

Department of
Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: JUL 17 2015

From: Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health (10A)

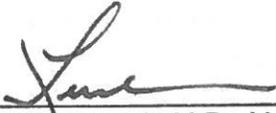
Subj: Charge Memo – Community Care Future State Transition Team

To: VHA Central Office (VHACO) Senior Leaders, VISN Directors, Facility Directors and VISN Business Implementation Managers

Thru: Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N) 

1. Given the proposed organizational and statutory changes to the authorities of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health (PDUSH) is chartering a Transition Team to lead planning for a future state in which VHA Community Care is fully integrated, coordinated, and established. The team will include field, CBO and program office staff and industry experts as appropriate.
2. In order to accomplish this charge, the Transition Team will utilize a framework built around industry-recognized health plan capabilities already endorsed by the National Leadership Council. The Transition Team will assume the following to be true in order to adequately plan for the future state:
 - The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) will be a permanent program.
 - VHA must rationalize and consolidate multiple current state health care plans.
 - Legislative changes will be required to make VCP more widely applicable.
 - There will be a separate appropriation for Community Care.
 - A plan describing the path forward is due to Congress in November 2015.
3. To determine the best approach for VHA's Community Care Program, the Transition Team is charged with the following:
 - Create a strategy for consolidation of the various VHA purchased care programs, including identification of the legislative, regulatory and programmatic changes required in order to fully develop and implement the Community Care program.
 - Assess the purchased care current state process and organization in order to systematically improve the VHA health plan capability, operating model, and structure.
 - Construct the future state design, presuming that Choice is the only method by which VHA will purchase Community Care (with the exception of sharing agreements with DoD and Indian Health Service, Tribal agreements, and affiliation agreements in which purchased care is an inherent component in the delivery of a VA Medical Center health care program).
 - Insure that health plan transformational activities identified at the 2015 Strategic Planning Summit (1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 4.1 and 4.2) are incorporated into the planning and implementation of a future health plan.
 - Develop and deliver a transition roadmap and timeline to senior leadership.

4. The Transition Team will be chaired by Mr. Joe Dalpiaz. Mr. Dalpiaz is responsible for leading the Transition Team, appointing members of the Team, identifying subject matter experts to augment the Team's analysis, providing weekly updates on the status of the initiative to the PDUSH, creating the transition roadmap, and delivering the roadmap to senior leadership. The Transition Team will utilize expertise from CBO, VHACO, VISNs, Facilities, and other Federal agencies. To ensure continued success and coordination of effort, CBO staff (including the Chief Business Officer) responsible for the enactment of the various purchased care programs will act on Mr. Dalpiaz's instructions relating to the development and implementation of Community Care. Program support will be provided by the Office of Strategic Integration (10A5), Deloitte Consulting, and CBO.
5. The Workgroup should plan to complete their review of the current state and provide a final plan, including a transition roadmap and timeline, to senior leadership no later than October 23, 2015 in order to allow time for senior leadership endorsement and approval.
6. Thank you for your support and work on this important initiative.



James Tuchschmidt, M.D., M.M.
Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health

7/16/15
Date