

CARES Commission



Department of Veterans Affairs
CARES Commission
Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services

Chairman Everett Alvarez, Jr.
Vice Chairman R. John Vogel
Commissioner Vernice Ferguson, Hearing Chair
Commissioner Dr. Richard McCormick

August 25, 2003
Wyndham Billerica Hotel, Billerica, MA
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

TOPIC: Review of the Draft National CARES Plan for VISN 1

The CARES Commission is an independent commission chartered with the responsibility to provide the Secretary with recommendations on the Under Secretary for Health's Draft National CARES Plan. The Commission may accept, modify or reject the recommendations in this draft plan. In making its recommendations, the Commission will consider information gained through site visits, written comments from all stakeholders and public hearings.

Witnesses submitted written comments prior to the hearing in accordance with procedures of a public hearing. Witnesses are grouped in panels to present comments. Witnesses, except the Network Director, are asked to adhere to a five-minute statement so Commissioners will have time to ask questions of the witnesses. Questions for panelists will be limited to the Commissioners.

Everyone is encouraged to submit written comments on the Draft National CARES Plan until October 7, 2003. Comments about this hearing may be submitted today and for the next ten calendar days. Outside of the hearing room, computer operators are available to assist individuals in preparing written comments to the Commission and will accept hand written comments forms. Additionally, comments on the testimony or the Draft Plan may be submitted on the web site at www.carescommission@va.gov, or Marked "Comments" to:

Richard E. Larson, Executive Director
CARES Commission
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. (00 CARES)
Washington, D.C. 20420

Or via facsimile at (202) 501-2196.



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Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services**

**August 25, 2003
Bedford Hearing – VISN 1
Panel Members**

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| <p>Opening Remarks –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Alvarez • Commissioner Vernice Ferguson, Hearing Chair • Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Tom Hudner, Medal of Honor Recipient |
| <p>Panel 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honorable John Tierney, U.S. House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Massachusetts <i>(Please see the Congressman’s joint letter in the Congressional and Gubernatorial Section below)</i> |
| <p>Panel 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeanette Chirico-Post, MD, Network Director • Mr. Vincent Ng, Director, VAMC Providence, RI (Market Plan Dev. Proc.) • Mr. John Sims, Jr., Director, VAMC Togus (Far North Market) • Marc Levenson, MD, Director, VAMC Manchester, NH (North Market) • Mr. George Poulin, Associate Director, VAMC Bedford, MA (East Market) • Ms. Karen Waghorn, Associate Director, VA Ct. Healthcare System (West Market) |
| <p>Panel 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Joseph Badzmierowski, Paralyzed Veterans of America • Mr. Alan Bowers, Disabled American Veterans • Mr. Henry Bradley, The American Legion • Mr. John Wallace, Vietnam Veterans of America • Mr. James Williams, Veterans of Foreign Wars |
| <p>Panel 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Clayton Clark, State Veterans Affairs, Vermont • Mr. Dan Evangelista, State Veterans Affairs, Rhode Island • Mr. Thomas Kelly, State Director Veterans Affairs, Massachusetts • Mr. Roland LaPointe, Bureau of Veterans Services, Maine • Ms. Linda Swartz, State Director Veterans Affairs, Connecticut • Mr. Dennis Viola, Director State Veterans Council, New Hampshire |
| <p>Panel 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ricardo Randle, Director VBA Regional Office, Hartford |
| <p>Panel 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jim Gavin, President NAGE, Bedford VA Medical Center <i>(No written statement provided)</i> • Mr. Ron Reynolds, President AFGE Local 1674, VA Ct. Healthcare System • Mr. Roland Timm, Vice President NAGE, Bedford VA Medical Center <i>(No written statement provided)</i> |

Panel 7

- Aram Chobanian, MD, Dean, Boston University School of Medicine
- Ms. Bea Grause, President, Vermont Assoc. of Hospitals & Health Systems
- Sharon Rounds, MD, Associate Dean Brown University School of Medicine

Congressional and Gubernatorial Letters and Testimony

- Joint Letter from:
Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator John Kerry, Congressman Edward Markey,
Congressman Barney Frank, Congressman Richard Neal, Congressman John Oliver,
Congressman Martin Meehan, Congressman James McGovern,
Congressman John Tierney, Congressman Michael Capuano,
Congressman William Delahunt, and Congressman Stephan Lynch.
- Senator Olympia J. Snowe
- Congressman John B. Larson
- Congressman Tom Allen
- Congressman Jeb Bradley
- Governor James H. Douglas