

News & Events



Aspire Center Vote Passes: The San Diego City Council voted July 24 to allow the opening of the Aspire Center in Old Town. The \$30 million [facility](#) will provide the latest in residential treatment for Veterans.



Mental Health staffing increase: VA San Diego Healthcare System has hired 32 mental health clinicians and five support staff as part of a nationwide drive to meet a growing demand for care. More details can be found [here](#).



Stand Down 2012: For the 25th year, VA San Diego Healthcare System once again provided medical and dental services to homeless Veterans during [Stand Down](#), July 13-15.



Food for thought: Learn how you can prepare healthy, low fat meals with the "Cooking LIVE with Nutrition and Food Service" program offered at our La Jolla and Oceanside facilities. The Next cooking class is on Aug. 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the patient education classroom at San Diego VA Medical Center. Classes are open to both patients and staff. For more information, call Lisa Post at (858) 552 8585 x 3751.



Technical Career Field (TCF) Program: While many people see the TCF program as a "way in" with the VA, [Randy Fry](#) saw it as a way ahead.



San Diego Medical Federal Credit Union: Big options, free services, discounts and employees that work for you - Visit San Diego Medical Federal Credit Union located by the prosthetic lab for more details, or check out <https://www.sdmfcu.org/>.

Media Hits

Military Sexual Trauma: Dr. Carolyn Allard, military sexual trauma psychologist, was interviewed on PBS radio, June 27 for a story about military sexual trauma.



Mental Health Care Staff: Local media covered VA San Diego's additional mental health staff funding VA San Diego received: [KPBS](#), [KGTV](#), [U-T San Diego](#) on June 13 and a VA Op Ed piece on mental health ran in the North County Times on June 24.



Nurses Caring for Combat Staff: Three San Diego VA nursing staff were highlighted in a PBS national documentary that focused on the nursing role in caring for combat Veterans. The [program](#) aired on June 22.



Aspire Center: VA San Diego Healthcare System Director Jeffrey Gering was interviewed regarding the Aspire Center on the KCBQ Front & Center Military Talk Radio show on June 10. Aspire Center Director Deborah Dominick was interviewed on June 21 by a local radio talk show (760 KFMB) regarding the need for the center in San Diego. The media extensively covered the City Council vote (June 25-27): KSWB-TV, [U-T San Diego](#), [LA Times](#), [KGTV](#), KNBC, Associated Press, City News and XETV.

Accomplishments & Awards



News Briefs Scores Big: VA San Diego's public affairs team won 1st place under news and magazine format for "News Briefs" (this publication) in the 2012 VHA Communications Awards. The annual competition recognizes excellence from a wide range of communications offices across the country.



VA San Diego's Green Machine: The Department of Veterans Affairs awarded VA San Diego canteen staff with the [2012 Green Routine Award](#) for developing an onsite composting project to beautify the San Diego VA Medical Center while reducing the facility's environmental footprint.

Upcoming Events



Labor Day: Sept. 3

Patriot Day: Sept. 11

National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic: Sept. 16 - 21

National POW/MIA Day: Sept. 21

First Day of Fall: Sept. 22