# VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Annual Report 2023 A New Beginning





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System



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## What We Do Caring is Our Mission. Veterans are Our Motivation.

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS) delivers high-quality, timely, compassionate, Veteran-centric health care to nearly 135,000 Veterans throughout 17 locations in Northeast Ohio. The Veterans we serve are as diverse as the Northeast Ohio community, and the VANEOHS mission is to provide the very best care and support for our Veteran patients.

Veterans choose VA because of the outstanding care available from expert clinicians uniquely attuned to the Veteran experience, common health conditions, and physical and mental health needs. VANEOHS provides nationally-recognized high-quality care, with the benefits of the latest health care technology, and consistently surpasses the average VA and competing regional private sector satisfaction measures.

VANEOHS offers a full range of primary and mental health care, specialty and emergent care, medical education, and research using modern practices.

In the future, VANEOHS will improve and expand facilities, competitively hire staff, and enhance care through clinical research and development.

Depending on a Veteran's period of service, character of discharge, service-connected rating, and income, the Veteran may be eligible for health care from VA. VA health care can also be used in combination with private insurance.

Veterans interested in exploring their eligibility for health care can contact VANEOHS's Veteran Outreach Team at enrollvaneo@va.gov or (216) 707-7914.

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#### Annual Report

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System



Jill Dietrich Mellon, JD, MBA, FACHE, Executive Director / CEO



Beth A. Lumia, MSW, Associate Director / COO



& Pharmacy Service



Kristen Guadalupe, PhD, RN, Assistant Director Quality, Safety & Value

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Rob Jastromb, MHSA, CLSSBB **Assistant Director** 





Northeast Ohio VA Clinic Locations

Sandusky

Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center

Mansfield

Ravenna

Sandusky

Warren

6751 North Chestnut Street

**Firelands Regional Medical** 

Ravenna, OH 44266

**Center South Campus** 

1912 Hayes Avenue

Sandusky, OH 44870

5275 North Abbe Road

1460 Tod Avenue NW,

Warren, OH 44485

35000 Kaiser Court

Willoughby, OH 44094

1815 Belmont Avenue

Youngstown, OH 44504

Willoughby

Youngstown

Sheffield Village, OH 44035

Sheffield Village

**U.S. Department** 

Veterans Health

Administration

55 West Waterloo Road

733 Market Avenue South

1025 South Trimble Road

15655 State Route 170 Suite A

1260 Monroe Street NW, Suite 1A

New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Akron, OH 44319

Canton, OH 44702

Calcutta, OH 43920

Mansfield, OH 44906

8787 Brookpark Road

Parma, OH 44129

**New Philadelphia** 

**East Liverpool** 

Mansfield

Parma

VA Northeast Ohio

Healthcare System

10701 East Boulevard Cleveland, OH 44106

of Veterans Affairs

VA

Akron

Canton

#### Annual Report

Warren

Youngstown

East

Not shown:

Akron Community

**Resource & Referral** 

**Community Resource** 

& Referral Center, Midtown

**Dialysis Center, Outpatient** 

Center, Cleveland

**Surgery Center** 

Liverpool

Willoughby

Louis Stokes

**Cleveland VA** 

Ravenna

Canton

New

Philadelphia

Akron

**Medical Center** 

•

Sheffield Parma

Village

#### Annual Report

# **Referral Services**

- Cardiac Surgery
- Cochlear Implants
- - Center
- General Surgery
- HIV Testing & Treatment
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Neurology
- Ophthalmology
- Pain Management
- Parkinson's Disease
- (PTSD)
- Substance Abuse

## Support Services

- Dental
- Food / Nutrition
- Hospice
- Fisher House Imaging

- - Injury Care
- - Sclerosis (ALS)

- Pain Medicine
- Primary Care
- Radiation / Oncology

- Women's Health

## **Research** Centers

- Advanced Platform Technology (APT)
- Case VA CARES

## Rehabilitation Services

- **Injury** Care
- Audiology

Polytrauma

Recreation Therapy

Speech Pathology

Residential Treatment

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

- Amputation Rehabilitation

- Home-based Primary Care (HBPC)
- Orthotics / Prosthetics Lab
- Physical Medicine / Rehabilitation
- Pathology / Lab Pharmacy Whole Health

## Medicine

- Cardiology
- Dermatology • Dialysis
- Endocrinology
- Gastroenterology
- Geriatrics
- Hematology / Oncology
- Infectious Diseases
- Nephrology
- Nuclear Medicine

- Pulmonary / Sleep
- Radiology
- Rheumatology

- Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES)

- Acute / Long-Term Spinal Cord
- Blind Rehabilitation
- Creative Arts Therapy
- Long Term Care / Skilled Nursing

## Quality Services National & Regional

- Acute / Long-term Spinal Cord
- Amputee System of Care
- Amyotrophic Lateral
- Blind Rehabilitation Center
- Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Comprehensive Rehabilitation
- Fecal Microbiota Transplants
- Gambling Disorders
- Headache Center of Excellence
- Polytrauma Network Site
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders

 Traumatic Brain Injury Care Ventricular Assist Device

Clinical Chaplain Care

## Mental Health

- Addiction Recovery Center
- Community Resource & **Referral Centers**
- Homeless Services
- Intensive Case Management
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD)
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Social Work
- Suicide Prevention

### Surgery

- Cardiothoracic
- General
- Gynecology
- Neurosurgery
- Ophthalmology
- Plastics
- Podiatry
- Urology
- Vascular

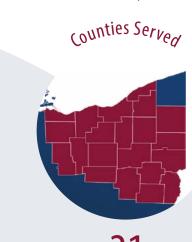
## Virtual Health

- Clinical Video / Home Telehealth
- Mobile Health
- My HealtheVet
- Online Scheduling
- SCAN-ECHO
- VA Point of Service Kiosks
- Veteran Video Connect / Video-to-Home
- Virtual Care

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## VANEOHS Operational Summary

vocations of Care





Students

2,093

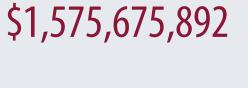
Total Unique Patient.



FY23 Employees







Annual Budget







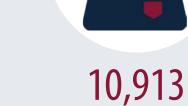








6,343







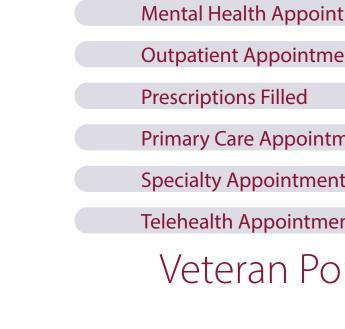










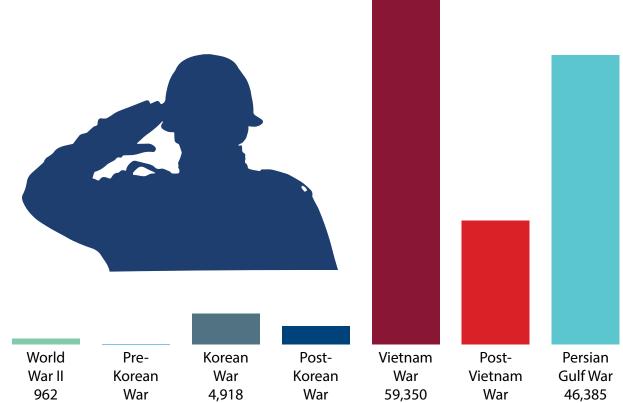


**Services Provided** 

**Home Care Visits** 

**Meals Served** 

Admissions



World	Pre-
War II	Korean
962	War
	58

2,928

## Services

	Daily	Annually	
	27	10,669	
	231	54,771	
	1,659	734,596	
tments	1,575	417,359	
ents	9,542	2,532,400	
	8,962	2,231,458	
nents	1,818	481,693	
ts	6,179	1,640,952	
nts	2,896	768,535	

## Veteran Population by Era

2,928

Other 451

#### VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

## Research & Innovation

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The Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center is a Department of Veterans Affairs Research Center in the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (RR&D). The APT Center addresses the pressing clinical needs of disabled Veterans by harnessing the most recent developments in untapped engineering and basic science disciplines and applying them to design and disseminate new rehabilitation interventions.

The unique and supportive environment enables APT Investigators to develop advanced assistive or restorative technologies that serve Veterans with sensory, motor, or cognitive deficits, as well as limb loss.

In January, the APT Center submitted a formal renewal application to VA Office of Research & Development (ORD) that was reviewed by external reviewers (Senior investigators within the field of Rehabilitation Research). At the end of the site visit, the ORD members and site reviewers convened and ultimately decided to renew the APT Center through December 31, 2029.

## Innovation Experience

**The VANEOHS Innovation** program continues to be a leader among the 35 Innovation Network sites. VANEOHS had 14 FY23 Spark-Seed-Spread projects complete their cycle. VANEOHS had a record number of "Shark Tank" submissions (15), 5 semi-finalists and ultimately 2 finalist projects. Similarly, there was a record number of FY24 Spark-Seed-Spread submissions (56). Of the annual Spark-Seed-Spread submissions 20 were selected for the Accelerator stage—more than any other iNet site. 19

ÍNNOVA 🕋 RS, WELCOME

additional projects were selected for the local innovation program.

Innovation goals for the year included increases in employee access, guality of applications, and establishing a foundation for building best practices through Innovation. Creating a culture change toward Innovative Thinking practices among front line staff was strongly supported by coordination with HRO leadership. This collaboration has provided staff a safe space to identify and address problem areas in their practice space. This relationship has led to shared projects and consistent promotion of Innovation through the all-staff HRO newsletter.

Through relationships with the Outreach team the Innovation Team has been able to participate in events where Veterans are given an opportunity to see the projects VANEOHS is supporting. Veterans are supportive and excited to see the work being done to improve their care and access to care.

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## Celebrating World-Renowned Expertise in FES

The Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center celebrated more than three decades of history in 2023. A research consortium between the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, Case Western Reserve University, The MetroHealth System, the Cleveland Clinic, and University Hospitals, the Cleveland FES Center is dedicated to serving as the most comprehensive and cohesive program in the world performing research around the use of FES – functional electrical stimulation – to speak the language of the nervous system to replace, restore or rehabilitate the actions of neurons that have been damaged by injury or disease.

FES uses electricity to stimulate or otherwise control a part of the body. This can potentially be helpful for restoring movement, returning autonomic bodily functions, reducing pain, or facilitating rehabilitation.

Researchers at the FES Center continue to explore the use of FES through both fundamental and applied research and its potential to improve quality of life for individuals with a wide variety of neurological symptoms or conditions, such as spinal cord injury, stroke, amputation, pain, Parkinson's disease, and other neurological disorders. Additional focus areas for the Center are facilitating transdisciplinary collaborations, sharing bioethics consultation services, and developing new tools and technologies for translation to the medical community.

## FES Center Research Covered by CBS's 60 Minutes

The Cleveland FES Center was thrilled to have received national media coverage for research teams participating in its Feasibility Study of the ReHAB System. This clinical trial is examining the feasibility of a system that involves implanting small electrodes in the brain paired with electrodes in the upper arm and shoulder, to activate paralyzed muscles of the arm and hand, and to provide sensory feedback.

The 60 Minutes segment, "Feeling of Feeling – Advancements in prosthetics limb technology allow feeling, control" explores advancements in artificial prosthetics technology, including those that can now restore a sense of touch. On this episode, journalist Scott Pelley speaks with volunteers of experimental research who underwent surgery to advance this breakthrough technology. FES Center researchers Bolu Ajiboye, PhD, and Emily Graczyk PhD worked in collaboration with Dustin Tyler PhD on this episode highlighting the research taking place at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center. The episode was initially aired in March and was re-aired in July. An adapted version of the story, "Following the breakthroughs in prosthetics," was also posted to 60 Minutes Overtime.

### VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

## ClevelandFES NEURAL RESTORATION THROUGH INNOVATION



# Community Development & Civic Engagement

The goodwill of benefactors and volunteers enhances the quality of life for Veterans receiving care at the VANEOHS facilities by providing essential services and programs. While VA is prohibited from fundraising, we can accept gifts for the general benefit of the healthcare system and the Veterans we serve.

As the Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE) has expanded its care of Veteran patients into the community, Volunteers, and our generous donors, and benefactors have continued to be involved enhancing the quality of life for Veterans receiving care at VANEOHS. CDCE has worked to strategically integrate volunteers and community partners like our Veteran Service Organizations into critical programs, such as those for homeless Veterans, female Veterans, supporting Veterans thru financial difficulties, and food insecurities with three-day pantry bags, clothing, shoes, and hygiene items.

VANEOHS has many programs accepting volunteers, such as becoming a Volunteer Transportation Network Driver, greeting Veterans at the main entrance and/or taking them to appointments with the Escort program, or becoming part of the Compassionate Contact Corps by contacting socially-isolated Veterans through phone calls. The time commitment is up to the volunteer.

By giving their time, volunteers can provide an immeasurable impact on Veterans' lives. Adult volunteers must be 18 years old; youth volunteers must be at least 14 years old and can apply for several scholarships through their VA service. Volunteer applications require fingerprinting and background checks. Youth volunteers should commit to a minimum of 60 hours and adult volunteers should commit to 100 hours per year. Unregistered group volunteers are also accepted for special projects and events.

## **Donations Welcome!**

Monetary and non-monetary (in-kind) donations provide essential services and programs not otherwise available, such as transportation, social service assistance, rehabilitation equipment, recreation programs, activities, homeless Veteran services, holiday gifts, and much more. Organizations and individuals can also sponsor and develop virtual events and activities for Veterans staying at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

## Get started!

Contact the Development & Civic Engagement Office at vhaclevoluntary@va.gov or (216) 791-3800 Ext. 65110



## Education, Training, & Residencies Affiliations Accredited Residency

The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System maintains Programs strong collaborative partnerships with more than 200 academic affiliates, including Case Western Reserve Physician: Addiction Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, University (CWRU) School of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Brain Injury Medicine, Cardiovascular Disease, Foundation, MetroHealth Medical Center, University Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology, Dermatology, Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Mercy Health, and Diagnostic Radiology, Endocrinology, Family Medicine, the CWRU Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing. Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, These affiliations help to prepare interprofessional Gastroenterology, Geriatric Medicine, Geriatric learners to focus on patient-centered, team Psychiatry, Hematology and Medical Oncology, approaches to healthcare. Hematopathology, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Interventional VA Training Experience Cardiology, Interventional Radiology, Nephrology, Neurological Surgery, Neurology, Neuromuscular Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Plastic Surgery, Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry, Pulmonary Critical Care, Radiation Oncology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, Spinal Cord Injury Medicine, Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery

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VA is invested in trainees' success with hands on experience in a diverse learning environment. Mentors provide clinical, teaching and research expertise,

Other Professional Residencies: Audiology, Blind helping to guide trainees to their career aspirations. Rehabilitation, Chaplain Services, Dietetics, Licensed Learn more about the VA trainee experience at: Mental Health Counseling (LPMHC), Medical Laboratory Technology, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, https://www.va.gov/northeast-ohio-health-care/work Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assisting, with-us/internships-and-fellowships/ Podiatry, Recreational Therapy, Social Work, and Speech Language Pathology

#### VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System



Dental: Clinical Dentistry, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Nurse Practitioner: Geriatrics, Primary Care, Psychiatry

Nursing: RN Transition-to-Practice (RNTTP) & Post-Baccalaureate Registered Nurse Residency Program (PB-RNR)

Psychology: Clinical Psychology, Clinical Health Psychology, Neuropsychology, and Rehabilitation Psychology

Physical Therapy: Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, Geriatric Physical Therapy

VA Advanced Fellows: Geriatrics (GRECC), Health Professions Education & Evaluation Research (HPEER), VA Quality Scholars (VAQS)

## VA National Priorities

In late 2022, the VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Shereef Elnahal, announced VA's strategic health care priorities, identifying six key areas of focus for the next few years. These six VA health care priorities are the toplevel strategic and operational advancements of the greatest importance that must be achieved by VA. They are intended to be clear and actionable achievements that deserve our top performance, our focused commitment, and the best use of our available resources. Below is a summary of the progress VANEOHS has made against each of these six priorities.

## Six Priorities



## Hire Faster and More Competitively

VANEOHS hired 521 staff in FY23, which represented a 9.3 percent growth rate, against a staff vacancy rate of 14 percent, and the median time to fill a position decreased to 146 days in the second half of 2023.

## 5 Connect Veterans to the Soonest and Best Care

When clinically appropriate, VANEOHS ensured telehealth is consistently offered in 100 percent of VISN 10, Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC within current regulations. Additionally, VANEOHS realized a 50 percent increase from baseline for requesting and documenting Veteran preferences for VA care vs. community care.

# 3 Serve Veterans with Military Environmental Exposures

A full 90 percent of Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC clinicians that were assigned to complete War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) training completed the module by December 2022.

By the end of December 2023, 90 percent of newly hired Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC clinicians completed their WRIISC training within 90 days of onboarding.

A documented toxic exposure screen has been completed for unique active users of Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC healthcare services (defined as having at least one clinical visit within the past year) according to the following schedule of dates and levels:

• 19,186 (15.6 percent) by January • 30,008 (24.4 percent) by April

• 56,605 (44.4 percent) by November

# Accelerate VA's Journey to a High Reliability Organization

In 2019, VANEOHS was selected as one of 18 sites across the country initiating VA's High Reliability Organization (HRO) Journey, using proactive risk assessments to prevent harm. While VHA and VANEOHS have implemented HRO practices since the 1990s, the goal of this journey was and is to increase efficiency and performance to enhance our ability to provide quality care for Veterans.

HROs' goal is to continuously improve to approach Zero Harm, focusing on three areas, or pillars, to achieve greater reliability - Leadership Commitment, Culture of Safety and Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) - while fostering a Just Culture that encourages staff to report and speak up about mistakes, regardless of whether the harm reached the patient or not, and facilitates the thoughtful detection of vulnerabilities that contribute to harm.

By the end of FY23, greater than 90 percent of Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC facilities had implemented and adopted at least one Foundational HRO Practice and more than 60 percent of Louis Stokes Cleveland VAMC facilities had implemented and adopted all four Foundational HRO Practices.

VANEOHS leads with 20 percent of the Systems Redesign projects listed in the Quality Improvement Tracking Tool (QuITT) and by being one of the top five healthcare systems in its Annual Employee Survey 2023 results for Supervisor Trust and No Fear of Reprisals.

### HRO by the numbers

- 99 HRO Baseline Training for Staff and Supervisors classes taught with near universal compliance in HRO training
- 5,500+ employees participated in 240+ NCPS Team Training sessions in 9 months
- (QuITT)

• 34 percent decrease in Adverse Events reported and 50 percent increase in Close Calls reported 107 CPI projects listed in Quality Improvement Tracking Tool

- Three National HeRO Award nominees, 4 regional HeRO Award winners, and 15 VANEOHS HeRO Award winners out of 28 HeRO Award nominations submitted
- 35 percent increase in providing contact information in patient safety event reporting

# VHA'S JOURNEY TO HIGH RELIABILITY

## VANEOHS Year in Review

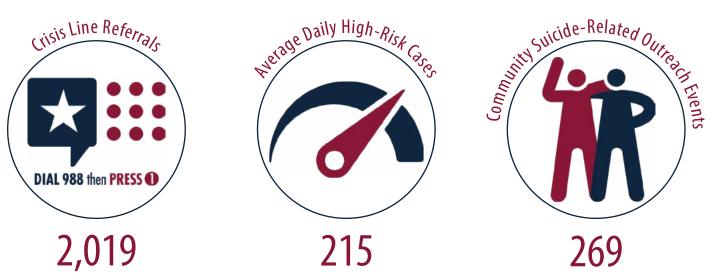


# **5** Support Veteran's Whole Health, their Caregivers, and Survivors

VANEOHS has committed to a number of ambitious goals in support of Veterans' Whole Health, to advance employee and patient well-being, and to expand access to Whole Health programming for Veterans. Goals have also been established to work with relevant community partner organizations to ensure Veterans housed in VHA homeless programs do not return to homelessness and to make significant impact on the number of unsheltered Veterans in the VANEOHS catchment area. New goals have been established for providing telemental health care designed specifically for caregivers and the team is cooperating with National VHA to refine and expand caregiver eligibility for the assistance they require. -

# 6 Prevent Veteran Suicide

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide approaches suicide as a national public health issue that affects people from all walks of life. To combat this complex and multifaceted issue, it calls for advance coordination across the federal, state, and local levels and for the widespread adoption of suicide prevention best practices. VANEOHS/Cleveland VA's Suicide Prevention Team serves locally as champions of VA's suicide prevention activities and works to develop and advance actions to address suicide in the Servicemember, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) populations.



VANEOHS/Cleveland VA's Suicide Prevention Team is composed of nine Suicide Prevention Coordinators (SPCs), two Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinators (CEPCs), and a Program Coordinator. The SPCs and Program Coordinator are available at every service-delivery level to support Veterans who are at high risk for suicide. SPCs ensure identified at-risk Veterans are referred to an appropriate level of mental health care and receive enhanced care. SPCs serve as subject-matter experts to clinical staff, community mental health clinicians, and the Veteran community of Northeast Ohio. CEPCs lead coalition-building to reduce Veteran suicide in communities by taking an active role in outreach to VSOs, Guard and Reserve units, colleges, family members, and community stakeholders.

In FY23, the program responded to 2,019 referrals from the Veterans Crisis Line supporting connection with local services. On average, the program is actively coordinating enhanced levels of care for 215 high risk Veterans at any given time, and in FY23 mailed more than 1,000 Caring Letters monthly for an additional year to formerly high-risk Veterans to provide supplemental support, a step clinical research demonstrates meaningfully reduces ongoing/ future risk. In FY23, Cleveland's team lead VISN 10 with the performance of 269 community outreach events, performed 35 VA SAVE suicide prevention trainings (triple the national requirements) for our local community partners, and also newly built and/or supported an impressive 43 community-based coalitions (composed largely of local, non-governmental partners) that work to address and prevent suicide within their own local communities.







ALS Association - Certified Treatment Center of Excellence

Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) -**Research Laboratory** 

#### **American Association of Blood Banks**

#### American Association of Critical-Care Nurses' **Beacon Award for Excellence**

- Medical Intensive Care Unit Silver
- Progressive Care Unit Silver
- Surgical Intensive Care Unit Silver

### American College of Radiology

- Computed Tomography
- Mammography
- MRI
- PET / CT
- Radiation Oncology
- Ultrasound
- Ultrasound Breast and Guided Biopsy

American College of Surgeons – Commission on **Cancer Accredited Center** 

American College of Emergency Physicians -Level 1 Geriatric Emergency Department

American Heart Association – Get With the **Guidelines Heart Failure Gold Plus Achievement** 

- 10-Year Recognition (Heart Failure)
- Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll
- Target: Heart Failure Honor Roll

## Accreditations & VA Designations

#### **Joint Commission Accreditation**

- Advanced Inpatient Diabetes Certification
- Behavioral Health
- Home Health Care
- Hospital Accreditation Program
- Methadone Treatment Program

### American Board for Certification in Orthotics, **Prosthetics & Pedorthics**

Orthotic & Prosthetic Lab

#### **Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)**

- Amputee Specialty Program
- Behavioral Health Programs
- Blind Rehabilitation
- Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program
- Employment and Community Services
- Intensive Outpatient Pain Program
- Spinal Cord Injury Service



**Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center** 

**Headache Disorders Center of Excellence** 

**HIV Specialty Telehealth Access Resource (H-STAR)** Center

**Innovators Network Field Site** 

**Multiple Sclerosis – Regional Program** 

Parkinson's Disease Research Education and **Clinical Center (PaDRECC) Consortium Site** 

**Primary Care Education Center of Excellence** 

### **Rehabilitation Research & Development Service**

- Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center
- Cleveland Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center

SimLEARN Certified Center – Advanced – Cleveland **VA Simulation Center** 

**SimLEARN Innovation Cell for Education (SLICE)** 

**Translational Education and Mentoring Center** (VA-TEAM)



## External Designations

	nticoagulation Forum Centers of Excellence ertification – Anticoagulation Clinic
Bl	lue Star Memorial (Parma CBOC)
Fa Pł	ommission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation acilities (CARF) – Behavioral Health Programs, nysical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Amputee, tensive Outpatient Pain, Spinal Cord Injury
	<b>ommission on Dental Accreditation</b> – General ractice Residency Program
	OMISS Network Commission for Accreditation astoral Services
	ollege of American Pathology (CAP) – athology & Laboratory Medicine Services
Тс	p Performer in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality (HEI)
	fectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) – ntimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence
Vi	<b>tersocietal Accreditation Commission</b> – sceral Vascular, Aortic Screening, Peripheral Arte nd Extracranial Cerebrovascular Testing
	<b>bint Commission</b> – Hospital, Behavioral Health, ome Care
N	orthCoast 99 – Top Workplace Winner
Pa	athway to Excellence©
Pı	urple Heart Facility (Louis Stokes Cleveland VAN
In	ociety of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular nagining (SNMMI) – Clinical Radiopharmaceutio nerapy Center of Excellence

#### VA Northeast Ohio

# Cleveland/Akron Community Resource & Referral Centers

VANEOHS is proud to report on the growth and expansion of services provided by the Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) Program in FY23. The CRRC serves Veterans who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness that are eligible for VA health care benefits in the catchment area of our Medical Center. The services provided by the CRRC are outreach, short term case management, program referral, and connection to tangible resources within the VA as well as linkage to resources from the local community. CRRC services are provided in 13 counties that encompass the VANEOHS catchment area and at two physical CRRC locations (located in Akron and Cleveland, Ohio).

During FY23, the CRRC provided services to 1,217 unique Veterans. CRRC staff participated in at least six local Homeless Veteran Stand Down Events that occurred in FY23 across the full catchment area (Cuyahoga, Summit, Stark, Columbiana, Mahoning, and Lorain County).

The VA Homeless Programs and CRRC leadership focused on expanding access to CRRC services in FY23 in several ways. To better provide access to our homeless services, the CRRC expanded the hours of operation to Monday-Friday, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CRRC referrals continued to be accepted from internal VA partners, community homeless providers, the VA Homeless Hotline and through self-referral. In January, a full-time Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Outreach Social Worker was hired at the CRRC with a permanent workstation at the Carl Nunziato VA



Ohio. The HCHV Outreach Social Worker provides CRRC services to Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning, Trumbull, and limited homeless service coordination in Jefferson County, Ohio. In February, a CRRC Social Worker was assigned to work permanently at the Wade Park campus to assist Veterans who identified as homeless (from the VA Emergency Department or Medicine floors) with access to housing and homeless services prior to discharge.

The current staffing of the Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT) located at the CRRC site in Cleveland, Ohio, is a Medical Doctor, Nurse

Practitioner, Registered Nurse, Social Worker, and an Advanced Medical Support Assistant (AMSA). In partnership with VA Homeless Programs leadership, the HPACT team applied and was successfully awarded a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) that will allow the HPACT team to expand services directly into the various counties our Homeless Programs serve. These efforts will offer Veterans who are literally homeless or in a housing crisis, direct access to VA medical care and clinical services, such as immunization and routine healthcare.

The CRRC is committed to our mission and the Veterans served as we look forward into the upcoming year.



## Locations of Care

#### Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center

10701 East Boulevard Cleveland, OH 44106 (216) 791-3800

#### Akron Community Resource & Referral Center

111 E Voris St Akron, OH 44310 (330) 761-7054

#### Akron VA Clinic

55 West Waterloo Road Akron, OH 44319 (330) 724-7715

#### **Canton VA Clinic**

733 Market Avenue South Canton, OH 44702 (330) 489-4600

#### Carl Nunziato VA Clinic

1815 Belmont Avenue Youngstown, OH 44504 (330) 740-9200

#### **Cleveland Community Resource**

& Referral Center 7000 Euclid Ave, 2nd Floor, Suite 202 Cleveland, OH 44103 (216) 391-0264 Ext. 7772 or 2001

#### David F. Winder VA Clinic

1025 South Trimble Road Mansfield, OH 44906 (419) 529-4602

#### East Liverpool VA Clinic

15655 State Route 170 Suite A Calcutta, OH 43920 (330) 386-4303

#### Lake County VA Clinic

35000 Kaiser Court Willoughby, OH 44094 (440) 269-4600

#### Lorain County VA Clinic

5275 North Abbe Road Sheffield Village, OH 44035 (440) 934-9158

#### Midtown Dialysis Center

7000 Euclid Ave Cleveland, OH 44103 (216) 391-0274

#### New Philadelphia VA Clinic

1260 Monroe Street Northwest, Suite 1A New Philadelphia, OH 44663 (330) 602-5339

#### **Outpatient Surgery Center**

8901 Superior Ave Cleveland, OH 44106 (216) 421-3133

#### Parma VA Clinic

8787 Brookpark Road Parma, OH 44129 (216) 739-7000

#### Ravenna VA Clinic

6751 North Chestnut Street Ravenna, OH 44266 (330) 296-3641

#### Sandusky VA Clinic

Firelands Regional Medical Center South Campus 1912 Hayes Avenue Sandusky, OH 44870 (419) 609-1460

#### Warren VA Clinic

1460 Tod Avenue Northwest Warren, OH 44485 (330) 392-0311