HOUSING FOR OUR MOST NEEDY AND VULNERABLE HOMELESS VETERANS

The passage and enactment of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-226) has provided the authority for VA to partner with interested developers to redevelop buildings and/or land on the campus, with the goal of providing up to 1,200 units of permanent supportive housing for Veterans. VA’s initial phase begins with Building 209, where we are converting the Compensated Work Therapy-Transitional Residence facility into permanent supportive housing to provide a safe and secure environment for our most needy and vulnerable homeless Veterans. On Feb. 15, 2017, Veterans, in conjunction with VA and Step Up on Second, signed their official leases for residency at Building 209.

RESEARCH: IMPROVING WEIGHT IN PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

With support from VA Health Services Research and Development Service and Mental Illness Research Education Clinical Centers of Excellence, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System investigators developed a computerized weight management program and peer support program to help obese patients with serious mental illness improve their diet and activity. Following a study of 276 patients with serious mental illness in a controlled trial, VAGLAHS researchers discovered that computerized weight management with peer supports resulted in lower weight, and was more effective than clinician-led in-person services or usual care. “It’s great we now have systems that are portable and innovative,” said Dr. Alexander Young, psychiatrist and associate director of the VAGLAHS HSR&D Center. “This approach is more feasible, used more by patients, and they like it more. Programs like this exist for the general population so it’s great that this approach can work for mental health patients too.”

SUICIDE PREVENTION: REACH VET

Preventing Veteran suicide is a top priority for the VA, which is why VA is implementing a new effort to help identify at-risk Veterans who may benefit from enhanced care known as REACH VET (Recovery Engagement And Coordination for Health – Veterans Enhanced Treatment.) The program analyzes clinical and administrative data in VA medical records to identify Veterans with complex care needs that may put them at risk for suicide, hospitalization, illness, or other adverse outcomes. Once identified, a clinical re-evaluation of current treatment and outreach to the high risk Veteran is activated to assure the most vulnerable Veterans are getting their needed or desired mental health and medical services. VAGLAHS identified Clinical Psychologist Dr. Barbara Chase as the facility’s REACH VET coordinator.
FY: 2016

QUICKSTATS & MAP

OPERATIONAL BEDS
- Total Operational Beds: 1,049
- Hospital Operating Beds: 316
- Skilled Nursing Home Beds: 372
- Domiciliary Beds: 296
- Compensated Work Therapy (CWT): 65

WORKFORCE
- Total Employees: 5,445
- Employees That Are Veterans: 1,446
  - Vietnam Era Veteran: 317
  - Pre-Vietnam Era Veteran: 11
  - Post-Vietnam Era Veteran: 1,070
  - Not Vietnam Era Veteran: 48

RESEARCH
- Total funding: $36,269,246
- Research articles published: 94

VOLUNTEERING
- Volunteers: 2008
- Volunteer hours: 206,691
- Donations: $2,092,238.41

TOTAL OUTPATIENT VISITS: 1,396,197
- Female Veterans: 6211
- Unique Veterans: 88,137