TODAY’S PRESENTATION

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Office of Rural Health (ORH)
- Helping Rural Veterans
- Rural Telehealth
- Telehealth Successes
- Closing/Q&A
“...to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan...”
- Abraham Lincoln, 1865

Today, we say to care for those “who shall have borne the battle,” and for their families and survivors.

VA Core Values:
Integrity · Commitment · Advocacy · Respect · Excellence
VA OVERVIEW

- Established in 1930
- Elevated to cabinet level in 1989
- U.S. federal government’s second largest department (after the Department of Defense)

Three main components:
- Veterans Health Administration
  - Office of Rural Health
- Veterans Benefit Administration
- National Cemetery Administration
170 VA medical centers

766 Community Based Outpatient Clinics and health care centers

293 Other outpatient and/or residential service sites (includes mobile medical and telehealth units)

300 readjustment counseling centers (Vet centers)

80 mobile Vet centers
Office of Rural Health
In cooperation with the medical, rehabilitation, health services and cooperative studies research programs of the Veterans Health Administration, assist the VA Under Secretary for Health to conduct, coordinate, promote and disseminate research into issues affecting Veterans who reside in rural communities.

Develop, refine and promulgate policies, best practices, lessons learned, and innovative and successful programs to increase access to care for rural Veterans.
OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH’S GOALS

GOAL

PROMOTE
health and well-being in the rural Veteran population

GENERATE & DIFFUSE
knowledge regarding rural Veteran health

ORH VISION
America’s Veterans thrive in rural communities.

ORH MISSION
To improve the health and well-being of rural Veterans by increasing their access to care and services.

STRENGTHEN
community health care infrastructure where rural Veterans reside

INFORM
health care policy that impacts rural Veterans and rural health care delivery

ChooseVA
July 2018
ORH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

• 2018 portfolio includes more than 45 national access initiatives adopted at 97 percent of VA medical centers across the country

• All are designed to increase access to care for rural Veterans
  – **Rural Promising Practices** are field-tested, innovative projects that meet ORH criteria demonstrating increased access to care for rural Veterans
    • Six in mentored implementation spread to more than 50 sites across VA
  – **Enterprise-Wide Initiatives** enable VA to rapidly address systemic health care and access challenges experienced by Veterans in rural communities and expand national program office access efforts to sites serving rural Veterans

• ORH leverages resources to study, innovate and spread Enterprise-Wide Initiatives through local and national partnerships
FY 2018 ENTERPRISE-WIDE INITIATIVES OUTCOMES

- **1.2 million+ Veterans** estimated to be impacted through Enterprise-Wide Initiatives
- **$237 million** ORH funding for Enterprise-Wide Initiatives
- **45+ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives** in coordination with VHA program office partners
- **97 percent** of VA medical centers across all 18 Veterans Integrated Service Networks

July 2018
OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH OVERVIEW

- $250M total annual budget
- FY2018 portfolio includes 45+ Enterprise-Wide Initiatives adopted at 97% of VA medical centers across the country and U.S. territories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORH Enterprise-Wide Initiatives</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2016</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2017</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2018</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2019 (Projected)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans Served</td>
<td>746,000</td>
<td>1M</td>
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<td>VHA Sites Served</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>1,168</td>
<td>1,621</td>
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<td>Expenditures</td>
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July 2018
Veteran Rural Health Resource Centers (VRHRC)
RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTERS LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

38 US CODE § 7308

VETERANS RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTERS

- Improve understanding of the challenges rural Veterans face
- Identify disparities in the availability of health care to rural Veterans
- Formulate practices and programs to deliver health care to rural Veterans
- Develop special practices and products for the benefit of rural Veterans system-wide
RURAL PROMISING PRACTICES

• Mentored implementation support
  – Clinical Video Telehealth Comprehensive Care to Veterans with Multiple Sclerosis
  – Community Clergy Training to Support Veterans’ Mental Health
  – Geriatric Scholars Training Program
  – Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center Consultation Services
  – Remote, Home-Based Delivery of Cardiac Rehabilitation
  – Telehealth Collaborative Care for Rural Veterans with HIV Infection

One-page fact sheets and in-depth issue briefs on each Rural Promising Practice are available online.
ENTERPRISE-WIDE INITIATIVES

NATIONAL VA HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS

- Primary Care Services
- Mental Health Services
- Specialty Care Services
- Access Partnerships
- Transportation Services
- Workforce Training And Education Services

ORH
VHA Office of Rural Health

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

July 2018
Helping Rural Veterans
• For 2018, ORH increased funding of 10 mental health Enterprise-Wide Initiatives by 83 percent to $53 million dollars.

• Areas of focus include:
  - Telemental Health Hubs
  - Social Work in Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT)
  - Military Sexual Trauma Web-Based Therapy
  - Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement
  - Community Clergy Training Program
  - Rural Veteran Suicide Prevention Program
  - Vets Prevail Web-Based Behavioral Support
  - Support for Caregivers of Veterans
  - Advanced Care Planning via Group Visits
  - Simulation-Based Learning for Suicide Prevention

July 2018
Rural Telehealth
VHA TELEHEALTH: WHERE ARE TODAY

**Where VA Telehealth Occurs**

- **Home**
  - Home Telehealth Remote Monitoring
  - VA Video Connect

- **Clinic**
  - Video Telehealth - Primary Care
  - Video Telehealth - Mental Health
  - Store and Forward Telehealth

- **Hospital**
  - TeleICU
  - TeleStroke

**How VA Implements Telehealth**

- **Facility**
  - Telehealth encounters delivered to facility CBOCs and into the home

- **Regional**
  - Telehealth Resource Hubs
    - TeleDermatology
    - TeleMental Health
    - TelePrimary Care
    - TeleRehabilitation
    - TeleSleep

- **National**
  - Expert TeleConsultation
    - National TeleMental Health Center
    - TeleRadiology
    - TeleGenomics

*ChooseVA*

July 2018
WHERE WE ARE TODAY: VHA DATA

VHA Telehealth: 2017

- >2.18 million episodes of care
- > 727,000 Veterans served
  - 45% Rural
  - 900 VA Sites of care
  - 88-93% Satisfaction
  - >50 specialty areas
- ~12% of Veterans received an element of their care through a Telehealth modality
- 13,000 Veterans received care in their home or non-VA location
- $106.4 million in funding was dispersed in Fiscal Year 17 to more than 20 Enterprise-Wide Initiatives involving telehealth
TYPES OF VA TELEHEALTH

Clinical Video Health
- Real-time video consultation
- More than 45 clinical specialties, including primary care, mental health and rehab

Home TeleHealth
- Uses in-home and mobile technology to manage diabetes, kidney disease, congestive heart failure and other chronic conditions

Store and Forward
- Allows visual images, sound and video to be evaluated by experts thousands of miles away. Some specialties include:
  - retinal imaging
  - dermatology
  - wound care
  - spirometry
  - sleep studies
VA RESOURCES

www.va.gov

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255, press 1

VA General Help Line 1-844-698-2311

(You will hear a menu of options that you can select from to route you to the right place depending on your inquiry.)
Office of Rural Health
rural.health.inquiry@va.gov
(202) 632-8615

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July 2018