

# Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

## Business Plan Studies for Big Spring 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 Big Spring VAMC



- VA will proceed with a healthcare study for the campus utilizing the Secretary's CARES Decision Document, May 2004.
- This study will concentrate on where to place inpatient services within the Big Spring market.
- The contractor will independently provide a recommended option for the healthcare services required in the Big Spring market, after solicitation of stakeholder comment.
- The contractor will explore all healthcare, capital and reuse options.