



# Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Congressional Delegation Briefing

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**Monday, April 18, 2005**  
**Office of Strategic Initiatives**  
**Veterans Health Administration**



# **Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES)**

- ❑ Need to realign campuses to reflect changes in VA healthcare delivery**
- ❑ VA needs to change/adapt to meet the needs of an aging veteran population**
- ❑ Aging infrastructure—average building is over 50 years old**
- ❑ 1999 GAO report critical of vacant space**

# CARES Business Plan Studies

- **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has been tasked with completing 18 studies simultaneously (see handout for study site matrix)**
- **Each study is designed to address the outstanding planning issues left over from the previous Secretary's May 2004 Decision Document.**
- **PwCs findings and final recommendations will be provided to the Secretary. Who will then issue his decisions.**

# **VA's Strategic Planning Processes**

- All decisions made regarding these 18 study sites will then be rolled up into VA's established planning process.**
- Capital projects recommended from this process will be assessed along with all other VA initiatives and will be funded accordingly.**

# Key Issues

- ❑ Neither the contractor nor the Local Advisory Panel (LAP) is to reconsider decisions already made in the Secretary's May 2004 Decision
- ❑ All final decisions are made by the Secretary. The contractor provides recommendations.
- ❑ The contractor is required to consider and report stakeholder input. Local Advisory Panels are the formal mechanism to help the contractor obtain stakeholder opinions, reactions and input into the options developed.

# Key Issues

- ❑ The contractor is expected to provide the best independent technical analysis possible for the Secretary.
- ❑ Congressional Briefings will be provided by VA staff at designated intervals throughout the term of the contract
- ❑ PwC will not provide Congressional briefings independent of VA

# Key Issues

- Request for additional briefings should use current VA protocols.
- It is PwC's corporate policy to not conduct interviews or respond to media inquiries, this will be the responsibility of VA.



**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration**

**Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services**

# **CARES**

**CARES Business Plan Studies  
Role Of Local Advisory Panels  
Jay Halpern, Office of the Secretary  
April 18, 2005**



# Federal Advisory Committee Act

## Requirements for Local Advisory Panels

- ❑ Members Appointed by Secretary
- ❑ Public Meetings (Administrative Exception)
- ❑ Notice of Meetings
- ❑ Balanced representation
- ❑ Public availability of all documents
- ❑ Summary of meetings
- ❑ Recommendations to Secretary (and contractor)

# Local Advisory Panel Process

## Goal

- Demonstrate an effective and well managed public process of
  - Seeking
  - Listening
  - Considering
  - Reporting

of public input into the decisions to be made by the Secretary in this process

# Local Advisory Panel Requirements

- ❑ Considering other stakeholder input; extensive outreach by contractor to all stakeholders through multiple channels
- ❑ Meet FACA requirements for meetings: Oversight by VA
- ❑ Thoughtful public deliberations
- ❑ Arriving at Local Advisory Panel group recommendations

# Public Input for Key Parts of Business Plan Study

- ❑ What options for a site should be studied for a business plan solution?
- ❑ What is the business plan option selected by the Secretary for implementation?

# Local Advisory Panel Recommendations

- All Local Advisory Panel recommendations must be preserved and transmitted to Secretary and specifically addressed by contractor.
  
- What about non adopted recommendations by members?
  - All must be transmitted & preserved
  - However, only those adopted by majority vote must be specifically addressed by the contractor.

# Other Stakeholder Input

- ❑ Considered by Local Advisory Panel
- ❑ Gathered and analyzed by contractor at a level of specificity that enables concerns to be identified
- ❑ Contractor must respond to concerns that show substantial community support