



VA Portland Health Care System

Press Release

(Sent on behalf of the MyVA Cascadia Board)



VA HEALTH CARE | Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

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VA Portland Health Care System
3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road
Portland, Oregon 97239

Town hall to address Veteran priorities at community level

Newly established MyVA Cascadia Board invites public for town hall on Feb. 25 in Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. – The MyVA Cascadia Board will hold a public town hall meeting February 25, 2016, in Portland at the Montavilla Baptist Church, 9204 SE Hawthorne Blvd. from 6-8 p.m. for Veterans, their families, and community leaders to brainstorm new strategies to existing Veteran issues.

Unlike many Veteran forums, individual Veteran case issues will not be the focus; VA representatives will be available to discuss those issues privately. Instead, the meeting will be a working event where participants will be asked to provide their priorities and ideas to solve those issues using all the resources within the community in partnership with the VA.

“This town hall may be a little different than what has been done in the past,” said MyVA Cascadia Co-Chair Tom Mann. “We all know the issues – access to benefits and health care, mental health, women Veterans, transportation, education, homeless vets, education, employment, Veteran suicide, reintegration, incarcerated Veterans, tribal Veterans, aging Veterans, and the rest – what we don’t know is the priority on the ground for each individual community and how they want to go about addressing those priorities.”

My VA Cascadia plans to hold regular public town hall meetings throughout the VA Portland Health Care System (VAPORHCS) catchment area which includes 26 counties across Southwest Washington, the Portland Metro area, the coast from Astoria to Newport, south to Corvallis/Philomath, and east to Central Oregon.

“One size doesn’t necessarily fit all,” said MyVA Cascadia Co-Chair Kim Douthit. “We need to go out to each community and really listen to what they want to address and then develop creative solutions in partnership with the VA, state and local government, non-profit organizations, the business community, the faith-based community and others who intersect Veterans and their families.”

The MyVA Cascadia Board is a Veteran’s engagement network of about 12 Veteran service providers, advocates, and other key community stakeholders focused on improving outcomes for Veterans and their families. The board is chaired by two community leaders who will help drive a shared understanding among stakeholders of the complex challenges that Veterans and transitioning service members face. The MyVA Cascadia Board was formed in late 2015 based on the Veterans Affairs MyVA Community model called myVA, but it is not a VA organization.

For further information about MyVA Communities, please visit: <http://www.va.gov/icbc/myVA.asp>

To learn more about MyVA Cascadia, please visit: www.myvacascadia.com. Questions and suggestions can be submitted via myvacascadia@yahoo.com or mailed to MyVA Cascadia, PO Box 3576 Salem, OR 97302.

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Media contact: Daniel Herrigstad, VAPORHCS Public Affairs Officer
Office 503-402-2975 or cell 971-221-4920, or email at daniel.herrigstad@va.gov.