

Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

Business Plan Studies for St. Albans, New York VAMC

Presentation to Local Advisory Panel



CARES History and Background



- **A March 1999 GAO report concluded that if VHA restructured its capital assets it could significantly reduce the operating and maintenance costs of its facilities**
- **In response VHA initiated development of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Program**
- **The CARES process was piloted in VISN 12 (Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and parts of Michigan) using a contractor to objectively assess health care needs and recommend optimal Service Delivery Options**

CARES History and Background

Cont'd



- **CARES Phase II extended the CARES Program to all 21 Networks within VHA**
- **Phase II relied primarily upon VA staff and resources to develop the Network CARES Market Plans**
- **The Undersecretary for Health used the Networks CARES Market Plans to prepare a Draft National CARES Plan (DNCP) with recommendations to the Secretary.**
- **After review by the Secretary, the final DNCP was submitted to the CARES Commission in August 2003.**

CARES History and Background Cont'd



- **The Secretary appointed a National Commission of non-VA executives to review the DNCP to provide an objective and external perspective**
- **The Commission made recommendations to the Secretary to consider in his review of the draft National CARES Plan**
- **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 for St. Albans VAMC



- **VA will develop a Master Plan that will propose an efficient and cost-effective design for the replacement buildings at St. Albans and ensure an effective transition of services.**
- **The St. Albans campus was not designed for modern health care delivery, is aging, and is in need of replacement. To ensure veterans are cared for in safe and operationally efficient settings, VA will implement plans to replace the infrastructure at the St. Albans campus.**

Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document for St. Albans VAMC



Specific Considerations/Requirements –

- **Master Plan will describe the most effective footprint for the campus and ensure that any plans for alternate use or disposal of VA property serve to enhance the Department's mission.**