

The Eagle

Newsletter for Veterans, Stakeholders, and Employees of the
Coatesville VA Medical Center



Fall 2023

VA Under Secretary for Health Holds Roundtable at the Medical Center



Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, participated in a roundtable discussion with medical center staff, Veterans, and stakeholders on June 27, 2023.

During this session, three noteworthy program highlights were shared:

- **Psychotherapy in Residential PTSD program:** Research demonstrates the effectiveness of delivering evidence-based psychotherapy for PTSD in Models of Accelerated Service Delivery (MASD) where Veterans attend treatment sessions multiple times a week. Studies suggest more frequent sessions result in higher treatment retention, treatment completion and reduced likelihood of avoidance, because patients may see improvements sooner and have more frequent contact with treatment providers.

- **Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator (CEPC):** Our CEPC is tasked with facilitating the development of community-based suicide prevention initiatives through coalitions and partnerships. The goals are to mitigate risk factors for suicide among service members, Veterans, and their families.
- **Veteran Response Team:** An interdisciplinary team from our medical center has partnered with local law enforcement agencies, with the goal of training police officers to de-escalate situations with Veterans in their community who are in crisis. Those officers are then able to provide Veterans with the resources and access to the care they need.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Coatesville VA Medical Center



No-Cost Emergency Suicide Care and Treatment

Under the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment (COMPACT) Act, former armed forces members in suicidal crisis, regardless if they are enrolled for VA health care or not, can now go to any health care facility, at VA or in the community, for free emergency health care – including ambulance transportation and related prescription costs – inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work.

Veterans who are not enrolled need to tell the emergency department staff that they are a Veteran as soon as possible to determine their eligibility for benefits. Enrolled Veterans should let non-VA staff know they receive care from the VA.

COMPACT-eligible Veterans include former armed forces members who were:

- Discharged from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Reserve Component members who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location.
- The victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature or sexual harassment while in service.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
DIAL 988 then **PRESS 1**

Online Chat
Confidential Veterans Chat
www.veteranscrisisline.net

Text Chat
Text to 838255
to Get Help NOW

Veterans Testing Adaptive and Recumbent Bicycles

Therapeutic bicycle programs are a great combination of exercise and outdoor exposure, which have a relaxing effect on the brain, stabilizing both physical and mental health function.

Recreation Therapy is in the process of developing a Rehabilitation Recumbent Biking Program for our Veterans who are not able to operate a standard (two wheeled) bicycle. For our Veteran residents this is an excellent introduction to revive an interest in cycling again and to enjoy a healthy activity.

Presently, six tricycles have been acquired, thanks to the generous donations from the Justamere Foundation, David's Drive 831 Organization, the VFW Auxiliary District 9, and the Coatesville VA Voluntary Service Committee. Three tricycles are specially adapted to accommodate wheelchair Veterans and have an electric motor to assist with cycling if needed. The other three

are recumbent bikes, which allow the rider's neck, back, and hips to be fully supported.

The overarching goal is to develop a Rehabilitation Recumbent Biking Program for our Veterans who are part of our Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, with the optimal solution being that participating Veterans would continue to incorporate this program in their life when discharged to outpatient care.

Responses from our Veterans have been positive.



"The adaptive wheelchair tricycle is ideal for leisurely bike rides for our physically challenged Veterans."



Maria Godfry, also a US Army Veteran, agrees and added, "the recumbent bikes are easier to handle than I expected. I'm definitely an advocate for this program."



Gordon Everts, US Army/ Vietnam Veteran, "this bike is fun to ride and easy to handle."

VA Health Care Eligibility for Post 9/11 era Veterans

Calling all Post 9/11 Veterans! Enroll in the PACT Act for Post-9/11 combat Veterans.

If you know of a Veteran who isn't enrolled in VA health care, we encourage them to apply so we can provide our Veterans with any care they may need now or in the future.

To enroll, a Veteran must have:

- Served on active duty in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or
- Served in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998
- Been discharged or released between September 11, 2001, and October 1, 2013
- Not already enrolled in VA health care

Four easy ways to apply for VA health care:

- Apply Online: <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>
- Mail VA Form 10-10EZ to:
Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329
- Call the toll-free hotline: 877-222-8387
- Call Coatesville VAMC ... Eligibility & Enrollment Office: 610-383-0266

Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn more about PACT Act eligibility.



Coatesville VAMC Welcomes New Executive Director

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced on August 28, 2023 the appointment of Ms. Jennifer Harkins as the new executive director of the Coatesville VA Medical Center. Ms. Harkins had been detailed as the interim director since January 31st. Prior to that role she served as the associate director here at CVAMC since 2017. The previous director, Mr. Jeffrey Beiler, transferred to the Lebanon VAMC.



Primary Care Renovations Complete

The newly renovated Primary Care space in building 2 is complete, offering our Veterans modern and spacious exam rooms, and, for our employees, a well laid out collaborative



workspace. The entrance to the Geriatric PACT clinic has been totally redesigned and is easily accessible from the bldg. 2 parking lot.

Virtual Health Resources Center Opened July 31

The Virtual Health Resource Center is designed to help introduce virtual technology to our Veterans, provide easy to learn instructions, help Veterans register for secure messaging (such as MyHealthVet), and to provide VA issued tablets for Veterans use in getting connected to their VA care teams. The Resource Center is in building 2, room 164, and is open Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 3:30pm.

Drive-thru Flu-Vaccination will be Available this Year!



This fall the Coatesville VAMC is having a drive-thru flu clinic available. Free flu vaccine will be available for all Veterans registered with the Coatesville VAMC and we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to stay healthy.

Schedule your appointment for Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm by calling 610-383-0239.

If you do not have access to social media, you can request to be scheduled for a flu vaccination during your face-to-face appointment.

Operation Green Light

Operation Green Light is a campaign to establish visible community support for our Veterans by changing one light to green in a visible location - on your porch, your home, or at your office.



This is also a great opportunity for us to get the word out that we encourage Veterans to enroll for health care through our Eligibility and Enrollment Office, which is available by calling (610) 383-0265, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm.

CDCE/Voluntary Service has moved to Building 7, Room B10. For more information please call 610-383-0272.

Connect with us at
www.va.gov/coatesville-health-care
and on Facebook



For updates about our medical center operations, please view the **"Get updates from VA Coatesville health care"** at the bottom of our homepage.
www.va.gov/coatesville-health-care

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Coatesville VA Medical Center

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