

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Los Angeles County Veteran Homelessness Drops 22 Percent from 2011 to 2012**

*Los Angeles VA Medical Center Programs Working to End Homelessness among Veterans*

LOS ANGELES – According to a recent report by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the number of homeless Veterans in Los Angeles City and County fell by 22 percent between 2011 and 2012<sup>1</sup>. The report reflects that the number of Veterans who were homeless during that yearly period on any given night in LA County dropped from 8,131<sup>2</sup> to 6,371.

“Even one Veteran living on the street is too many, but we continue to make great strides toward the goal of ending homelessness among Veterans,” said Donna Beiter, Director of VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. “A 22 percent reduction in Veteran homelessness in 2012 reflects the dedication of our staff and the effectiveness of the many initiatives we have developed as part of our comprehensive homeless services, but VA could not accomplish this outcome on its own. These results could only be achieved through partnership between VA and the City of Los Angeles, the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Public Housing Authority, and numerous community partner organizations, all of whom share our profound commitment to care for our Nation’s heroes.”

Since 2005, the number of homeless Veterans in LA County has decreased from 16,181<sup>3</sup> to 6,371, a 61 percent reduction over the last seven years. VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System continues to increase the range of supportive services to Veterans.

“Our housing programs are the most robust in the country and we continue to expand them to provide even more housing options to our Veterans,” said Bill Daniels, Chief of Mental Health at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. “We are also providing these services in an  
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<sup>1</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development (2012). The 2012 Point-in-Time Estimate of Homelessness: Volume 1 of the 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (HUD).

[http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2012AHAR\\_PITestimates.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2012AHAR_PITestimates.pdf). Accessed December 10, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2011). CoC Maps, Contacts, Reports, and Awards.

[http://www.hudhre.info/CoC\\_Reports/2011\\_ca\\_600\\_pops\\_sub.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/CoC_Reports/2011_ca_600_pops_sub.pdf) Accessed December 10, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2005). CoC Maps, Contacts, Reports, and Awards.

[http://www.hudhre.info/CoC\\_Reports/2005\\_ca\\_600\\_pop\\_sub.pdf](http://www.hudhre.info/CoC_Reports/2005_ca_600_pop_sub.pdf) Accessed December 10, 2012.

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integrated way, best exemplified by our new Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT), an after-hours clinic that provides high-quality, patient-centered, compassionate and complex care management for some of our most vulnerable patients.”

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System’s Housing First demonstration project, known as Project 60, successfully moved 60 chronically homeless Veterans from four specific geographic areas into permanent housing with HUD-VA Supportive Housing vouchers and VA clinical support. Through Project 60, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System also implemented the use of a homeless Assertive Community Treatment ‘street medicine’ team in order to holistically treat Veteran’s complex care needs. The project is currently being scaled up to provide permanent housing solutions, through the use of HUD-VA Supportive Housing vouchers, to even more chronically homeless Veterans in Los Angeles.

Success of Project 60 can be attributed to the collaboration between community providers, LA County Department of Mental Health, LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky’s office and other government partners.

“VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, in collaboration with LA City, LA County, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Public Housing Authority and our many community partners will continue to work tirelessly with one goal in mind – ending homelessness among Veterans by 2015,” said Beiter. “Our mission is ‘to honor America’s Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves the health and well-being,’ of the men and women who have given so much for our country.”

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**About VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System’s Community Care Department:** VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System’s Community Care department consists of over 300 social workers, nurses, psychologists, psychiatrists, medical doctors, and addiction therapists social science technicians, peer support staff, vocational rehabilitation specialists, and housing specialists that care and provide services to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System is the largest, most complex healthcare system within the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System consists of three ambulatory care centers, a tertiary care facility, and 10 outpatient clinics. VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System serves Veterans residing throughout five counties: Los Angeles, Ventura, Kern, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo. There are 1.4 million Veterans in the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System service area. Visit us on the web for more information [www.losangeles.va.gov](http://www.losangeles.va.gov)