



VA HEALTH CARE Defining EXCELLENCE in the 21st Century

Veteran Connection

VA Portland Health Care System Newsletter

Keeping the Promise - Advancing Excellence



VA Portland Health Care System

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Produced by the VAPORHCS Public Affairs Office

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS ??

Please email us at...
VHAPOR-PublicAffairs@med.va.gov

Lincoln's Promise (VA Mission Statement)

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's Veterans.

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For [VAPORHCS Events and Classes](#)—got to the VAPORHCS Web page...
www.portland.va.gov/calendar.asp

Message from the Director



Joanne M. Krumberger
Director, VA Portland Health Care System

I was honored to attend and speak at the American Legion Department of Oregon 97th Annual Convention on June 25th. The American Legion has been an incredibly important and valued partner of VAPORHCS for decades. Specifically, since 1939, and every year since then, the American Legion Auxiliary has been holding the annual Holiday Gift Shop at the Portland VA Medical Center providing between 700 to 800 in-patient and out-patient Veterans holiday gifts every year. VAPORHCS currently has 45 registered Department of Oregon American Legion and Auxiliary volunteers – last year they provided 4,646 of logged volunteer hours. They are one example of many of our partners who help us serve Veterans and we would not be successful in our mission without them. Thank you American Legion for all you do to support our Veterans here in the Pacific Northwest and all across our great nation.

Thank you to the 20 Veteran Service Organizations and non-profit organizations that participated in the VA Summer of Service event held on June 29th in our auditorium in Portland. We had more than 300 total attendees to include VAPORHCS staff who both shared and ac-

July 2015

Volume 2, Issue 9

quired information about volunteer, employment and partnering opportunities at the VA and in the communities we serve. Here is a link to the [VAPORHCS Facebook page](#) to see some images of the event. Based on many comments I heard, I think it was a truly successful occasion that met the intent of promoting volunteerism and partnerships with the VA and in the communities VAPORHCS serves. Thank you all for your support and participation.

Lastly, I'd like to introduce and welcome Ms. Tracey B. Davis to VAPORHCS as our new Deputy Director who joined us the last week of June.

Prior to her appointment at VAPORHCS, Ms. Davis served as the Associate Director at the VA Maine Health Care System. Ms. Davis began her VA career in the Graduate Health Administration Training Program (GHATP) in 2004 at VA Pittsburgh Health Care System.

For her full biography and photo, please visit the [VAPORHCS Web page](#) under *About Us* and *Leadership Team*.

We are excited to bring her knowledge, skills, and experience to our health care system to further champion I CARE and maximize the value of our services from the Veteran's point of view.

Thank you for your service to our county and it is an honor for us to care for you.

In Service to Veterans,
Joanne M. Krumberger

VAPORHCS / VBA Veterans Town Hall - Aug. 5 at PVAMC

Join us at via video teleconference at six CBOCs

When: Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2015, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Where: Portland VA Medical Center Auditorium and at the Bend, Salem, N. Coast, West Linn, Hillsboro and The Dalles CBOCs via video teleconference.

Who: Veterans, family members & caregivers

Questions?

VHAPOR-PublicAffairs@med.va.gov
503-402-2975

Why: Share information, answer questions and address concerns.

Veterans Healing Garden at Portland VA opened July 2

Ribbon cutting event officially opens a special place for healing

VAPORHCS Director Joanne M. Krumberger hosted a Grand Opening event for the new Veterans Healing Garden at the Portland VA Medical Center.

The garden is located on the ground floor between buildings 100 and 101.

Funded by donations, the Veterans Healing Garden is a special space created for a unique environment like no other on campus. As Veter-

ans may not fully realize the vast benefits of the healing garden, it is designed to provide an exceptional and enjoyable experience. The evidence based science incorporated into the garden is designed to help improve Veterans and staff long-term health by connecting them with nature and increase their well-being in a comfortable and engaging environment.

VAPORHCS employee Scott Hoffman took on the designing and led the construction of this garden - Veterans provided input on the design through a voting process earlier this year - thank you all for your input!

This is a 'living' garden with a variety of over 70 different plants. Changes will take place over the months and years as continuous improvements will be made to further enhance the garden and Veteran experience here at the Portland VA.

More photos are available on the [VAPORHCS Facebook page](#).

-VAPORHCS-



Freedoms Path at Vancouver ground breaking event—July 16

Please join us for this event at Vancouver Campus - new enhanced-use leased home for homeless Veterans

When: Thursday, July 16, 2015, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.—formal event starts at 9:30 am.

Where: VA Portland Health Care System
Vancouver Campus, 1601 E Fourth Plain Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98661—near the museum
(follow the signs)

Who: open to the public.

Please RSVP to event@beneficialcom.com

Please join the VAPORHCS Director and the 3rd party

leasee, Communities for Veterans, to formally commemorate this new facility. This new 50 room residential housing is for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or who are disabled, and who have the ability to live independently. Residents will also benefit from proximity to VA services at the. The Facility will consist of private residences with a large amenity package intended to enhance and extend independence and quality of life for Veterans who need it most. We hope to see you there!



VAPORHCS hosts “Homeless Summit” to Coordinate Local Efforts for Homeless Veterans

VAPORHCS renewed its commitment to ending Veteran homelessness in the surrounding communities by hosting a Homeless Summit today at the Portland VA Medical Center. The purpose of the event was to share ideas with community partners, collaborate and problem-solve, and to identify the path forward to continue raising awareness of Veteran homelessness and our collective effort to end it.

VAPORHCS Director Joanne M. Krumberger hosted mayoral representatives and a county commissioner from surrounding cities who were joined by the VA’s National Director of Clinical Operations, VHA Homeless Program, Dr. Keith Harris and VA Community Resource and Referral Center National Director – VA Central Office Homeless Program, Eileen Devine for an additional meeting addressing their specific community issues and concerns.



Keith W. Harris, Ph.D., VA National Director of Clinical Operations, Mental Health Homeless and Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs speaks to the 56 registered participants of the VAPORHCS Homeless Summit on June 23, 2015, in the Portland VA Medical Center Auditorium. City and county leadership from Portland, Vancouver, Salem, Longview, Beaverton, Gresham, Washington and Multnomah counties participated in the one-day event.

“We have worked closely for quite a while with many wonderful community partners who have also made ending Veteran homelessness a top priority,” said VAPORHCS Director Joanne M. Krumberger. “The goals for the Homeless Summit were to bring partners together to share ideas and help solve the situation, as quickly, and more importantly, as effectively, as possible. We know we cannot solve Veteran homelessness by ourselves and we truly welcome the community’s expertise and unique vision to partner and collaborate in this effort.”

This past year, the city of Portland was invited to be part of the 25 City Initiative to End Veteran Homelessness and many of the mayors in the VAPORHCS catchment area have signed for a Mayor’s challenge to end Veteran homelessness. The 25 City Initiative helps communities intensify and integrate VA and local efforts to end Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015.

As part of VA Portland’s efforts, during FY 15 the homeless program has served 2,673 unique Veterans across our catchment area, dedicated staff responded to 520 homeless hotline calls, received and responded to 272 homeless and at risk consult and have placed Veterans in to permanent housing across all programs. VAPORHCS homeless programs provide services to a variety of communities including 1,025 HUD –VASH (Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing) vouchers, while Grant and Per Diem oversees 210 beds with four full time- Licensed Clinical Social Workers providing administrative and clinical services in partnership with 5 community agencies operating under 8 VA grants.

VA offers a wide array of special programs and initiatives specifically designed to help homeless veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. In fact, VA is the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to homeless persons. Although limited to Veterans and their dependents, VA’s major homeless-specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

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Contact information for Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless...

- Call or visit VAPORHCS at (503) 220-8262
- Call 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to access VA services
- VAPORHCS Web page...
www.portland.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp
- Visit www.va.gov/homeless/