

Office of Care Coordination

VHA Care Coordination & Telehealth

WSLE<sup>-</sup> Volume VII Issue II

August 23, 2007

# VA Staff Meet Face-to-Face & Virtually



Top to bottom: 1.VA Participants at this year's Care Coordination Home Telehealth Leadership Forum (July 10-11 Alexandria, VA); 2.Care Coordination General Telehealth Leadership Forum (July 12-13 Alexandria, VA) 3. Store & Forward Telehealth Leadership Forum (Aug 22-23 Washington, DC)

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Over the summer months the three Care Coordination communities: Home Telehealth, General Telehealth and Store-and-Forward Telehealth met to discuss recent accomplishments, current status of ongoing programs, and planning for future requirements and implementations. The highlights and resulting plans for the year ahead from the three face-to-face meetings will be presented to a larger virtual (VA) audience for further discussion and development Sept 18-21 through the use of the VA Employee Education Service's VA Knowledge Network during a 4-part series of satellite broadcasts (See guide below)

National Care Coordination & Telehealth

## **Virtual Meeting**

a 4-day series of live 60-minute broadcasts all programs 1PM Eastern VAKN Channel 1

4.,5. Store & Forward Teleretinal Screening presentations (Aug 22-23Washington DC)



#### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Dr. Darkins on Emergency & Disaster Mgt VISN 8's Telehealth Trailblazer Dr. Lemoine Rita Kobb's Training Center Update

Charlene Durham's Training Center Update

Linda Foster's Quality Quarterly

Tuesday Sept 18 Care Coord & Telehealth in VHA: An Update Wednesday Sept 19 Care Coordination Store and Forward CCSF Thursday Sept 20 Care Coordination General Telehealth CCGT Friday Sept 21 Care Coordination Home Telehealth CCHT For complete details, please see VA's Employee Education System's Learning Catalog

### Office of Care Coordination Coordination of Emergency & Disaster Recovery Plans for VHA Telehealth Programs

#### By Adam W. Darkins, MD

Our need to coordinate the emergency and disaster recovery plans for care coordination telehealth programs in VHA reflects how telehealth is now a vital part of routine care delivery in many clinical areas. With over 28,000 patients receiving chronic care management and noninstitutional care support from VHA's care coordination home telehealth (CCHT) programs, any interruption to services would be of major consequence.

Nearly 80,000 patients have received screening to assess for the presence of diabetic retinopathy this year and the number will grow to 200,000 a year over the next 12 months. A problem with care coordination storeand-forwards (CCSF) services would impact on eye care services to the growing number of veterans with diabetes for whom VHA is providing care.

Telemental health services have rolled out in the past year to now provide mental health services at over 300 sites of care. These services offer local access to care and supported the case of



50,000 veterans over the past year. Telemental health is now part of the standard practice of mental health care in VHA. Therefore, continuity of service for care coordination general telehealth (CCGT) has to be taken for granted.

The care provided to patients via CCHT, CCSF and CCGT improves access to services in urban, rural and remote locations. The scale of impact of any interruption to telehealthbased services will depend upon whether it occurs at a local, VISN or national level, and how long the interruption lasts. Preventing any such occurrence, limiting its extent and mitigating its effects is the essence of emergency and disaster recovery. As the telehealth networks in VHA grow, pre-existing local emergency and disaster recovery plans will bee coordinated at both the VISN level and the national level with the aims of:

- Engineering systems with the necessary redundancy and back-up
- Detecting at the earliest possible stage and interruption to services and their extent
- Instituting back-up systems/services
- Coordinating fault finding and remediation
- Root cause analysis and systems re-engineering

For CCGT and CCSF, component parts of the telecommunications and IT systems are also used for other purposes e.g. teleradiology, transmission of the computerized patient record system (CPRS) and VANTS. CCHT involves a dedicated IT infrastructure that links with outside vendors through contracts and with other components of VHA's national information technology architecture.

The Office of Care Coordination is therefore working with VA's Office of Information & Technology OI&T and Prosthetics and Logistics to bring together all the component parts of the emergency and disaster recovery plan and ensure it is embedded into internal Service Level Agreements within VA and in contractual arrangements with vendors that provide technology and services that support CCHT. OCC is integrating this work with VISN CCHT programs through the VISN CCHT Leads Group and anticipates incorporating the processes that need to be embedded to coordinate emergency and disaster management into the conditions of participation.

This work involving CCHT and emergency and disaster recovery will be a model for CCGT and CCSF. The rigorous development of these systems will also help in enabling the future use of VHA's telehealth capacity in emergency and disaster management.

Adam Darkins, MD Chief Consultant VHA's Office of Care Coordination



love to learn about VA staff who take the initiative and set out to improve delivery of health care to veterans. As you will read in this quarter's *Telehealth Trailblazer* interview, that is exactly what **Dr. Gabriela Lemoine** did when she saw veterans driving 100 miles to see a dermatologist at the VA Medical Center in **Bay Pines**, Florida—being aware of the VA's IT and clinical resources she recognized teledermatology was a better solution. And so she gathered up a team and set course. Today her program provides about **80 store-and-forward telederm consults per month**, and about **700 real-time video consults per year**. Certainly a remarkable achievement from a physician who has traveled an interesting route to arrive at the VA. So, here's Dr. Lemoine...

**John Peters:** Dr. Lemoine, thanks for taking the time for this interview. I hope to learn a little a bit about you as well as perhaps inspire others by discussing your successful teledermatology program at the VAMC in Bay Pines, FL.

Dr. Gabriela Lemoine: I hope that I can accommodate your request.

**JP:** Before we hear about your teledermatology program, I am hoping you can give us some general background, in terms of the path you followed through school to end up in dermatology at the VAMC in Bay Pines?

Was medicine, specifically dermatology, an early choice or something you came to later?

**GL:** Dermatology is my passion after I outgrew a youthful interest in rocketry. I have long had a deep fascination with research and technology, and was fortunate enough to receive training in dermatology at the University of Düsseldorf in Germany and at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. As you know, Germany is one of the cradles of modern dermatology.

During medical school, I had the opportunity to delve deep into scientific research and over four years completed a dissertation on lymphoma. After graduating, I continued as faculty at the University in Germany and achieved board certification in both Dermatology and Allergy. I also had a private dermatology practice and clinic.

I have always had a strong interest in information technology and for quite some time had my own TV and Radio Show on topic of new trends versus reality in aesthetic medicine in Germany.

I then met my husband, who was an American banker, and moved with him to the Sunshine State of Florida. After obtaining a US medical license, I worked for the last 2 years as section chief at the Bay Pines VA Dermatology and I am so happy to be able to apply my knowledge and skills for veterans who have given so much.

JP: When and how did you become interested in telehealth?

I saw.....patients having to travel more than a hundred miles... ...for Derm care. I saw a VA system having an excellent IT infrastructure with untapped potential, a CPRS which allows seamless transmission of consult requests and photographs between facilities, and videoconferencing capabilities of remarkable clarity, ideal for a visually-based specialty such as Dermatology. **GL:** When I saw the needs of the Veteran patients.....that's when I realized we needed a creative solution to the problem. My knowledge of technology, my management skills combined with the principles of Advanced Clinical Access, led me to the solution – Teledermatology.

**JP:** And can you give a brief overview of your teledermatology program to include what sparked its inception and its current scale? I know you are Bay Pines-based, do you go beyond Bay Pines and its clinics to other V8 facilities – or are you solely a Bay Pines program?

**GL:** Dr. George Van Buskirk and Dr. Lithium Lin [Chief of Staff and Chief of Medicine] at Bay Pines created an environment conducive to the design and development of the Teledermatology program. Further credit must be given to Dr. Larry Atkinson [Chief of Primary Care] and Dr. Willy Liao [Staff Physician] at Bay Pines Primary Care, as well as Dr. Walter Brander [CMO Ft Myers VA] and his primary care physicians at the Ft Myers OPC for their vigorous support and contribution to the program.

I saw the Ft Myers VA having difficulty retaining a Dermatologist and patients having to travel more than a hundred miles to Bay Pines VA for Derm care. I saw a VA system having an excellent IT infrastructure with untapped potential, a (Computerized Patient Record System) CPRS that allows seamless transmission of consult requests and photographs between facilities, and videoconferencing capabilities of remarkable clarity, ideal for a visually-based specialty such as Dermatology. I also realized as the VA, we did not have to worry about not getting reimbursed for Telederm, which is a disincentive to doing Telederm in the private sector. All this came together to spark a flurry of meetings between the physicians mentioned earlier, the IT Department and myself. And that is how the Store-and-Forward and Teledermatology Programs at Bay Pines were born.

Demand has been tremendous and we now complete 80 Store-and-Forward consults each month and 700 Real-Time videoconferencing consults a year. These programs have vastly improved access to Dermatology care for many CBOC's where it was non-existent before. Currently we cover several OPC's and are positioned to reach out and the fill other geographic areas.

I am also fortunate to be a co-leader of the VISN 8 ACA Workgroup for Dermatology. Several other VA's have shown interest in the Bay Pines Teledermatology Programs and I have been happy and honored to be able to share our ideas.

**JP:** I am aware that V8 has tremendous telehealth resources in their established/functioning VISN 8 Telehealth Advisory Board and facility telehealth coordinators— do you participate with those groups? And I am just curious, does the Board roam the halls of Bay Pines recruiting providers for telehealth programs, or did you seek them out for guidance?

**GL:** Bay Pines VA is in the process of starting a Telehealth or Telemedicine Committee which would report to the Management of Information Committee. One of the charges of this committee would be to promote the use of Telehealth in the delivery of patient care. I'm currently mainly involved in the VISN ACA Workgroup for Dermatology. Dr. Lin is involved in the VISN Telehealth Advisory Board.

For our management style: easy and team oriented - we troubleshoot problems with ad hoc meetings and occasionally with "curbside" discussions in the hallways.

**JP:** I know you have the clinical expertise, but I am curious to know how much of the administrative stuff (e.g., credentialing, privileging, workload and clinical coding, etc) you had to become familiar with – or do you have other staff that does that for you?

**GL:** I had to learn to make sure the clinics on both ends – the transmitting and receiving ends – are set up correctly. It all boils down to team work. It is not possible to do this without people like our charge nurse John Sisler, our outstanding ARNP's Jocelyn Mojica and Pearl Glenn in Fort Myers. We got input and administrative support from Coding and DSS Departments, and last but not least is the administrative support I receive from our HAS clerk Nikita Miranda and her supervisors Bonita Staley and Lonnie Morris.



VISN 8's Bay Pines VAMC Teledermatology Team

**JP:** And how about the technical stuff (e.g. hardware/camera selection, VistA Imaging, network band-width)? Did you reach out to any local, regional, or national resources for help with the technical matters?

**GL:** I depended very much on local technical resources. This is not something that came together overnight. In setting up the IT infrastructure, I relied on the unbridled enthusiasm of our previous Telehealth coordinator Julie Gifford and our current one Rod Miles. I was fortunate to find good support, openness to my ideas with the IRM group, especially Mike Giurbino and Donna Herter helped me a lot. They assisted me with advice and troubleshooting of the hardware/software issues.

**JP:** Typically when a provider refers a patient to a specialist, it takes awhile to get an appointment because there are only a limited number of specialists with a limited number of appointments each day – and while telehealth certainly makes it easier for more people to access the specialist, there remain only so many appointments per day. Are you aware of any efficiencies of teledermatology that might allow for 'more appointments' in a day, as compared to the number face-to-face dermatology appointments possible in a day?

GL: Yes, in two ways:

First: Teledermatology such as Store-and-Forward encounters are more efficient in the use of time, therefore, more patients can be seen in a given time period. Basically in Store-and-Forward photographs are attached to the consult; the Specialist reviews the photographs and gives a treatment recommendation back to the Primary Care Provider. This can be done very quickly. In the old way every patient ends up with a face-to-face visit with the Specialist. In the new way, only patients needing special interventions, such as excisions, end up seeing the Specialist. Thus the Specialist's time is used more efficiently in more high-value activities.

Second: Store-and-Forward is unchained from scheduling or geographic restrictions. With Store-and-Forward Specialist can complete the consult anytime anywhere. Traditionally, Specialist appointments are like hotel rooms – if you do not use them, the opportunity is lost. Now if a patient does not show for a face-to-face encounter, that downtime is not lost, that time can be productively used in seeing a few patients on the Store-and-Forward stack.

For the veterans of this system, all this translates to improved access, requiring less travel and time demands on them.

**JP:** Are you aware of any other V8 dermatologists who are actively using or are interested in learning more about teledermatology?

GL: Other VISN 8 Dermatologists have shown interest.

**JP:** How about outside V8? I am aware of several VHA telederm programs out there, have you been able to share success stories with others?

**GL:** Yes there is a Derm ACA Coaches email group comprising of Dermatologists throughout the country. We communicate and share ACA ideas and Telederm being an effective tool of ACA. I went through some trial-and-error before successfully implementing Telederm. This communication (with the e-mail group) has the potential of reducing the trial-and-error period other VA's may have to go through before Telederm is a success.

**JP:** Our office is currently working on linking VHA's active Teledermatology groups into a community, as well as linking in VA staff who may be curious about exploring the possibilities of beginning their own teledermatology program – so, I plan to keep in touch if you don't mind. And thanks again for sharing your story with the newsletter.



Dermatologist Dr. Gabriela Lemoine at VA Medical Center Bay Pines, FL reviews patient records and provides consultation to patient 120 miles south at VA Clinic in Ft. Myers

GL: It has been my pleasure. I look forward in assisting the advance of VHA Teledermatology.

# Care Coordination Home Telehealth CCHT National Training Center



Training Center Director

**H**ere is an update on activities this quarter from the Sunshine Training Center.

#### V8 CCHT Strategic Plan Meeting

Training Center staff provided team building activities for VISN 8 care coordination staff at their strategic planning meeting in June on Clearwater Beach, Florida. Activities centered on the theme "Thinking Outside the Bowl." Attendees participated in activities

such as Team Pictionary, Truth or Lie and Teammate of the Conference. Everyone had a great time and learned the importance of being a team player.



V8 CCHT Strategic Planning Meeting Attendees June 2007 in Clearwater, FL

Training Center staff participated in the Office of Care Coordination's CCHT Forum held in Washington, DC in July. During the conference the 2007 Class of Master Preceptors were honored.

#### **CCHT Master Preceptors Class of 2007**

Andrea Bowman	VISN	9
Susan Edwards	VISN	16
Jantene Johnson	VISN	10
Sheri Kline	VISN	8
Shail Rastogi	VISN	22
Gloria Satti-Langlois	VISN	1
Donna Voge	VISN	1
Michelle Copley	VISN	10
Evelyn Jones-Talley	VISN	16
Dede Stallings	VISN	8
Anne Wallace	VISN	21

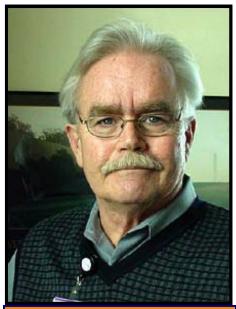


In addition the Class of 2006 was also recognized for their contributions this past year. The conference was well received and the Master Preceptors played an active role in presenting the majority of content to attendees.



We recognized another CCHT Champion this past quarter.

Bob Lane, Project Manager was nominated by Master Preceptor and VISN 22 Lead Laurie Travlor. Bob's contributions to the Office of Care Coordination's mission have been many. Bob provides direct support to the Sunshine Training Center as well with meeting its educational priorities. We are very lucky to have such a wonderful champion for care coordination. Congratulations Bob.



Finally, the Sunshine Training Center's intermediate-advanced CCHT curriculum has

EES Project Manager Bob Lane

been approved by the University of Florida as a certificate program. Training Center staff will be working with EES, our Master Preceptors and other content experts to develop the web-based courses for staff. Courses will be available in 2008.



It was great seeing and talking with many of you at the CCHT Forum. Don't forget the Virtual Meeting broadcasts in September.

Please see Page 1 for Viewing Guide

CCHT Master Preceptor Class of 2007

Visit the CCHT Collage site regularly at http://vaww.collage.research.med.va.gov/collage/E\_CCHT



#### **Care Coordination Home Telehealth CCGT National Training Center** Rocky Mountain **Meeting CCGT Training Needs Tele**health Training Center



Looking back at what has happened this summer... CCGT Foundations Curriculum The five web-based courses that comprise the General Telehealth Foundations Curriculum are all now available on-line. to VA staff, through the EES Learning Training Center Director Catalog (keyword: Telehealth) at

http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/

Course 1: "An Introduction to Telehealth in VA" provides a historical context for development and growth of telehealth throughout the US and then specifically within the VHA. The course presents motivations for using telehealth and establishes its place within the mission of VHA Care Coordination and the continuum of care in clinical operations.

Course 2: "Telehealth Planning and Start-Up for Success" introduces developmental steps to initiating a telehealth program. The course demonstrates what each step requires and shows sample planning documents that may be used in developing a local program.

Course 3: "General Telehealth Technology and Environment" enhances the background knowledge of telehealth technology and environment for all VA staff who are or may become involved with telehealth. All learners: clinical, technical and administrative, review the basic information, but options are available within the course for IT staff and anyone else interested to examine the issues in more depth.

Course 4: "Telehealth Business Operations: Management for Success" outlines the processes and information necessary to create, implement, evaluate, and maintain strong business processes for a successful clinical telehealth operation.

Please Contact RMTTC's: Charlene.Durham2@va.gov or Ronald.Schmidt@va.gov with your questions, needs, suggestions, and information to share.

Course 5: "Telehealth Operations: The Patient Encounter" reviews the tasks that lead to a successful telehealth patient encounter. These tasks are outlined in a 3-step process: Pre-Encounter, During the Encounter and Post-Encounter.

#### Videos on Demand

VA Staff can access CCGT videos online at: CDN: Care Coordination General Telehealth: The Patient Encounter

http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/ cu detail.asp?id=23207

**CDN: Care Coordination General Telehealth:** Environment and Equipment

http://vaww.sites.lrn.va.gov/vacatalog/ cu detail.asp?id=23208



#### 2007 Care Coordination General Telehealth Leadership Forum

Although in-person attendance was limited by VA travel restrictions, using MS LiveMeeting and VANTS enabled an additional 46 people to "attend" the 2007 Care Coordination General Telehealth Leadership Forum. The following sessions were open to VA staff and presenters not physically at the conference:

- Ducks in a Row and Flying Right (Credentialing and Privileging for Telehealth Services)
- Telehealth Coding and Clinic Setup •
- T-hlth Tech Issues from the VISN/Local Perspective
- American Indian Telehealth
- Primary Care Telehealth
- Bariatric Telesurgery
- General Telehealth Strategic Planning Session

#### Care Coordination Home Telehealth CCGT National Training Center Telehealth Training Center Meeting CCGT Training Needs

(Continued from page 8)

#### General Telehealth LiveMeeting Forums

Participation in the General Telehealth LiveMeeting Forums continues to grow. Topics this summer have included:

"Telehealth Technology Basics"

"Telehealth Wheelchair Evaluation"

"TBI Training" and

"Tele-MOVE Program in VISN 23."

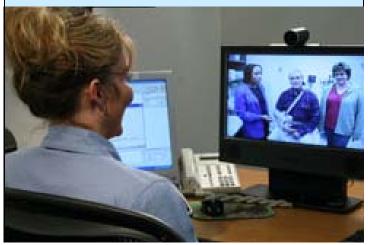
Scheduled the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 3 pm ET, the forums are conducted simultaneously via VANTS and MS Live Meeting. All documents used in the presentations are available and downloadable on the RMTTC website. All forums are recorded and may be viewed at any time simply by contacting the Training Center staff or visiting the CCGT Forums page at: <u>http://</u> <u>vaww.va.gov/occ/trainingcenter/RMForums.asp</u>. If you have topics that would be relevant for your particular environment or that you would like to share, please contact us.

#### SharePoint sites for team collaboration

RMTTC staff have set up several webpages for specific teams. These sites may have a long life, for example "Telerehabilitation Team Site," or meet a shorter-term goal, for example "CBOC Relocation Team." These allow specific users to interact in a timely way, share documents, resources, meeting agendas and minutes, announcements, project goals and progress, create workflows to automate business processes, and integrate current data.

#### Just-in-Time Training

Just-in-Time Training Sessions are planned and conducted to meet specific needs for individual programs or regions. These events not only build knowledge and skills for these participants, but also build the community of experts who will share what they know with others in the future. This summer sessions have included: Telederm, Telerehabilitation/Wound Care, Equipment Set-up, Tandberg Training, and Tele-MOVE. Request and schedule Just-in-Time Training using the online form at <u>http://vaww.va.gov/occ/trainingcenter/</u><u>RMJITTraining.asp</u>.



#### VHA Telehealth Program Inventory

The VHA Telehealth Program Inventory is a great source of experience, knowledge and collaboration. This is the first place to check for the growing community in General Telehealth or any specific clinical application that you are developing.

http://vaww.va.gov/occ/trainingcenter/ RMInventory.asp

#### Looking forward to what's coming up...

• A new team member, David Palazzolo is joining us soon as the web designer for OCC and RMTTC (bio and picture in the next newsletter)

• Web-based curriculum in development for Telerehabilitation and American Indian Alaska Native Telehealth

• LiveMeeting Monthly Forums on Tele-MOVE, American Indian Telehealth Programs, Telerehab and more.

Check out all the resources available at: <u>http://</u> vaww.va.gov/occ/trainingcenter/

<u>RockyMountain.asp</u> and **let us know** how else we can help you establish, sustain and grow your telehealth program.

RMTTC Contacts: <u>Charlene.Durham2@va.gov</u> Ronald.Schmidt@va.gov or <u>Joan.Hesley@va.gov</u>

### VHA's Office of Care Coordination Quality & Performance Conditions of Participation Designation Level 2—Trends 2007



Linda Foster MSN RN OCC Quality Manager

As of this writing, the Care Coordination Home Telehealth (CCHT) programs of ten of twenty-one networks have been reviewed during a site visit under the CCHT Conditions of Participation for Designation Level 2. Overall, the results of those reviews have been exceptionally

positive and demonstrate the ongoing commitment of those VISNs to the further development and ongoing sustenance of the CCHT program across the VHA. These reviews have also placed those networks and programs in an excellent position of continuous readiness for review of those programs, should they be picked up during a tracer, during a Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) review. In fact, there have been no citations by JCAHO related to any CCHT program or component in the past two years according to the Office of Quality and Performance.

Overall, those CoP's that are most commonly cited for corrective actions are those relating to performance improvement processes at both the network and program levels...

There are, however, some Conditions of Participation (CoP) that are more commonly cited as *Provisionally Met* during these reviews and that require follow-up and corrective actions after the site visit. These particular CoP's warrant some further review and additional planning at the network and program levels.

Overall, those CoP's that are most commonly cited for corrective actions are those relating to performance improvement processes at both the network and program levels: **CoP Item #22** provides for the VISN to require and monitor core clinical, business, and satisfaction quality and performance monitors for all CCHT programs in the network. This CoP was cited for corrective action after 78% of the reviews. CoP Item #23 requires that each CCHT Program select process and outcome monitors that are evidence-based and relevant to the targeted patient population or disease management process served by that program. This CoP was cited for corrective action after 89% of the reviews. CoP Item #24 requires that the Program communicate those outcomes to program staff and others and that there is a mechanism for integration of this performance improvement data into the guality management processes at both the facility and network levels. CoP Item #25 requires that CCHT Programs develop and modify action plans as necessary to assure continuous program improvement.

With the development of the **CCHT Outcomes Data Cube**, the Office of Care Coordination (OCC) currently provides for the uniform collection and display of some utilization data elements at the national, network and facility levels that may be utilized in the performance improvement process. Additional data elements, particularly clinical outcome data, will need to be collected and evaluated at the network and/or program level. This is particularly true for those CCHT programs that focus on groups of patients who are not in the core diagnosis groups for CCHT: diabetes, congestive heart failure, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or depression.

In the next newsletter, we will review another frequently cited (58%) **CoP Item #21**: The VISN performs a systematic audit of CCHT workload reporting systems, processes and data at least annually.

> Linda K. Foster, MSN, RN is Quality Manager for OCC and is based at the VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, IN

VA Staff may learn more about OCC Quality at http://vaww.va.gov/occ/CareCoord/Quality.asp



# NEWSLETTER

## <u>Mission</u>

Serve as a conduit for information sharing,

strengthen resources, and

promote community for care coordination and telehealth within the VHA,

with the ultimate goal being: to provide the right care, at the right time, in the right place.

## **CONTRIBUTING STAFF**

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# **FEEDBACK**

Please drop us a line and tell us what you think, or make a suggestion about content for future issues. We would love to hear from you. Please contact: John Peters on (202)461-6946 or john.peters@va.gov



Coming late November 2007