

CARES Commission



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

**Hearing Chair Robert Ray
Commissioner Chad Colley
Commissioner Vernice Ferguson
Commissioner Dr. John Kendall
Commissioner Richard Pell**

September 19, 2003

VA Medical Center, Building 15 Theater, Prescott, AZ
9:00 am - 1:00 p.m.

TOPIC: Review of the Draft National CARES Plan for VISN 18

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.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2003
PRESCOTT HEARING (VISN 18)
WITNESS LIST**

**OPENING REMARKS – HEARING CHAIR COMMISSIONER CHAD COLLEY
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MR. JOHN TAPIA, PhD, JD (Recipient of 7 Purple Hearts)**

PANEL #1

Ms. Patricia McKlem, Network Director
James Robbins, MD, Network Chief Medical Officer
John Fears, Director, Carl T. Hayden VAMC & CARES Committee Chair
Mr. Terry Atienza, Acting Director, NAVAHCS
Mr. Johnathan Gardner, Director, Southern Arizona VAHCS

PANEL #2

Mr. John Bignall, Paralyzed Veterans of America
Mr. Ken Buckley, Past State Service Officer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mr. Leo Chischilly, Navajo Veterans Service Organization
Mr. Charles Lambert, Disabled American Veteran
Mr. Ron Murphy, The American Legion
Mr. Michael Pavatea, Veterans Representative, Hopi Nation

PANEL #3

Ms. Diane C. Nelson, RN, President Elect, National Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs,
SAVAHCS
Ms. Joella Williams, RN, 1st Vice President, AZ Nurses Association

CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS

Congressman Rick Renzi