

CARES

Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services-Lexington



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Topics of Discussion

- 1. Brief CARES History and Background**
- 2. Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document Relative to Lexington**
- 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 Lexington:

- The Secretary will not consider consolidation of the Leestown campus at Cooper Drive, but VA will pursue opportunities to reduce the footprint of the Leestown campus.
- While the mission of the Leestown campus will remain unchanged, the Master Plan will propose an efficient, cost-effective, and appropriately sized footprint that will reduce vacant and underused space on the campus.
- The Master Plan will consider enhanced use lease opportunities and will ensure that any plan for alternate use or disposal of VA property serves to enhance the Department's mission.



Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document (cont)

Specific Considerations/Requirements

1. The Leestown campus will continue to provide Nursing Home care and outpatient services as well as administrative space for the Cooper Drive Division with an appropriately sized footprint.
2. The comprehensive Capital and Reuse Plan will utilize demand forecasts to determine the service delivery capacity of the campus.



Purpose Of Business Study

- 1. To undertake a study to determine the "right-sizing" of the Leestown Campus.**
- 2. To develop an optimal reuse plan for buildings and land excess to current and future healthcare service delivery needs.**



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



- 1. Determine the optimal cost-effective configuration of VA physical and operational resources to provide a modernized, safe and secure healthcare delivery environment.**
- 2. Maximize the re-use/redevelopment potential of "excess to needs" VA-owned land and buildings.**
- 3. Maintain or improve overall healthcare quality and access to care.**



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.



Summary Local Advisory Panel Purpose

- 1. The panel gathers stakeholder input and makes recommendations that must be considered by the contractor if approved by a majority vote of the panel members.**
- 2. The panel may make a recommendation to the Secretary VA on the option that the panel considers to be the best.**
- 3. The panel is not involved in making the decision on the option that will be implemented.**
- 4. The final decision rests with the Secretary VA.**

