

WINTER 2013

The Veterans' Gazette...

Information for Veterans and Their Families

Message from the Acting Medical Center Director:

I would like to introduce myself to my fellow Veterans who receive care at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Healthcare Annex, and the Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout Michigan.

I am Jeff Nechanicky and will serve as the Acting Medical Center Director for a few months while recruitment is ongoing for a permanent Medical Center Director. Ms. Denise Deitzen was appointed as the Medical Center Director for the Northern Indiana Healthcare System December 2, 2012.

Being a 21-year Veteran of the United States Army, it humbles me to have this opportunity to provide leadership and commitment to my comrades of all military branches.

Previous to this assignment, I served as the Associate Director at the Indianapolis VAMC, and formerly as their Assistant Director.

I have also had the opportunity of serving Veterans at the Northampton VAMC in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer.

My formal studies include earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology from Creighton University in 1982, and a Master of Business Administration in 1982, with a focus in Organizational Management and specialized coursework in Army/Federal Financial Management.

I began my career in health care as a clinical laboratory manager in 1982 when I entered active duty as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. I served in various staff and leadership positions during my 21-year career in the Army.

It will be my pleasure leading this committed, and quality-driven, health care organization working to improve and provide the best care possible to the Veterans we serve.

VA Medical Center Gets New Front Entrance

As you may know, the front entrance of the medical center is closed for construction to build a new enclosed structure. We appreciate your patience as we progress through an anticipated 12-month construction phase. This building, once completed, will provide a much safer and more convenient entrance to the medical center. The new entrance will span from the existing medical center's lobby to the front sidewalk.

It is not too late to receive a flu vaccine.

Please talk with your Primary Care Provider or Nurse today about how you can be vaccinated. Help protect yourself and your family this flu season!!!

2012 Significant Accomplishments

You may sometimes ask yourself, "how can I know that the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw is a good, quality healthcare organization?" Let us help answer this question. We are surveyed and accredited by a number of agencies who perform through reviews of programs, policies, documentation, environmental assessments, and more. We have provided just a few of the accomplishments and awards we have received over the past twelve months.

In March 2012, The Joint Commission performed an unannounced triennial organizational survey at The Aleda E Lutz VAMC. The survey was conducted by five professional representatives for The Joint Commission. The Medical Center and many of its programs were fully accredited by The Joint Commission and strives for an environment of continual survey readiness.

In July 2012, The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center was recognized as one of the nation's Most Wired, according to the results of the 2012 Most Wired Award Survey released in the July 2012 issue of Hospitals & Health Networks magazine. This shows that with information technology and medical technology, the VA continues to implement equipment and processes to provide better, more efficient care and services.

In September 2012, for a second year in a row, the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center was the recipient of The Joint Commission "Top Performer on Key Quality Measures" Award for Pneumonia in 2011 and 2012. What this signifies is a commitment to

following the correct processes and procedures for Veterans presenting with pneumonia symptoms to get them the quickest and most effective care needed for that diagnosis.

In November 2012, our laboratory was surveyed and received an excellent review which resulted in accreditation by the College of American Pathologists.

In December 2012, this VA received the National Center for Patient Safety Root Cause Analysis Cornerstone Recognition Gold Award, for Root Cause Analysis processing. This is the third year the VAMC has received the Gold Award.

We hope we continue to meet or exceed your health care experience expectations!!!

Employees Give Back

Employees at the VA Medical Center are given an opportunity each year to contribute to a charity of their choice by either donating cash or having payroll deductions. This year, employees contributed \$16,241.

Collectively in the past 5 campaign years, VA employees have contributed \$82,807 to the needs of our community through charitable non-profit agencies.

The employees also donated over 3,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to local food pantries.

VA employees also came through for several Veterans and their families in need during the Holiday Season. They were provided with gifts, gift cards, and food baskets.

Twenty-six Veterans participated in the Saginaw VA Homeless Program Holiday Lunch and Party, December 5, 2012. The Salvation Army, located at 2030 N. Carolina in Saginaw, graciously provided their gym for the program. Major David Luft provided a meal-time prayer, and the Veterans were entertained by the 4th grade class of Mrs. Jane Weiss from the Bethlehem Lutheran School. They sang Christmas carols, read short recitations, and played recorders and violins. The children also provided each Veteran a nice craft they made themselves. A delicious meal was provided by Pat & Jerry's Catering Service from Auburn. Various VSOs provided gift bags, as well as hats and gloves, for the Veterans. A trivia game was also played and prizes awarded to the winning four-person team. The comments from the Veterans were very complimentary, especially about the meatballs they enjoyed for lunch!

The Gaylord Area Elks Lodge #2544 Donated Gift Bags to the Gaylord VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for Needy Veterans.

Veterans Day November 2012 Events

VA Staff wore patriotic clothing to show their Veteran pride!!!

Patriot Guard Riders Welcomed Veterans to the VAMC on Friday, November 9, 2012. Acting Medical Center Director, Stephanie Young, individually thanked each member for being here!

Special Activities Were Planned for Community Living Center Residents

The Grayling Community Based Outpatient Clinic celebrated its Grand Opening November 30, 2012.

Mental Health Services Continue to Expand

The Mental Health Services at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, Healthcare Annex, and Community Based Outpatient Clinics continues to expand.

These enhancements to staff and organizational structure are expected to improve the types of care and support Veterans need, at the right place and the right time.

Currently, there are additional VA staff being hired, organizational alignment changes being made, and care being expanded throughout Michigan at our CBOCS and through Tele-Medicine. We hope you will find these changes to be of benefit to you and your family by bringing care and services closer and more accessible to you in your time of need.

Special Program Contact Information

Suicide Prevention Hotline

1-800-273-8255

Women Veterans Coordinator

Marie Johansen

989-497-2500, extension 11468

Seamless Transition

Anne Milko-Delpier

989-497-2500, extension 11794

Newly discharged Veterans point of contact

Suicide Prevention Coordinator

Sharleen Gray

989-497-2500, extension 11778

Assisting Veterans in the Prevention of Suicide

Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator

Pamela Lawrence

989-497-2500, extension 15713

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator

Terry Troxell

989-497-2500, extension 11916

For Veterans who need assistance while facing criminal charges or during incarceration

VA Caregiver Support Coordinator

Kim Thwing

989-497-2500, extension 11953

To assist Post 9/11 Veterans with caregiver needs

Former Prisoner of War Advocate

Dr. Mark Highsmith

989-497-2500, extension 11798

Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Clement C. VanWagoner

Department of Veterans Affairs

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

180 North State Avenue

Alpena, Michigan 49707

Bad Axe Veterans Affairs

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

1142 S. Van Dyke Road

Bad Axe, MI 48413

Cadillac Veterans Affairs

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

1909 N. Mitchell Street

Cadillac, MI, 49601

Cheboygan County

Community Based Outpatient Clinic

14540 Mackinaw Highway

Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Clare Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
11775 N. Isabella
Clare, MI 48617

Gaylord Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
806 S. Otsego
Gaylord, Michigan 49735

Grayling Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1680 Hartwick Pines Road
Grayling, Michigan 49738

Oscoda Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
5671 Skeel Avenue, Suite 4
Oscoda, Michigan 48750

Traverse City Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
3271 Racquet Club Drive
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Don't forget to look us up on the web:

www.saginaw.va.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VASaginaw

MyHealthVet: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html>

Questions on Benefits:

Call 1-800-827-1000 or view information at

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/vow>

www.ebenefits.va.gov to apply.