

CARES Commission



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

Vice Chairman R. John Vogel, Hearing Chair
Commissioner Vernice Ferguson
Commissioner Dr. John Kendall
Commissioner Robert Ray

September 4, 2003
Holiday Inn Central, Palace G
3321 S. 72nd Street
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

TOPIC: Review of the Draft National CARES Plan for VISN 23

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 20, 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.

**SEPTEMBER 4, 2003
OMAHA HEARING (VISN 23)
PANEL OF WITNESSES**

<p>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Dennis Pavlik (Ex POW) OPENING REMARKS – COMMISSIONER VOGEL</p>	<p>1:00 - 1:15</p>
<p>Panel #1 Dr. Robert (Randy) Petzel, Network Director, VA Midwest Health Care Network, accompanied by: Barry Graham, MD, Chief Medical Officer, VA Midwest Health Care Network Donald Cooper, Director, VA Central Iowa Health Care System (Des Moines and Knoxville) Albert (Al) Washko, Director, VA Nebraska/Western Iowa Health Care System (Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, NE) Gary Wilkinson, Director, VA Medical Center, Iowa City, IA Joseph Dalpiaz, Director, VA Black Hills Health Care System (Fort Meade and Hot Springs, SD)</p>	<p>1:15 – 2:30</p>
<p>Panel #2 Ms. Kristine Childers, Disabled American Veterans Mr. Tom Mullon, American Legion Mr. David Parr, Veterans of Foreign Wars Mr. Patrick Palmershein, Executive Director, Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs Mr. Alfonso G. Martinez, Jr. Disabled American Veterans</p>	<p>2:30 – 3:30</p>
<p>Panel #3 Mr. Lonnie Brackett, AFGE, Knoxville Mr. Mike Crawford, AFGE, Omaha Ms. Gloria Kortum, AFGE Local 2601 and NVA Council 259, Grand Island Mr. Jon Cruikshank, AFGE 1228, Des Moines Ms. Monica Moore, United American Nurses, Des Moines</p>	<p>3:30 – 4:15</p>
<p>Panel #4 Dr. Roderick Nairn, MD, Senior Associate Dean – Creighton University Dr. Gary Yee, Clinical Pharmacy Program, College of Pharmacy, University of Nebraska Mr. Jeffery LuGarce, City Manager, Knoxville, Iowa Mr. Gregg Connell, Mayor, Shenandoah, Iowa Ms. Deborah Hackman, Winneshiek County Commission of Veteran Affairs</p>	<p>4:15– 5:00</p>
<p>Congressional Statements Senator E. Benjamin Nelson Congressman Lane Evans</p>	