

**Overview of Current Capabilities  
to Provide Long Term Care to  
New Mexico Veterans**

for

Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee  
Santa Rosa, New Mexico  
November 10, 2011

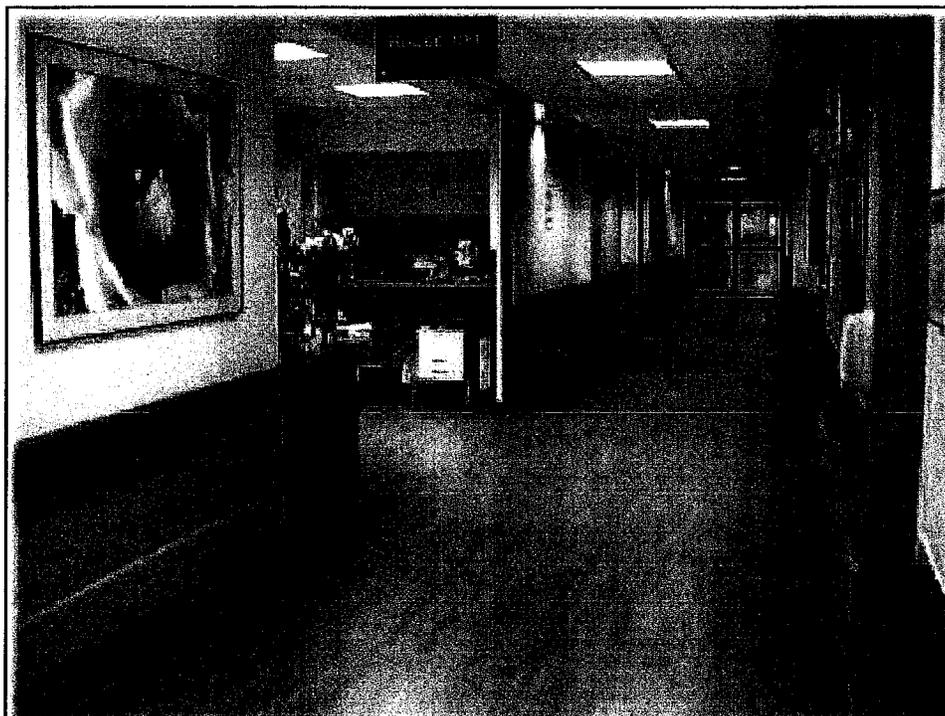
New Mexico VA Health Care System  
George Marnell, Director

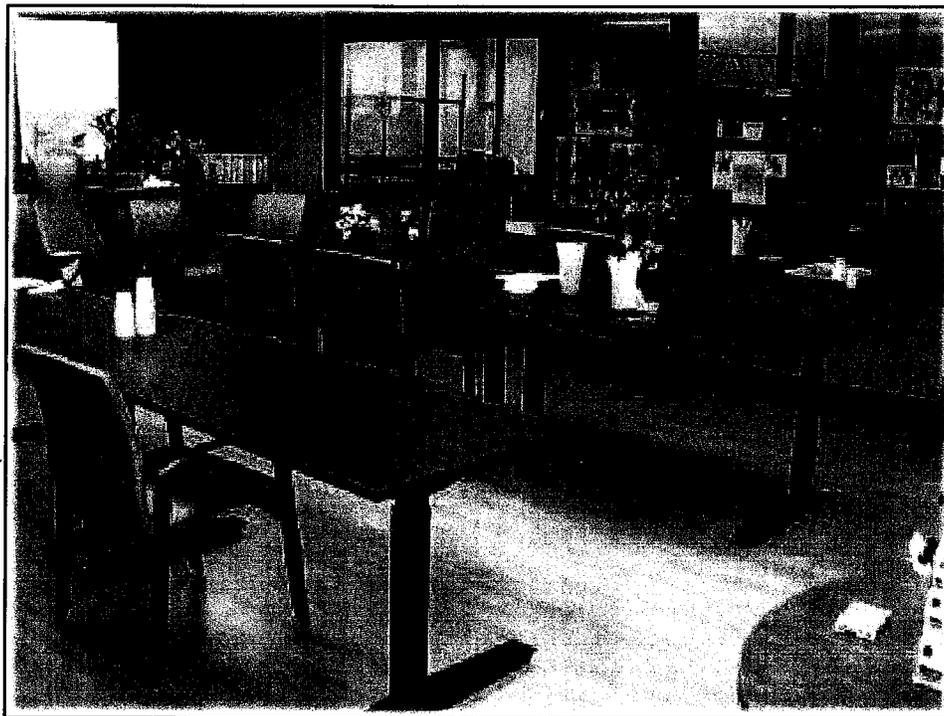


## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Community Living Center (CLC):**

- Inpatient care unit located on the campus of the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Total 26 Beds
  - 10 Palliative Care/Hospice beds
  - 16 Skilled/Rehab/Restorative beds (short term less than 90 days on average, nursing home care)
- Average Daily Census (ADC) - 23





## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **CLC Hospice and Palliative Care:**

- **Consultation Team**
  - Interdisciplinary team consisting of Physicians/Nurse Practitioner, Social Worker, Chaplain, Pharmacist, Physical Therapist, Psychologist, and Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Assists Veterans, families and staff throughout the facility with chronic disease care & end of life issues
  - 735 Consultations to date (March 2010 to present)
- **10 - Bed Hospice Palliative Care Unit**
  - Comfort oriented, supportive inpatient care by Palliative Care Team for Veterans at the end of life

### **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

#### **Home Hospice Care:**

- Purchased Services provided by community agencies in the home to Veterans in need of comfort-oriented, supportive services in advanced stages of incurable diseases
  
- Services provided by an interdisciplinary team 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
  
- Average Daily Census (ADC) – 17.3

### **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

#### **Outpatient Clinic Services:**

- **Geriatric Primary Care Clinic**
  - Located at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center campus in Albuquerque, NM
  - For frail elderly Veterans with needs that are not adequately addressed in Primary Care Clinics due to complexity and/or behavior

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Outpatient Clinic Services:**

#### **▪ Outpatient Palliative Care Clinic**

- Located at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center campus in Albuquerque, NM
- Interdisciplinary team consisting of Physician, Social Worker, Chaplain, Pharmacist and Psychologist
- Provide care for Veterans (with chronic disease care and end of life issues) and their families in an outpatient setting

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System Long Term Care (LTC) Services**

### **Community Nursing Home Program (CNH):**

- Community Nursing Home Care for Veterans with 70-100% Service-Connected eligibility rating
- Contract-type program using the new Provider Agreements which are less complicated than contracts and more attractive to community nursing homes.
  - Provider Agreements are renewed annually and establish the rates of payment.
- Average Daily Census (ADC) – 85 (based on demand)

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Caregiver Respite Services:**

All Veterans who meet medical criteria for nursing home level of care, who are cared for in their home, are eligible for up to 30 days per year of any combination of respite care services (community nursing home respite and in-home respite services).

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Community Nursing Home (CNH) Respite:**

- Caregivers have the opportunity for using up to 30 days of VA paid placement for Veterans that meet care criteria for nursing home placement.
- Community Nursing Homes with Provider Agreements are utilized.
  - Provider Agreements are renewed annually and establish the rates of payment.
- Providers caregivers personal time for travel, vacation, and taking care of own health care needs.
- Veterans receive Community Nursing Home Care in order to support caregiver respite.
- Approximately 30 Veterans served in FY2011

### **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

#### **In-Home Respite Services:**

- Purchased Services (from certified home care agencies on contract or provider agreements) provided to Veterans in their homes.
  
- Home Health Aides or homemakers stay with the Veteran for a few hours so the caregiver can leave the home for some recreation, shopping, or self care at prearranged schedules up to 30 days of care per year.
  
- Average Daily Census – 4

### **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

#### **Home Based Primary Care Program:**

- HBPC is comprehensive, primary care provided by a physician-supervised interdisciplinary team of VA staff in the homes of Veterans with complex, chronic, disabling disease whom routine clinic-based care is not effective.
  
- Case Management home care services available to medically qualifying Veterans to prevent/reduce exacerbations, hospital stays and emergency room visits.
  
- Services include: Physician, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Psychology, Nutrition/Dietetics and Pharmacy oversight
  
- Average Daily Census (ADC) - 240

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Purchased Skilled Home Care:**

- Purchased Services provided by community agencies to Veterans in their homes who are in need of skilled acute nursing care services
- Skilled care includes Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Social Work and/or Nutrition Care/Registered Dietitian Services
- Average Daily Census (ADC) - 16.3

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Homemaker/Home Health Aide:**

- Purchased Services provided by community agencies to Veterans in their home who lack functional ability to care for self and meet criteria for nursing home care placement
- Homemakers – make meals, light housekeeping, laundry, run errands
- Home Health Aides – provide personnel hygiene, bathing
- Average Daily Census (ADC) – 83.6

## **New Mexico VA Health Care System**

### **Contract Adult Day Health Care:**

- Available to Veterans at risk for nursing home placement due to functional impairment, social isolation, cognitive impairment and/or caregiver stress
- Purchase transportation and services at community centers are offered
- New program
  - Currently services available at one location of "Share Your Care" facility in Albuquerque

## **Family Caregivers of Seriously Injured Post-9/11 Veterans**

**Under the "Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010," additional VA services are now available to seriously injured post-9/11 Veterans and their Family Caregivers through a new program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.**

- Veterans eligible for this program are those who sustained a serious injury including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, on or after September 11, 2001.
- Veterans eligible for this program must also be in need of personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury.
- To be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, Veterans must first be enrolled for VA health services, if not enrolled previously.

## Family Caregivers Support Program

The new law will provide additional assistance to primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Servicemembers.

### **New services for those eligible include:**

- Monthly stipend
- Travel expenses (including lodging and per diem while accompanying Veterans undergoing care)
- Access to health care insurance (if the Caregiver is not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan)
- Mental health services and counseling
- Comprehensive VA Caregiver training provided by Easter Seals
- Respite care (30 days or more per year)
- 35 participants receiving stipends throughout NMVAHCS

## Caregiver Support Line

Monday through Friday - 8 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday - 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Closed on Sundays

**1-800-260-3274**

**New Mexico VA Health Care System  
Long Term Care Capabilities:  
Capital Planning & Projects Information**



**Long Term Care Future Construction:  
New Acute Geriatric Psychiatry Unit**

The Medical Center is progressing with a \$5,648,000 Design-Build Project to construct a 10,000 SF space for Acute Geriatric Psychiatry Care.

- The project will be constructed on the sixth level of the main hospital building (#41) of the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center in Albuquerque, NM
- The project will provide 10 additional beds and support space for acute inpatient Geriatric Psychiatry Care capabilities.

