

CARES History & Background



- **VA Health Care Transformation**
 - **Hospital based System to patient centered system with emphasis on ambulatory care**
 - **Enhanced access with a system of Community Based Outpatient Clinic**
 - **Electronic Medical Record**
 - **Leader in patient safety**
 - **Bar Code Medication System**

CARES History & Background



- **A March 1999 Congressional report concluded that if VHA restructured its capital assets it could significantly reduce the operating and maintenance costs of its facilities in order to redirect these resources to direct patient care to improve:**
 - **Access, quality and serving more veterans**

CARES History & Background



- **In response, VA 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 Phase II extended the CARES Program to the entire VA health care system.**

CARES History & Background



- **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**

CARES History & Background



- **The Secretary appointed a National Commission of non-VA executives to review the DNCP to provide an objective and external perspective**

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- **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 decisions in May 2004**

Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document for Boston



- **Study the feasibility of consolidating the West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Brockton, and Bedford campuses into one newly constructed state-of-the-art medical center that will act as the hub for VA healthcare in Boston**

Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document for Boston



- **Strategically locate multi-specialty outpatient clinics and CBOCS, providing services such as cardiology, primary care, and mental health services in the communities where veterans live**
- **Meet the need for nursing home care services closer to where veterans and their families live**

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

Scope of Work



- **PwC is charged with evaluating a wide range of options concerning the health care delivery/infrastructure requirements for the greater Boston area**
- **Any changes to the existing infrastructure will start after 2008 to meet the veterans health care projected needs for the next twenty years.**
- **The options range from the current campus configuration (baseline option) to the proposal outlined in the Secretary's Decision Document**
- **Other options will be developed with the input of the Local Advisory Panel and public comments**