

Danielle S. Ocker, BSN, MBA
Executive Director, Policy and Strategic Planning Office of
Nursing Service, VHA



As the Executive Director for Policy and Strategic Planning in the Office of Nursing Service for VHA, Danielle Ocker provides direction, advice, and executive guidance on the Office of Nursing Service administrative functions to include budget, strategic planning, and data analysis. She is responsible for providing oversight for ONS National policies, strategic plans, programs, budgetary resources, and initiatives. She directs complex, mission essential initiatives which impacts VHA Operations, bureau-wide programs, field establishment, and large segments of the Nation's population.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Ocker was a Medical Center Director at a level 3 facility that served a population of approximately 110,000 Veterans. During her tenure, she stood up a comprehensive pain clinic to include introducing complementary therapy; fostered the development of a robust systematic Quality Management program that assigned and tracked performance and moved the organization to a Level 4-star performance status and was recognized as one of the most improved in SAIL performance in VHA; and developed an internal safety reporting structure that was identified as a VISN best practice.

Ms. Ocker has also served in the capacity of Acting Medical Center Director in several facilities and was the Associate Medical Center Director at a Level 2 facility. Because of her extensive leadership background, she was appointed as the Acting Human Resource Officer in VISN 1 for several months. Prior to this, she was a Service Line Manager for Sensory and Physical Rehabilitation, and had a long career in Nursing where she provided both leadership and direct patient care to a wide array of complex Veteran patients in the medical/surgical, Primary Care, Intensive Care Unit, and Emergency Room settings. Her commitment to quality improvement and organizational excellence is deeply rooted in her practice and was the catalyst for her to be engaged as a former Robert W. Carey Award senior examiner.

Ms. Ocker is passionate about excellence in the workforce and is a Certified VHA Coach and Mentor. In addition, she has been a VHA Coach and Mentor Core Trainer. She is actively engaged in many coaching/mentoring relationships and has been a Coach at VHA's Health Care Leadership Institute.

CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2015 – 2018 Medical Center Director, VAMC, Manchester, NH
2008 – 2015 Associate Director, VAMC, White River Junction, VT
2006 – 2008 Service Line Manager for Sensory and Physical Rehabilitation Service
1997 – 2006 Nurse Manager of the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department

EDUCATION:

2009 Master of Business Administration, University of Phoenix
2001 Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, University of Phoenix
1986 Associate Degree in Nursing, New Hampshire Technical College