Initiatives

VA/IHS MOU: Implemented Alaska 13th Workgroup

Tactic #1 – Increase Access

- **Tribal Veteran Representative(TVR) program – Train 100 by end FY 2012.**
- **Office of Rural Health funding received-System Redesign for Veteran registration/enrollment at tribal health programs.**

Tactic #2 – Improve Coordination of Care

- **MOUs with Native Organizations to co-manage eligible Native Veterans (Ketchikan Indian Community and Metlakatla)**

Tactic #3 – Increase availability of Services

- **Establish Sharing Agreement Template to be utilized by VA and Alaska Native Tribal Healthcare Organizations**

Alaska
VA
Healthcare System
& Regional Office *



Serving America's Veterans
... Our most treasured resource

CARE CLOSER TO HOME



Care Closer to Home

- **Inception:**
 - Congressional Interest
 - Veterans' Concerns
 - Alaska VA leadership advocacy
- **Dep Under Secretary for Operations & Mgt – May 2010**
 - Oncology Care Closer to Home
 - AK prepared – Purchased Care Prgm “Best Practice”
- **Sec VA Visit – May 2011**
 - AK Congressional invitations “work”
 - Sec VA requested expansion of program

Care Closer to Home Initiative

- In May 2010, AVAHS began keeping Oncology care local
 - 221 oncology patients stay in AK thru Jan 2012
- Expanded to other specialty care in July 2011
- # of Veterans offered care out of state:
 - 2009: 591
 - 2010: 545
 - 2011: 336 (43% reduction)
 - 2012: 219 (October 2011 - January 2012)

Care Closer to Home Initiative

Continue to Refer:

- **Surgery**
 - Post-surgical cases
 - Highly-Complex surgeries
- **Continuity of Care**
- **Care Not available in AK**
- **Special**
 - Spinal Cord Injury
 - Transplants
- **Support VA Education Mission**
 - Cardio-Thoracic Surgery
- **Conversation occurs with Veteran**
 - Do they wish to remain local or be referred to tertiary facility in “lower-48”

Care Referred to Community

Service	Jan	FY12 Total
Cardiology	7	18
Cardiothoracic Surgery	2	8
General Surgery	1	9
GI	1	
Gynecology	6	27
Hyperbaric	1	
Neurology		10
Neurosurgery	33	95
Orthopedics	26	152
Pain Management		2
Plastic Surgery	1	4
Pulmonology	1	2
Urology		6
Vascular surgery	13	51
Grand Total	92	386



HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE





Health Information Exchange

- **Alaska e-Health Network (AeHN):** Member, Board of Directors, representing DoD & VA
- **PURPOSE:** Electronically share patient information with all participating healthcare providers & organizations in AK
- **GOALS:**
 - Improved patient safety through reduction in medial errors & unnecessary testing
 - Reduced costs associated with unnecessary testing & procedures
 - Improved patient access to care
 - Reduced administrative costs in the healthcare industry
 - Rapid response to public health emergencies



QUESTIONS?

www.va.gov

or

www.alaska.va.gov

Join us on Facebook
[Facebook.com/VAAAlaska](https://www.facebook.com/VAAAlaska)