

News & Events



The Future of Health Screening: VA San Diego Researchers are currently studying the use of tablet computers as a tool to screen younger Veterans for their health care needs. Advantages include faster, targeted care to a generation that has grown up in an era of electronic communication. Read more [here](#).



Teaming to Provide: While VA San Diego Healthcare System has provided housing to homeless Veterans for years, they did not provide home furnishings. With the help of AMVETS, formerly homeless Veterans in the HUD/VASH program now have well-furnished [places](#) they can call home.



Care and Share Tally: VA San Diego Healthcare System raised \$12,359 toward gift cards, food cost, service and other goods in this season's Care and Share Drive. The drive served 536 Veterans or 1,182 total people including Veteran's family members. Thank you to everyone for your donations!



Mental Health Reorganization: VASDHS's Mental Health service is reorganizing to meet local Veterans' growing needs. With integrated, multidisciplinary patient-aligned care teams - dubbed Project IMPACT- the Mental Health service aims to consolidate providers and support staff under one umbrella in an effort to improve access to care, simplify the number and types of services offered and create care teams from clinical, social and mental health disciplines.



My HealthVet: Authenticated My HealthVet users can now view, save and share more information directly from their VA medical record by logging in to My HealthVet and clicking the VA Blue Button. Learn more [here](#).

Media Hits



Fast Service: Lea Sutton of KNSD interviewed Director/CEO Jeffrey Gering for a positive feature story on the speed of VA San Diego health care. The [story](#) aired on Jan. 3.



VASDHS/AMVETs : [KPBS](#) and [KGTV](#) aired stories about the partnership between VA and AMVETs which provides furniture to Veterans in the HUD/VASH program.



Trolley Extension: The website, [sdnews.com](#), reported Jan. 3 that SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) is considering whether to extend trolley service to the San Diego VA Medical Center in La Jolla. Construction on the new rail line could begin in 2015 and be open to the public in 2018.



New Breathalyzer Order: KPBS interviewed VA San Diego Mental Health Service Chief Dr. Robert Anthenelli on Jan. 7 as part of a [story](#) regarding the new Marine Corps order requiring every Marine to take two spot breathalyzer tests per year.

Accomplishments & Awards



Safety First: VASDHS was notified Dec. 20 it will receive the Cornerstone Recognition Program's 2012 Gold Award for patient safety. The Gold Award is the highest of three standards the VHA program awards Veterans health care systems for patient safety, with only 53 of 153 systems nationwide meeting the standard for 2012. Read more [here](#).



All Eyes on Optometry: VASDHS Optometrist Dawn Pewitt was recognized Dec. 1 with the "O.D. (Optometrist) of the Year" award by the San Diego County Optometric Society. Dr. Pewitt has served as the optometric society's president twice and has been on the board of directors for ten years. In 2006, she created the optometric residency program at VASDHS. To date, twenty residents have completed the year-long postdoctoral training program.

Upcoming Events

Wear Red Day: Feb. 1

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans: Feb. 10-16.

President's Day: Feb. 18

Daylight Savings Time: March 10

St. Patrick's Day: March 10

First Day of Spring: March 20

Easter: March 31