1) Invitation to the Yammer website. If providers want to be invited to the Yammer website, please email Matt McGahran at: matthew.mcgahran@va.gov. The Yammer website is a Department of Veterans Affairs social website designed for providers to exchange ideas on having a successful program. Matt will post topics for discussion.

2) The next Continuing Education presentation is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 2:00 pm. The presentation will cover Employment factors and issues. Call in number is 800-767-1750; access code is 50286#.

3) Annual Inspections. Conducted between October and March. Each Medical Center will coordinate appropriate staff to visit each project.

   a) All operational GPD agencies must have a written Disaster Plan. Contact your Medical Center or your city/government disaster preparedness office.

   b) There are three categories for medication control.

      - Medication Management: The Agency provides medication to each Veteran

      - Medication Monitoring: Medication is kept in a secure location. Each Veteran is responsible for taking his/her medication

      - Individual Storage: Each Veteran is responsible for storing, securing, and administering his/her own medication. A mobile locked container is not acceptable. Each medical center team will determine whether or not medication is properly secured/stored.

4) Questions from the Field.

   - Are agencies required to have a defibrillator on site? This requirement is not in the GPD regulation. However, it may be a local requirement.

   - If TIP is renewed, will the market rate apartments still be required? Can other types of units be considered? This will depend on whether or not TIP is renewed and if so, what the NOFA specifies.

   - Is the Certificate of Occupancy sufficient for sprinkler/fire requirements? The local safety inspector will make this determination.

   - Some agencies received a low occupancy letter indicating beds may be reduced. Does this mean that GPD is being cut nation-wide? Per the GPD regulation, providers are expected to maintain 75% occupancy. GPD Office monitors occupancy and reducing beds is one way of maintaining the required census.

   - If a project received capital funds and beds were reduced, will the agency have to re-pay the government? Repayment is on a case-by-case basis.
Here is a list of web pages that you may find helpful:

Main GPD Website: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD.asp
GPD Provider Site: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp
CHALENG Site: http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/chaleng.asp
Federal Register Site: http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html

Next Operations Call: December 8, 2014 @ 3:00 pm EST