

CARES

Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services



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Topics of Discussion

- 1. Brief CARES History and Background**
- 2. Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document Relative to Louisville**
- 3. Purpose Of Business Study**
- 4. Local Advisory Panel Purpose**



CARES History and Background

March 1999:

- **GAO report concludes that restructuring VHA capital assets could significantly reduce operating and maintenance costs of its facilities.**
- **In response VHA initiates the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Program.**
- **Process piloted in VISN 12 using a private sector contractor.**



CARES History and Background (cont)

- **CARES Phase II extended the CARES Program to all 21 Networks within VHA**
 1. **VHA staff and resources develop Network CARES Market Plans.**

- **Network Market Plans utilized by the Undersecretary for Health to prepare a Draft National CARES Plan (DNCP).**

- **DNCP reviewed by the Secretary Veterans Affairs and the draft plan submitted to the CARES Commission in August 2003.**



CARES History and Background (cont)

➤ CARES Commission

1. **Appointed by the Secretary to provide an objective and external perspective.**
2. **Commission conducted multiple public hearings to gain additional insight.**
3. **Commission provided recommendations to the Secretary to consider.**

- **The final report of the CARES Commission was submitted in February 2004, and the Secretary announced his decision in May 2004**



Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document

Relative to Louisville:

VA will study the need for a replacement hospital for the Louisville VAMC

Considerations:

- 1. The Louisville VAMC is in need of renovation.**
- 2. The study will focus on access to and quality of care.**
- 3. There is an opportunity to potentially partner with the University of Louisville.**
- 4. There is potential for collocation of a Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office (VBA) at a new Louisville facility.**



Purpose Of Business Study

- 1. To undertake a study of the feasibility, cost effectiveness, and impact of replacing the current VAMC with a new state of the art medical center.**
- 2. The study will focus on access to and quality of care as well as referral patterns with other regional medical centers, the potential for collaboration with the University of Louisville, and co-location with VBA.**
- 3. The determination of the need for a replacement hospital and the size and services will be provided including an estimate of the capital and operating costs and a comparison to maintaining the current facility.**



Two Key Stages of Business Study

Stage 1:

Data Analysis/Options Development

Stage 2:

Refine and develop the VA selected options
from Stage I



Summary of Work Objective

To identify the optimal approach to provide **current and projected** veterans with health care equal to or better than is currently provided in terms of access, quality, and cost-effectiveness.



Local Advisory Panel

Purpose

Established to engage stakeholders to obtain, analyze and incorporate their input into the overall option development process.

- **Four-Five Public Meetings**
- **Notification**
 1. Public Register
 2. Facility Support Group (PAO)
 3. Website
- **Meetings are a "two-way street"**
 1. Present information and plans
 2. Receive stakeholder input



LAP Meetings Are Focused

The LAP is not to reopen previously decided issues in the Secretary's May 2004 CARES Decisions or other issues not germane to the scope of the study.

The LAP has no authority to consider what was not specifically identified for further study in the Secretary's May 2004 Decision as outlined in the current VHA CARES Business Plan Studies' statement of work.

