



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

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For all the [VAPORHCS Events and Classes](#)—got to the VAPORHCS Web page...

<http://www.portland.va.gov/calendar.asp>

March 2015

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Welcome from the Director



Joanne M. Krumberger
Director, VA Portland Health Care System

Greetings.

March is National Women's History Month and we at VAPORHCS are privileged to serve our women Veterans, the fastest growing population within the VA. To honor women who served and enhance the knowledge of Veterans and staff on women's health, we are hosting a Women Veterans Health Fair on March 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Portland Division main hospital auditorium. More information is available in the next page of this newsletter to include an article about our women's health facilities and services.

I am proud to share that since 2010, when we opened our Center for Women Veterans Health, the number of women we serve has quadrupled - from 400 at the opening to 1600 now. In the entire catchment area we have over 7,000 women Veterans using VAPORHCS services. We also tripled the number of physicians to three during this time and participating providers offer gynecology, urology, mental health, social work, multiple women's self-help/behavioral health groups, and the maternity program. At each of our CBOCs (except the North Coast CBOC) we have at least one designated women's health provider; these are physicians who are deeply interested and specially trained in women's health.

On February 2 - 3, I was honored to attend the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter Convention in Lincoln City, Oregon. I presented an overview of VAPORHCS to ATNI leaders and participated in two separate breakout sessions with the ATNI Veterans Committee. It was an incredibly insightful experience and a reminder of just how unique some of our Veteran groups are and how important it is to hear their particular issues and concerns so we can best serve them.

I am very delighted to let you know that last month VAPORHCS was notified that funds have now been released to support hiring of approximately 200 additional permanent staff to improve access to care for Veterans via the Choice Act. Over fiscal years 2015 and 2016 a total of \$33.9 million will be provided to hire staff earmarked to provide direct patient care to improve timely access to care in mental health, primary care and specialty care services. More details will be provided as they become available. This is a very important part of the solution to enable VAPORHCS to provide the best possible care in the time and place our Veterans need it.

One last update - we have received applications from 25 Veterans to be a part of our Veteran & Family Advisory Board (VFAB). Member selection should conclude shortly with the first meeting to be held in March.

Thank you for your service to our county and thank you for letting us serve you.

In Service to Veterans,
Joanne M. Krumberger

VAPORHCS / VBA Veterans Town Hall - Feb. 28 in Portland & at Bend, Salem & N. Coast CBOCs by video teleconference

When: Saturday, February 28, 2015 at 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Where: VAPORHCS Portland Campus, Auditorium and Bend, Salem & N. Coast CBOCs via video teleconference.

Who: Veterans, family members & caregivers

Why: Share information, answer questions and address concerns.

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

**VA Portland Health Care System presents...
Women Veteran's Health Fair**



**Tuesday, March 31
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Portland Division
Auditorium**

Information on all aspects of women's health care including:

- Preventive Health
- Yoga and Healing Touch
- Chaplain Services
- Military Sexual Trauma
- Intimate Partner Violence
- Pharmacy
- Cardiac Health
- Reproductive Health Care
- Maternity Care
- Mental Health
- Nutrition and Healthy Eating
- Refreshments
- And more!

For more information call Nancy Sloan, (503) 220-8262 Ext. 55595

Serving women Veterans

By Nancy Sloan

Women Veterans Program Manager

Women in the military now comprise more than 14 percent of the total force - over 200,000 service members. They now represent the fastest growing subset of Veterans using the VA nationwide. With these rising numbers we are presented with the opportunity to rethink how we best serve women Veterans. In addition, as roles for women in the military continue to expand, including serving in combat, the care provided to women needs to adapt such that the VA continues to best serves their health care needs.

Open since 2010, our Center for Women Veteran's Health is proud to honor women Veterans with a space completely designed with their needs in mind. Some of the services offered here include primary care, mental health, social work, gynecology and urology.

In fiscal year 2014, VAPORHCS had 6,946 women enrollees, representing an increase of 26 percent since 2012; of these, 4,441 women Veterans use the VA for their primary care; and of these, approximately 1,600 use the Center for Women Veteran's Health for their primary care. This number continues to grow each year. VAPORHCS health care professionals at the Center for Women Veteran's Health are highly skilled at caring for women Veteran's unique needs.

I am Nancy Sloan, a Certified Nurse Practitioner with a Doctorate in Clinical Nursing. I came on board in July 2006 as the hospital's Women Veterans Program Manager.

Among my top priorities is coordinating appropriate health care

for women Veterans, especially those accessing the VA health care system for the first time. To all our women Veterans: the



Center for Women Veteran's Health is the place in VAPORHCS where women Veterans can come for the full coordination of all their health care needs.

Our goal is for the Center for Women Veteran's Health to continue offering comprehensive medical services for women across the continuum of their lifespan including: health promotion and disease prevention, primary care, contraceptive services and family planning, gynecological and maternity care, breast care, medical and surgical specialty care, and hormone replacement therapy. Along with these services offerings such as tele-health care, substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, rehabilitative and long term care are available.

If you have not visited us, please stop by or call anytime - you will be happy you did.

To make an appointment or to get general information, please call (503) 402- 2852 or, outside of Portland, 1(800) 949-1004 ext. 52852.