Our VA Honored Vietnam Veterans at USS Edson
March 29, 2018
Welcome to the Spring 2018 edition of The Veterans Gazette.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am the interim Director for a few months, while recruitment efforts are ongoing for a permanent Medical Center Director. I’m excited to serve in this leadership role and bring many years of VA experience to support the already-great progress being made here.

In my observation over the past two months, I’ve learned staff at this VA are committed to their mission of providing quality, safe care to Veterans.

We have had several reviews of our operations recently, which included the Long Term Care Institute which reviewed our Community Living Center and Palliative Care Units, The Office of Inspector General reviewed our Pharmacy Cache and Prosthetics, we had a CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) review for our Blind Rehabilitation Program, as well as our new Inpatient Rehabilitation Program, and lastly a triennial accreditation survey by The Joint Commission. All of these reviews contribute to our goal of providing quality care.

This VA is also moving forward with initiatives to promote Whole Health, an interdisciplinary effort to create Veteran-centric, holistic care, specifically focusing on pain management.

We are also excited to share that a site has been selected for the new Colonel Demas T. Craw VA Clinic in Traverse City. It will be located at 701 US 31 South. Additional information will be shared on anticipated construction timeline and opening in the future.

We look forward to many more positive changes in the months to come and thank you for allowing us the opportunity to care for you and your needs.

-Karandeep Sraon, MBBS, MBA, FACHE
Acting Medical Center Director
Construction Project Update
The Building 1 (main VA Medical Center facility) Renovation to upgrade corridors, flooring, finishes, waiting rooms, and layout, is still underway. Every floor of the main Medical Center will undergo upgrades over the next several months.
Currently, the 2nd floor waiting room has been relocated to another area of the 2nd floor. Please see signage when exiting the elevators.

Transportation Assistance
The following describes information on two transportation programs for Veterans throughout the state of Michigan.

The first is the VA Rural Transportation Network. This transportation program has pick-up locations in
Gaylord
Grayling
West Branch
Standish
Please call 1-800-406-5123, Ext. 13125 for assistance.

The second program is our Veterans Transportation Network/Volunteer Driver Program. The following are locations with phone numbers.

Alpena—989-354-9671
Bay County Veterans Council Transport (non-VA Program)—989-525-5164
Burton—810-265-4110
Cheboygan—231-627-8833
Gaylord—989-497-2500, Ext. 13125
Grayling—989-344-3861
Harrison—989-539-3273
Huron/Bad Axe—989-269-8911
Manistee—231-398-3587
Saginaw—989-497-2500, Ext. 13382
Shiawassee—989-743-2637
Tuscola/Caro—989-673-8148
Traverse City—231-218-4276

Share Private Sector Medical Record Documents with VA through the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)

This Health Exchange Program allows VA providers to have access to real-time, non-VA health information. Signing up is fast and easy. You may sign up in person, through the mail, by fax, or online. Veterans can visit VLER for a complete list of instructions on how to sign up.

How to connect your Doc’s Video

Sign up for “Connect your Doc’s eBenefits Video
Our VA Strategic Direction:

Our VA is working on several initiatives, and those listed below are an example of our strategic goals. They include:

Greater Choice:
- Primary Care Initiative – Our current focus is to identify workload demand and make every effort to allow for the highest level of access and quality.
- Inpatient Care Initiative – We are evaluating our inpatient services with projected needs, while also assessing internal and community resources.

Improved Timeliness:
- Care Coordination Initiative – Augment and strengthen care coordination and care navigation services between services internally, interfacility, or within the community.

Focus Resources:
- Increase services which are difficult to access in community through same-day surgery expansion.
- Increase productivity outcomes for Primary Care to improve resource management and access.

Modernize Systems:
- Offer more Veteran-centric methods and forms of care communication.
- Expand and improve the Women’s Health Program.

Prevent Veteran Suicide:
- Getting to Zero Campaign and sharing information with our staff and Veterans, as well as our external community stakeholders to help prevent death by suicide.
- Suicide Prevention initiative – increase case management follow-up services for Veterans.

SAVE THE DATE

VA2K for Homeless Veterans and Annual Health Fair
May 16, 2018
Health Fair, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Walks are 11:30 a.m., Noon, and 12:30 p.m.
Location: Aleda E. Lutz VAMC, Pavilion (North Parking Lot)1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI
Staff in Saginaw support the “Go Red” for Women’s Heart Disease Awareness

Guest Speaker for Women’s History Program, Tsgt Sharmaine Hicks, with Mr. Cauley, Associate Director (left) and Mr. Sraon, Acting Director (right)

Leslie was recognized by her co-workers for providing great customer service and care to Veterans on the Palliative Care Unit
The National Salute to Veteran Patient’s Week, celebrated February 11—17, 2018, was a Great Success!

Many special visitors to hospitalized Veterans, music, and a community dinner and dance were part of the week’s activities.
Are you a caregiver of a Veteran and need assistance? Call the Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.

Suicide Prevention
If you know a Veteran who may experience thoughts of suicide, getting them the assistance they need, as quickly as possible, is crucial. The “BeThere” campaign offers information on how you can help.
Visit www.veteranshealthlibrary.org to learn more.
Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 Press 1

Discharge Upgrade Process Information
Veterans may access a web-based tool which will provide customized guidance to Veterans who desire to upgrade or change the conditions of their military discharge.
https://www.vets.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions

Infertility Treatment Options
For Veterans who may have a service-connection causing infertility, visit
https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/ivf.asp

Camp Lejeune Information
You may access the following link to learn about disability compensation and health care benefits available.
https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Information
1-800-MICH-VET
www.michiganveterans.com

https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip/
Special Program Contacts

VA Main Switchboard—800-406-5143

Suicide Prevention Coordinator
989-497-2500, Extension 11778

Former Prisoner of War Advocate
989-497-2500, Extension 11798

Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator
989-497-2500, Extension 15713

Multiple Sclerosis Coordinator
989-497-2500, Extension 11440

Spinal Cord Injury Coordinator
989-497-2500, Extension 11783

Transition Care Management
989-497-2500, Extension 11794

VA Caregiver Support Coordinator
989-497-2500, Extension 11686

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators
989-497-2500, Extension 11916 or Extension 11694

Women Veterans Coordinator
989-497-2500, Extension 11560

PTSD Awareness
Learn, Connect, and Share
Visit
www ptsd va gov

Saginaw VET Center
Readjustment Counseling Services
5360 Hampton Place
Saginaw
(989) 321-4650
Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Clement C. VanWagoner
Department of Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
180 North State Avenue
Alpena, Michigan 49707
989-356-8720

Bad Axe Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1142 S. Van Dyke Road
Bad Axe, MI 48413
989-269-7445

Cadillac Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1909 N. Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-4401, Ext. 11410

Cheboygan County
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
14540 Mackinaw Highway
Mackinaw City, MI 49701
231-436-5176

Clare Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
11775 N. Isabella
Clare, MI 48617
989-386-8113

Gaylord Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
806 S. Otsego
Gaylord, Michigan 49735
989-732-7525
### Community Based Outpatient Clinics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traverse City Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>3271 Racquet Club Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49684</td>
<td>231-932-9720, Ext. 11412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grayling Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>1680 Hartwick Pines Road, Grayling, Michigan 49738</td>
<td>989-344-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscoda Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>5671 Skeel Avenue, Oscoda, Michigan 48750</td>
<td>989-747-0026, Ext. 11411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traverse City Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>3271 Racquet Club Drive, Traverse City, Michigan 49684</td>
<td>231-932-9720, Ext. 11412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Traverse VA Clinic</td>
<td>880 Munson Avenue, Traverse City, Michigan 49686</td>
<td>231-932-9720, Ext. 11412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Veterans Affairs Healthcare Annex**

4241 Barnard Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

**Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center**

1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
1-800-406-5143
Call Center—Extension 11230
Tele-Nurse—Extension 11240

**www.saginaw.va.gov**

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/VASaginaw

MyHealtheVet:
www.myhealth.va.gov