

Subject: CARES VAH Statement (to be given orally)

My name is Roger Hadley. I am Dean of the Medical School at Loma Linda University. Since 1977 our medical school has had a mutually beneficial relationship with the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VAMC which has been highly successful in serving the purposes of high quality health care and the education of our nation's future health care providers.

I was the first surgery resident assigned to the Pettis VAMC when it opened its doors for the first patient less than one mile from Loma Linda University (LLU). Since then I have served more than 23 years as a resident/faculty member of the VA hospitals at Wadsworth, Sepulveda, and Loma Linda. I have chosen to continue my part-time affiliation with the VA Loma Linda Healthcare system because of the important and vital role the Pettis VAMC plays in the mission of our two institutions. I currently serve as Chair of the Pettis VAMC Dean's Committee which meets regularly to discuss issues of common interest to the VA hospital and the LLU School of Medicine. In addition, I continue to see patients and do surgery in areas of my urology subspecialty.

The Pettis VAMC, combined with the affiliation of the LLU School of Medicine and its Medical Center, provide a very broad and diverse patient population that is capable of attracting the best physician specialists whose interests are not only in the state-of-the-art health care but also physician education and medical research. Together, the University and the Pettis VAMC have nearly one million patient encounters each year. The two facilities play the major role in the education and graduating of more than 150 medical students and 150 residents annually. Interestingly, more than 16% of all doctors graduating in California will have been educated at the Pettis VAMC. In addition, the research goals of both institutions have been complementary and has resulted in cooperative projects that has attracted national funding.

Because of the Herculean efforts of the dedicated administrative and medical staff over the past seven years, the Pettis VAMC has not only kept pace with the doubling of the veteran population in the Inland Empire but have improved access, quality of care, and customer satisfaction.

It is readily apparent that we have outgrown our building capacity. We have had no additional patient space since the completion of construction 25 years ago. I firmly support the next level of re-engineering that the VHA proposes to start by way of this important CARES project.

An additional 280,000 square feet of space is sorely needed to continue not only the recent dramatic increase in workload, but also meet the future needs of our Veterans who have served the greatest country our earth has ever seen.

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**California State University, Long Beach**  
**Testimony to**  
**The Veterans Administration**  
**Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES)**  
**Commission**

**History**

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) has enjoyed an on-going relationship with the Long Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center (LBVAMC) since it was first established as a college in 1949. The campus has resided immediately adjacent to the Medical Center since the first classroom buildings were constructed in 1950.

The college was among those established by the state immediately following World War II to meet the higher education needs of the growing California population. CSULB's first students included many veterans who took advantage of the G.I. Bill to become the first in their families to be able to earn a college degree. The University's commitment to service to its community of veterans continues; currently more than 500 veterans attend classes, and more than 200 are members of the faculty and staff.

**Collaborative Activities and Affiliations between California State University, Long Beach and the Long Beach Veterans Administration Medical Center**

For more than half a century, the relationship as neighbors has benefited both the University and the Medical Center. CSULB faculty, students and staff collaborate on numerous joint projects with the VA. Current examples include:

- Annually, a consortium including CSULB, LBVAMC and Long Beach Memorial Medical Center hosts the Long Beach Research Symposium that features the work of faculty and staff. Representing the involvement of at least 250 faculty, research personnel and university students, more than 100 posters are presented at the annual meeting.
- Researchers from the University's College of Health and Human Services and Department of Biological Sciences have developed basic and applied research activities that involve the LBVAMC.
- Nursing students obtain clinical training opportunities at the Medical Center. Up to 3 groups of 12 students each are involved at any one time, typically in geriatric and acute care.
- Graduate students in the Department of Physical Therapy often turn to the Medical Center to meet their clinical experience requirement. Full-time

placements involve 400 hours of service. Annually, about 6 students from the program are placed at the LBVAMC full time or short term.

- Therapeutic recreation students in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies are routinely placed at the LBVAMC to meet their 400-hour field study requirement.
- Students majoring in departments across the University regularly serve internships at the LBVAMC. Other departments and programs that have worked with the Medical Center in placing these students include Social Work, Communicative Disorders, Nutrition, Health Science and Kinesiology and Physical Education.
- For more than a decade, students in CSULB's internationally recognized Industrial Design Department have developed assistive devices for patients in the spinal cord unit.
- More than 30 murals in LBVAMC buildings were designed and painted by students from the University's Art Department.
- The Health Sciences Department and the Health Care Administration/Center for Health Care Innovation place students in internships, and include them in teaching exchanges and research projects at the Medical Center.
- CSULB's Career Development Center and the Service Learning Office promote opportunities for student internships and volunteer activities at the Medical Center.
- Through teaching exchanges, personnel from the LBVAMC teach courses in research methods, statistics and other topics at CSULB.
- The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences developed a proposal for improving Medical Center food service through state-of-the-art chilling and heating methods.

### **Proposed Expansion of LBVAMC-CSULB Collaborations**

- CSULB and LBVAMC are currently discussing a way to help the Medical Center meet its specific needs created by a nationwide nursing shortage. The agreement under discussion would involve VA funding of the majority of costs related to offering an accelerated BSN degree program for nurses already employed by the Medical Center. The agreement may also include lower-division University students who would commit to employment with the VA. The program would begin with a cohort of 12

eligible students who would be able to obtain a BSN through an intensive 14-15 month program involving full-time instruction offered in 6- to 10-week modules.

- The University is interested in exploring additional ways to provide further services and assistance to the staff and patients of the LBVAMC. Examples would include:
  - University Library access privileges
  - Access to specialized facilities and/or equipment
  - Joint employee training programs
  - Reduced admission prices to University-sponsored performances and athletic events
  - Reduced fees for courses offered through University College and Extension Services
  - Employee recreational programs.

### **Proposal for CSULB Lease of LBVAMC Land**

Enhancement of the University's collaborative efforts with the Medical Center is a goal important to both entities. For CSULB, the ability to expand programs and offerings is contingent upon the ability to accommodate its student population. The University therefore requests a ground lease of a minimum of 20 acres at the north end of LBVAMC property for construction of much-needed apartment dwellings and an alumni center.

The University's first priority is to meet the growing demand for affordable single-student housing with a cooperative arrangement between on-campus residence halls and apartments on the VA property. A second objective is to provide high-quality rental housing opportunities for LBVAMC and CSULB staff in convenient proximity to their work. In the event apartment vacancies occur beyond the needs of students and VA and CSULB staff, units would be made available to the public.

Additionally, two apartment units would be reserved for short-term visits by leading researchers, specialists and dignitaries to the LBVAMC and the University.

The University's second priority is construction of a center focused on service to its more than 175,000 alumni, the campus and the community at large. The proposed alumni center would offer meeting space and banquet facilities in addition to features such as a library highlighting CSULB alumni accomplishments and the University's phonathon operation. Also under consideration is a small convenience store offering snacks, school supplies and University and CSULB Alumni Association memorabilia. Continuing expenses would be addressed through rental of meeting and banquet facilities; reduced rates would be offered for VA-sponsored events.

Because CSULB is fully sensitive to the needs and concerns of the LBVAMC and its patients, this proposal includes the following important considerations:

- University personnel will be responsible for supervision of the apartment units. Students approved for residence in the apartments would go through a screening process that would require that their first year at CSULB is spent in the residence halls on campus.
- Traffic entering and exiting the Medical Center through the main Seventh Street entrance will not be impacted. Entrance onto the property to access the apartment buildings and the alumni center will be routed through the University by way of State University Drive.
- All ingress into and egress from the property would be through the University.
- The University will build parking structures on the campus to accommodate apartment residents and student parking.
- Police protection, in addition to property, grounds and road maintenance, will be the responsibility of the University.

## **Conclusion**

California State University, Long Beach fully intends to continue to identify and pursue opportunities for collaboration with the LBVAMC. Both entities are strongly compatible. Pursuit of even closer relations will only enhance opportunities and services for patients and staff of the LBVAMC, faculty and students of the University, and the greater Long Beach and Los Angeles communities.