“We shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us.”

- Winston Churchill
Director’s Vision

Dear Veterans, fellow employees, volunteers and friends of VISN 4:

Last year VISN 4 facilities served more than 300,000 heroes. Many of these Veterans fought in wars in Europe, China, Japan, the Pacific, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. Our mission is clear: to provide Veterans the world-class benefits and services they have earned. But I see it as so much more than that.

We strive to provide the most state-of-the-art medical care to Veterans because they deserve it. However, by remaining on the forefront of the latest advances in health care and technology, we are able to return parents, spouses, siblings and children to their families. By revolutionizing the way health care is provided, we teach the private sector how we can improve quality of life. Every day VISN 4 employees are serving Veterans; but we are also serving their sons and daughters.

Modern medicine relies on a variety of elements for success: compassionate staff, innovative programs, inquisitive research, partnerships with patients and families, generations of experience. And nuts, bolts, cement, wood, bricks and glass.

All 10 of VISN 4’s medical centers are more than 50 years old. Three of those facilities are more than 70 years old. We embrace our history and feel proud of all of our achievements throughout these many years. And we turn the necessity for updated infrastructure into an opportunity to modernize health care. With new construction, VISN 4 can provide more service and better service to our Nation’s heroes. Consequently, each VISN 4 facility is currently undergoing multiple construction and improvement projects. We do not enter into any project lightly; plans for many of these projects began years ago.

The benefits of each individual project are varied and numerous: shorter wait times, more homelike environments, increased privacy and new treatments are just a few examples. Amidst all this progress, VISN 4 makes every effort to be environmentally responsible, taking extra steps to install air-recycling equipment, utilize natural lighting and recycle construction waste.

Please read on to learn more about how VISN 4 construction is revitalizing health care and being “green.”

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. MORELAND, FACHE NETWORK DIRECTOR

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How VISN 4 is making a difference in the lives of our Veterans

TOTAL TEAM EFFORT

Veterans Integrated Service Network 4
CONSTRUCTION STEERING TEAM

The VISN 4 construction team wants Veterans to receive their health care in facilities that are worthy of them. Their aim is to provide buildings that are equal to or better than any other health care facility anywhere.

The team works closely with engineering, fiscal, contracting, planning and leadership staff at each of the 10 facilities to ensure that all facility construction projects are in line with VA goals and strategic plans. They serve as a resource for the individual facilities, who can get ideas and learn from each other.

Our construction team from left to right:

Joseph J. Delanko | Capital Asset Manager
Carla Sivek | Deputy Network Director
David Staudt | Network Contract Manager
James Baker | Chief Financial Officer

Find out more about a new facility opening soon near you!

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UNITING CARE FOR THE BODY AND MIND

VA Pittsburgh’s Consolidation Building

Connected to VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System’s existing facility at University Drive, this new building will offer complete behavioral health services side by side with primary care.

VA Pittsburgh plans to use these new connections to their full advantage, mingling the two sets of providers together “as much as possible,” says Dr. Jeffrey Peters, associate chief of staff for behavioral health.

“It'll be excellent for the behavioral health providers and their primary care colleagues…to see more of each other day in and day out,” Peters says. “That leads to better communications among providers caring for the same Veteran.”

Veterans will find the arrangement convenient in other ways, too: The inpatient behavioral health bedrooms on the top three floors of the six-story structure mean no more time spent shuttling psychiatric patients from one campus to another for testing. Instead, they can receive the necessary services in one location.

These inpatient floors will have separate day and night sections; the former with multipurpose spaces, and the latter with private rooms. Patients will also have access to three enclosed rooftop terraces.

Beyond the combined first-floor space, the Consolidation Building will house: audiology and speech pathology, medical media, a chapel, a simulation training center and a flexible “learning exchange” space for education.

“The physical space alone is going to be a great advantage. It’s going to be much safer to have our inpatients for psychiatric services near the kind of surgical services we need for unexpected emergencies.”

Dr. Jeffrey L. Peters
Associate Chief of Staff for Behavioral Health
A rooftop terrace where patients can enjoy the calming effects of fresh air and sunlight.
AMBULATORY CARE CENTER

CONSTRUCTION START
May 2009

MOVE-IN DATE
Fall/Winter 2011

CONSTRUCTION COST
$38.2 Million

SQUARE FOOTAGE
117,000

ARCHITECT: Astorino of Pittsburgh and HDR of Omaha, Neb.
CONTRACTOR: Walsh Construction Company of Chicago

One of 18 exam rooms in the dental clinic

A view of the lobby area from the second floor
ON THE CUTTING EDGE
VA Pittsburgh’s Ambulatory Care Center

Veterans who venture inside the Ambulatory Care Center at VAPHS’s H.J. Heinz campus will discover a welcoming, state-of-the-art space that features a myriad of services ranging from rehabilitation to radiology.

From the outpatient pharmacy’s automated medication dispenser to the dental clinic’s new endodontic microscope for root canals, high-tech gadgets abound throughout the facility.

“We’ve gone through everything with a fine-tooth comb,” says Dr. Jean Malinic, VA Pittsburgh’s dental program director, of her department’s new space. In the dental clinic and elsewhere, Veterans will find a building meant to foster their comfort and convenience.

The two-story building will include various departments and services: audiology and speech pathology, education, phlebotomy, physical medicine and rehabilitation, prosthetics and radiology, as well as primary care integrated with behavioral health and specialty care. It will also be home to adult day care, an agent cashier’s office, a police station, a Heroes Hall and a coffee shop.

“...”

Diane Thacker
Pharmacy Chief

The new automated outpatient pharmacy is very close to the primary care clinics for Veterans’ convenience, and the new pharmacist counseling booths will enhance satisfaction and greatly reduce the potential for medication errors.

MAKING IT GREEN

SOME OF THE AMBULATORY CARE CENTER’S SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ELEMENTS:

- Glaze coating on windows for energy efficiency
- External shading and white roof to maintain building temperature
- Energy-efficient lighting
- Environmentally friendly composite wood used in doors and casework

A garden for rehabilitation patients which includes a putting green
A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

VA Butler’s Community Living Center

VA Butler Healthcare’s new Community Living Center aims to create the comforts of home for its residents, with more communal “patient neighborhoods” that share common areas.

Various aspects of the new space – the first two phases of which will open for use this year – reflect this goal. When all three phases are complete, there will be 60 private bedrooms – each with its own bathroom – split into four neighborhoods. These 15-room neighborhoods will include a nurse’s station and dining room, as well as a family dining room with a full kitchen.

Veterans will be able to enjoy natural light all year long thanks to sunroom-style atriums and large windows throughout the facility. They also will have Internet access in their bedrooms and in a study.

The center will also include: two multipurpose rooms, a game room, computer room, glass-covered porch, family overnight room for relatives of hospice patients, a spa room for therapeutic programs and an administrative suite for staff.

"This is the right thing to do for the Veterans. A homelike environment provides better quality of life. I’m just excited about the whole project."

Sharon Parson
Associate Director for Patient Care Services
**DOMICILIARY (TWO PHASES)**

- **CONSTRUCTION START**: June 2010
- **MOVIE-IN DATE**: Early 2012
- **CONSTRUCTION COST**: $9 Million
- **SQUARE FOOTAGE**: 36,400

**ARCHITECT**: Radelet McCarthy Polletta of Pittsburgh  
**CONTRACTOR**: R.A. Glancy & Sons of Gibsonia, Pa.

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**It can be hard, living with three guys in a room. Having more privacy will be great for everybody.**

_Effective Beck_  
Army Veteran

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**A FRESH START**

**VA Butler's Domiciliary**

VA Butler’s new Domiciliary will provide a temporary home for up to 56 Veterans with a mixture of townhomes and apartments.

“This is going to be like the Cadillac of residential treatment,” says John Bridges, who oversees the Domiciliary.

Independence House, a building with three townhouse-style apartments, faces the one-story Serenity House; the second and final construction phase will add two more apartment buildings: the Liberty and Inspiration houses.

All residences will have a great room, dining area, fully equipped kitchen, laundry room, furnished bedrooms and bathrooms.
NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

CONSTRUCTION START
March 2010

CONSTRUCTION COST
$4.9 Million

MOVE-IN DATE
Summer 2011

SQUARE FOOTAGE
15,000


HIGHLIGHTS

• rooms for triage, urgent care, behavioral health, decontamination and isolation, as well as standard treatment rooms, lobby, restrooms and police office
• two covered entrances
• ambulance drop-off area

DIALYSIS AND UROLOGY EXPANSION

CONSTRUCTION START
November 2010

CONSTRUCTION COST
$3.9 Million

MOVE-IN DATE
November 2011

SQUARE FOOTAGE
10,000


HIGHLIGHTS

• examination rooms, treatment areas, offices and support areas
• expanded dialysis treatment capabilities with more stations and improved patient comfort
• expanded urology area with improved work flow and services

SPECIALTY CLINIC EXPANSION

CONSTRUCTION START
February 2010

CONSTRUCTION COST
$3.8 Million

MOVE-IN DATE
September 2011

SQUARE FOOTAGE
9,000

ARCHITECT: Derby Enterprises of Bel Air, Md.


HIGHLIGHTS

• another floor built above the existing clinical addition
• comprehensive behavioral health services
• focus on care for Veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn (Iraq)
• new women’s health clinic
• new spinal cord injury treatment area

This is really great!...an outstanding improvement for our patients!

Laura Selwood
Nurse Supervisor
Our behavioral health program has more than doubled over the past couple of years, so we are looking forward to having all our staff and programs in one centralized building again.

Jamie Zewe
Behavioral Health Assistant Program Leader
I have been an inpatient of the new ward for three weeks. I think the ward is wonderful. The space allows my family to visit with me privately. I believe all Veterans should be treated with respect and dignity, and the Clarksburg VA is doing that.

Bill Defazio
Marine Veteran
When I came to the old pharmacy for my prescriptions, I had to wait 20 to 30 minutes. Today, I waited less than three minutes. What an improvement! Thanks, VA!

Jim Barr
Army Veteran

NEW PHARMACY EXPANSION

CONSTRUCTION START
November 2008

CONSTRUCTION COST
$2.5 Million

MOVE-IN DATE
April 2011

SQUARE FOOTAGE
6,300

ARCHITECT: BBIX LLC of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

HIGHLIGHTS
• improved efficiency and productivity
• combined inpatient and outpatient pharmacies
• more face-to-face pharmacist time

NEW RADIOLOGY AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE FACILITY

CONSTRUCTION START
April 2010

CONSTRUCTION COST
$4.5 Million

MOVE-IN DATE
Phase 1: December 2011
Phase 2: January 2013

SQUARE FOOTAGE
13,500

ARCHITECT: Astorino of Pittsburgh
CONTRACTOR: Seawolf Construction of Parsippany, N.J.

HIGHLIGHTS
• new nuclear medicine suite with two cameras
• radiology area with four cameras
• new corridor that connects buildings

MAKING IT GREEN
HIGH-EFFICIENCY LIGHTING AND WATER FIXTURES
(PHARMACY EXPANSION)

NORTH-EAST CONSOLIDATED PATIENT ACCOUNT CENTER RENOVATION

CONSTRUCTION START
March 2010

CONSTRUCTION COST
$8.5 Million

MOVE-IN DATE
September 2011

SQUARE FOOTAGE
70,000

CONTRACTOR: CNF Construction of Lebanon, Pa.

HIGHLIGHTS
• new centralized medical care cost recovery service
• coverage for 33 VA facilities, from West Virginia to Maine
CONSTRUCTION START: April 2010
CONSTRUCTION COST: $8 Million
ARCHITECT: Tim Haahs of Blue Bell, Pa.
CONTRACTOR: Nason Construction of Philadelphia

HIGHLIGHTS:
- 450 new parking spaces
- high-efficiency lighting
- protection of water system

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

CONSTRUCTION START: January 2010
CONSTRUCTION COST: $6 Million
ARCHITECT: Francie Cauffman of Philadelphia
CONTRACTOR: Hunter Roberts Construction Group of Philadelphia

HIGHLIGHTS:
- greater access to services for Veterans
- water-saving sinks and faucets
- use of recycled content in construction
- energy-conserving air conditioning

CONSTRUCTION START: June 2010
CONSTRUCTION COST: $3.4 Million

HIGHLIGHTS:
- more in-house services
- convenient for Veterans and families to navigate
- greater treatment capacity
- maximum use of recycled content
- low-flow plumbing fixtures
- energy-efficient windows

MAKE IT GREEN
PHILADELPHIA: ENVIRONMENTALLY-RESPONSIBLE CAR WASTEWATER AND FLUID DISPOSAL
WILKES-BARRE: ELIMINATION OF OZONE-DEPLETING REFRIGERANTS

"I've had 10 or 11 cardiac catheterizations, and they all had to be done at several different local hospitals, including one hospital two hours from Wilkes-Barre. A cardiac catheterization lab here at the Wilkes-Barre VA will make it much easier, not only for the Veterans needing it, but also for the family members – like my wife – who want to be with the Veteran.

Eralk Biondi
Army Veteran"
REHABILITATION FACILITY EXPANSION

ARCHITECT: Derby Enterprises of Bel Air, Md.
CONTRACTOR: RC Clark of Bedford, Pa.

CONSTRUCTION START
December 2010

CONSTRUCTION COST
$3.5 Million

SQUARE FOOTAGE
8,500

HIGHLIGHTS
• easier access and service
• 50 percent increase in access to exercise equipment
• handicap-accessible restrooms
• decreased risk for patient falls

CONSTRUCTION START
September 2009

CONSTRUCTION COST
$2.3 Million

SQUARE FOOTAGE
10,535

ARCHITECT: NuTex Design Associates Inc. of York, Pa.

HIGHLIGHTS
• more efficient and productive work space
• consultation space for Veterans and pharmacists
• ability to serve four Veterans at a time instead of one

ARCHITECT: Francis Cauffman of Philadelphia
CONTRACTOR: Vet-Tek of New Castle, Del.

HIGHLIGHTS
• eight new beds for expanded service
• care in a professional and dignified manner
• beautiful, peaceful and homelike setting

MAKING IT GREEN
ENERGY-EFFICIENT CLIMATE SYSTEMS AND AN ENVIRONMENTALLY-RESPONSIBLE WATER RUNOFF SYSTEM

This is much-needed for the Veterans in this area. It is impressive at how fast the building is going up.

Kevin Kimball
Army Veteran

HOSPICE ADDITION

ARCHITECT: Kevin Kimball
CONTRACTOR: Vet-Tek of New Castle, Del.

HIGHLIGHTS
• eight new beds for expanded service
• care in a professional and dignified manner
• beautiful, peaceful and homelike setting
ASK THE STAFF!
What do you find most exciting about your facility’s new construction?

KELLY LIEB
Altoona
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST
Rehabilitation Facility Expansion (page 15)
“The new building is going to allow us to branch out and do so many more things with Veterans to help increase their independence.”

JILL KNEEZLE | Wilkes-Barre
RESPIRATORY THERAPIST
Cardiac Catheterization/Hemodialysis Renovation (page 14)
“This new state-of-the-art space will allow our cardiologists to perform low-risk diagnostic procedures without the inconvenience of having to travel to another facility.”

AUSTIN JOYCE | Coatesville
CHAPLAIN
Hospice Unit (page 15)
“I believe that when the new hospice unit is completed, it will enhance the capacity of our dedicated staff and volunteers to extend our caring. The new space allows for greater service. We look forward to the groundbreaking.”

DARNELL ALBERT | Philadelphia
HEALTH TECH
Emergency Department (page 14)
“I’m most looking forward to the extra space. We’ll have 14 beds and six fast-track bays. It means the wait times won’t be as long, which makes our job easier.”

YOUNG MAN CHO | Lebanon
PHARMACIST
Pharmacy (page 13)
“The space is very user-friendly and allows for more efficiency. The number of Veterans using pharmacy services continues to increase every year, and we simply had outgrown our precious pharmacy.”

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WE’D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU
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