



Veterans Affairs

Eastern Colorado Health Care System

Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Planning Project
April 25, 2008



Outline

- Guiding Principles and History
- Plan
- Major Differences
- Other Considerations
- Next Steps



Guiding Principles

- Care is Veteran-centric: The fundamental basis of this concept is to **move services** as close **to the veteran** as possible.
- There is a need for **Outpatient** Care to be **extended** and **expanded**.
- Moving services closer to veterans may result in **smaller Veterans Affairs Medical Centers**.
- The provision of **increased support to local care providers** will be extended and expanded through new models such as Home Care and Telehealth.
- **Telemedicine** and **Rural Health initiatives** will be expanded
- Veterans Affairs will **buy rather than own** when consistent with principles.



Plan

- Veterans Integrated Service Network 19 is **moving care to where veterans live**. Veterans are often required to travel hundreds of miles to obtain care. The Veterans Integrated Service Network 19 model will expand services in Cheyenne, Grand Junction, Billings, and Helena and reduce travel requirements for veterans in those areas.
- This approach **reduces the demands on the Denver hospital** and provides greater flexibility in providing care and services throughout Veterans Integrated Service Network 19.
- This model will **expand and enhance rural health, home care programs and telemedicine** programs throughout the Network.



Plan (cont.)

- Construction of a Veterans Affairs and University **Research** Tower.
- Because this plan includes expansion in a variety of sites, the **roll out** will **occur over several years**. This will require construction, leasing and program development at multiple sites (3 different states and at least 6 different locations.)



Major Differences between Original Project and Options

Original Project

- Acute beds – 130
- 60 Long Term Care Rehabilitation Beds
- 20 Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program Beds

New Plan

- Development of a very large Health Care Center on the Fitzsimons campus to include primary, specialty and ambulatory surgery services
- Expand Colorado Springs to an Health Care Center with Ambulatory Surgery
- Expanded services in Cheyenne, Helena, Billings, and Grand Junction
- Acute and Spinal Cord Injury beds – 115, Shared Veterans Affairs University tower with Veterans Affairs dedicated units and staff
- 30 Long Term Care Rehabilitation Beds
- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Outpatient Treatment program



Major Differences between Original Project and Options cont.

Original Project

- 30 Spinal Cord Injury Beds
- 70,000 Net Square Feet of Research
- Collaboration with Department of Defense
- Costs based on May 2009 construction award

New Plan

- Spinal Cord Injury Inpatient Beds and Outpatient program
- Veterans Affairs University shared research space in newly constructed tower.
- Collaboration with Department of Defense
- Costs based on September 2010 construction award



Other Considerations

- This flexible model allows for dynamic delivery of care addressing the changing demographics of our veterans
- This approach will both strengthen and enhance our affiliate relationship
- This plan allows for continued collaborative work with the Department of Defense.



Questions/Answers

3 Options for Forwarding Questions:

We will attempt to answer as soon as and as best as possible.

- Internet
 - www.denver.va.gov
- Dedicated phone line (please leave your questions over the voice mail)
 - 303-393-4163
- Written Questions/Comment
 - A comment box will be set up in the Director's Suite



Next Steps

We will communicate next steps
as soon as possible