

VISN 19 Network Director Monthly Update

Glen W. Grippen

February 2009



Secretary Shinseki has appointed W. Scott Gould as Deputy Secretary. He has a strong background in IT and comes to us from IBM. The Secretary has also appointed Tammy Duckworth as Assistant Secretary Office of Public & Information Affairs. The Secretary has been invited to visit Colorado by the Colorado Congressional delegation and Montana by Senator Tester. Calendar not set yet.



ECHCS has appointed a new Associate Director, Ms. Peggy Kearns. At Fitzsimons, the Office of General Counsel and the City of Aurora agreed on contractual provisions for the pool during the first week of February 2009. Accordingly, plans to finalize the transaction with the City are underway. Expect to close on the property by February 27, 2009. The A/E has conducted user groups on the development of the schematic design, and plans to submit the SD-1 level design documents to the VA by March 17, 2009. Work is proceeding with City of Aurora Planning Department to discuss traffic, parking, and access issues for the entire campus.



Colorado Springs (COS) HCC: The preferred site has been identified and the building layout has been approved. The VISN and VAMC continue to analyze the cost associated with the build-to-suit lease option.



Billings Montana CBOC Phase I Health Care Center contractor broke ground on 1/20/09. Footings and foundation have been completed. Contractor to start forming walls 2/16/09. We are on track to meet the move in date of September 2009. The clinic will be expanded to include same day surgery by 2010. VAMTHCS hosted an open house at the new Havre CBOC on 2/13/09.



Search for new SLC Director continues. Anticipate a selection soon. VASLCHCS opened their West Salt Lake City CBOC on 1/23/09.



Grand Junction VAMC is on track to open a Telehealth Outreach Clinic in Montezuma Creek on March 1, 2009.



Cheyenne VAMC will be hosting a Ribbon Cutting Event for the newly relocated Fort Collins VA Clinic, 2509 Research Blvd., Fort Collins at 10 a.m. on March 6, 2009.



Emphasis continues to be placed on Home Care and Telemedicine. In VISN 19, a VISN Palliative Care Coordinator is in the process of being hired. VISN 19 is also submitting proposals to the VA Office of Rural Health with a focus on Telemedicine.