



# Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Office of Construction & Facilities Management

## Veterans Affairs Construction Update Building Innovation 2014

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# VA Mission & Vision

## ■ Mission

- To fulfill President Lincoln's promise “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan” by serving and honoring the men and women who are America’s veterans.

## ■ Vision

- To provide veterans the world-class benefits and services they have earned - and to do so by adhering to the highest standards of compassion, commitment, excellence, professionalism, integrity, accountability, and stewardship



# VA Services for Veterans

- Health Care (FY 12)
  - 8.7 Million Enrollees
  - 83 Million Outpatient Visits This Year
  - 703,500 Inpatients Admissions
- Benefits (FY 12)
  - 4.3 Million Veterans will receive Compensation
  - 1,000,000 Veterans will receive Education Support
  - 540,000 Veterans will receive Guaranteed Home Loans Support
- Memorial Benefit (FY 13)
  - 125,000 Internments in National Cemeteries
  - 3.2 Million Graves Maintained
  - 358,000 Headstones Provided for Veterans in Private Cemeteries



# VA Facilities Inventory

- 6,016 Buildings
- 1,895 Leases
- 173,400,000 SF
- 34,000 Land acres
- Average age approaching 60 years



# VA Construction Program

- Major Construction
  - Projects with a cost greater than \$10 Million
  - Requires a line item appropriation by Congress
  - Also requires a specific authorizing legislation for medical projects
  - Typically designed by an Architectural/Engineering Firm and constructed by a general contractor
- Minor Construction
  - Projects with a cost less than \$10 Million
  - Appropriation by Congress not project specific
  - Designed by an Architectural/Engineering Firm and constructed by a general contractor
  - Typically administered at each medical center, cemetery or VBA office building



# VA Construction Program

- **Non-Reoccurring Maintenance (NRM)**
  - Primarily address correcting facility deficiencies and renovating existing space Including the repair or replacement of existing building systems
  - Typically administered at each medical center or cemetery
  - NRM projects are funded through the VHA's medical facilities account or NCA's operations and maintenance account
  - Designed by an Architectural/Engineering Firm and constructed by a general contractor
- **Green Management Program**
  - Under Control of the Office of Asset and Enterprise Management
  - Energy Conservation Programs
  - Energy Generation Programs
  - Energy Assessments



# VA Construction Program

## ■ Leasing

- Congressional approvals if rent is greater than \$1 million
- Varying approvals required based on space and rent levels
- CFM's Real Property Service manages the acquisition of large leases
- Local or VISN personnel manage smaller leases
- Typically contract with a developer
- Leasing program at risk due to CBO scoring of leases



# The Beginning of Change

## VA Facility Management Transformation (VAFM) 2009

- Huge, aging strategic asset
- Major annual investment (\$Bs)
- Performance trends down
- Backlogs large and growing
- Chronic Under-investment
- Multiple processes and owners
- Dramatic improvement opportunities





# VAFM

- Administrations and CFM working together
- Additional Planning Staff Hired
- Market Based Integrated Planning – includes all Administrations
- Post Occupancy Evaluation Program
- Facility Management Automation Tools
- Integrated Master Schedules
- Performance Metrics Program - Benchmarking



# Construction Review Council

In April 2012, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs established the Construction Review Council (CRC) to serve as the single point of oversight and performance accountability for the planning, budgeting, execution, and delivery of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) real property capital asset program.



# Construction Review Council

- Detailed Review of real property capital program
- Deep dive into troubled projects
- Four Major Findings:
  - Requirements Development
  - Design Quality
  - Funding
  - Program Management & Automation



# VA Facility Initiatives VBA

- Continue to utilize Class A office space under GSA Leases
- Co-locating office space with medical centers
- Centralize mail consolidation
- Configuration of Regional Offices to an Electronic Regional Office



# VA Facility Initiatives NCA

- Utilizing Design Build delivery format to increase speed to open new National Cemeteries
- Moving away from Lowest Price Technically Acceptable Proposals to Best Value
- New Materials
  - Aluminum Cap for Columbarium
  - Artificial turf for high traffic areas



# VA Facility Initiatives VHA

- Standardizing Designs starting with Community Based Outreach Clinics (CBOC)
- Continuous review of Minor Program for compliance
- Reinforcing the need for VISN Strategic Plans and the integration with the VISN Integrated Plans
- Establishment of National Activations Office



# Issues Facing VA

- CBO Scoring of leases as Capital leases
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
  - Report: Honoring Our Nation's Veterans: Saving their Places of Health Care and Healing – released November 2013
- Aging infrastructure and a lack of funds to sustain/Backlog of projects and Funding



# Thank You

- Available Resources
  - CFM Web Site: [www.cfm.va.gov](http://www.cfm.va.gov)
  - VA FY 2013 Budget & Capital Plan:
    - [www.va.gov/budget/products.asp](http://www.va.gov/budget/products.asp)