



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

**Mr. Everett Alvarez, Jr., Chairman**  
**Mr. John Vogel, Hearing Chair**  
**Ms. Vernice Ferguson, Commissioner**  
**Ms. JoAnne Webb, Commissioner**  
**Dr. Richard McCormick, Commissioner**

**August 27, 2003**  
**VA Pittsburgh Health Care System, Pittsburgh, PA**  
**10:00 am**

**TOPIC: Review of the Draft National CARES Plan for VISN 4**

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.carescommision@va.gov](mailto:www.carescommision@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.



**August 27, 2003  
Pittsburgh Hearing – VISN 4  
Panel Members**

**Opening Remarks –**

- Chairman Alvarez
- Vice Chairman R. John Vogel, Hearing Chair
- Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Robert Riethmiller

**Panel 1**

- Mr. Lawrence Biro, Network Director
- Mr. Michael Moreland, Director VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

**Panel 2**

- Mr. Steve Dennison, American Legion
- Mr. Andy Kistler, Disabled American Veterans
- Mr. Stephen Price, Black Vietnam Era Veterans, Inc.
- Ms. Linda Schwanger, Eastern Paralyzed Veterans of America

**Panel 3**

- Mr. John Cyprian, County Director of Veterans Affairs, Butler, Pennsylvania  
*(No written statement provided)*
- General Cecil Hengeveld, Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, Pennsylvania
- Mr. John Williams, County Director of Veterans Affairs, Erie, Pennsylvania

**Panel 4**

- Mr. Douglas Wallin, Director VBA Regional Office, Pittsburgh
- Mr. Joseph A. Stewart, CEO Butler Memorial Hospital

**Panel 5**

- Mr. John Barnowsky, President AFGE 1862  
*(Unable to attend, No written statement provided)*
- Ms. Cathy Claycomb, Acting President, NAGE, Butler VA Medical Center
- Mr. Curtis Jackson, President AFGE, Highland Drive Division, Pittsburgh Healthcare System
- Ms. Kathy Moorhead, Chairperson, SEIU/Local 200 United

**Panel 6**

- Carolynn Masters, PhD, Gannon University, Villa Maria School of Nursing
- Loren Roth, MD, Associate Senior Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

**Congressional Letters and Testimony**

- Senator Rick Santorum
- Joint Letter from Senator Joseph R. Biden, Senator Thomas R. Carper, and Congressman Michael N. Castle
- Joint Letter Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo and Chairman Christopher Smith, House Committee on Veterans Affairs