Cerner Corporation and VA-OEHRM Impressed with “Can Do” Enthusiasm at MGVAMC

Staff from VA’s new Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (VA-OEHRM) joined the Kansas City, MO based Cerner Corporation team for a memorable three day Current State Review (CSR) site visit to Spokane in early July as part of Cerner’s first deep dive into developing and integrating a new Electronic Health Record at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC.

“We have had an amazing week with you all here and we couldn’t be more pleased with the enthusiasm and support you’re showing as we embark on this journey together,” said Rod Laster (pictured middle left) Enterprise Systems Manager for VA-OEHRM.

At left, is our local Project Manager Eddie Steetle who is tasked to ensure our site and teams here are prepared for implementing the 18-month Cerner deployment starting in Oct.’18.

MGVAMC Celebrates 70 Years with Lilac City Community Band Performance

More than 150 Veterans, guests, and VA community partners all turned out for Spokane Lilac City Community Band’s outstanding live musical performance celebrating MGVAMC’s 70th Anniversary July 21st! Follow this link to facebook for more photos!

The evening concert also featured a resource fair and mini car show as many Veterans, guests and CLC residents openly conveyed their joy and delight with the event! Band Director Karl Mote and more than 60 musicians played for 90 minutes during a beautiful evening on the front lawn of the medical center!

Leadership Honors Employees During Awards Ceremony

Pictured with Dr. Robert J. Fischer, Medical Center Director and her supervisor Dr. Hugh Conway, Chief Dental Clinic, Lisa Van Dyke, of Dental Service is the Employee of the Month for June 2018!

And, Cindy Slingerland, of Care in the Community (CITC) is our winner for May! The two were among dozens of MGVAMC employees recognized on July 12th!

MGVAMC Urgent Care Center Expanded Hours 7am-7pm Begins August 5, 2018

Veterans Town Hall

Tuesday, July 31, 2018
2:30p.m - 4:00p.m.
VFW Post 1548 Libby, Montana

Mann-Grandstaff VAMC Leadership and the Libby, MT Rural Health Clinic will welcome Veterans to Libby, Montana’s Harper Erdman VFW Post 1548
114 W. 2nd Street - Libby, MT 59923

* Open to the Public
* Veterans Service Organizations
* VA Community Partners
* Congressional Offices
* Media may be present

* Veterans & Families
* Stakeholder Groups
MGVAMC Police Welcome National Trainers from Training Academy back to Spokane for Awareness/Active Shooter Overview

VA’s Office of Security and Law Enforcement (OSLE) trainers are back in Spokane this week, providing individualized training scenarios and methods to remain safe while at work. Earlier this Spring, VA Police Chief Jeff Hayter welcomed the team from Arkansas to MGVAMC to help ensure employees remain safe in a work environment—especially if/when there is ever an active shooter or immediate threat to the VA worker.

This week, additional training is underway each day for frontline employees and providers who typically come into direct, face-to-face contact with patients. The all-day classes are being held at nearby Spokane Falls Community College and begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m. Employees were asked to notify their supervisor before attending, to ensure clinic operations are not interrupted or delayed. Nearly 200 attended the training.

MGVAMC Pharmacy Service Projects Earn VA “Shark Tank” Consideration for Best Practices

Pharmacy Service staff continue to impress Veterans, VISN 20 and national VA leaders with their continuous quality improvement efforts producing dramatic, positive results!

Pictured at left are some of our team members (including Dr. Sunil Wadhwani, Chief, Pharmacy Service). Last November, they created and tested a VA Systems Redesign improvement project aimed at reducing use of Direct Oral Anticoagulants. DOACs are a class of high-risk/high-benefit medications that require consistent, evidence-based dosing, patient education, and monitoring to support The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal (NPSG) 03.05.01

This project is one of two submitted by MGVAMC’s Pharmacy Service and now under consideration for VISN 20 and/or VA national awards! Patient interest in the DOAC clinic has grown from 13% in July 2017 to more than 73% by May 2018! They did so because of the direct outreach Pharmacy made to Veteran patients. The team developed new Anticoagulation consults and order menus with our Primary Care and Pharmacy anticoagulation champions.

Pharmacy’s Anticoagulation Clinic has achieved excellence in warfarin management and identified opportunities to improve DOAC management. The team created strategic improvements to enroll more patients into long-term DOAC; improving the documentation of standardized patient education, and developing anticoagulation order and consult menus. The project was elevated into the semi-finals of the “Shark Tank” competition with results expected to be announced soon. This is the first of a two-part profile of our Pharmacy unit and the continued success they’re creating at MGVAMC!
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN CHARGE
July 23, 2018

I am pleased to announce the appointment of SreyRam Kuy, MD, MHS, FACS as the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Office of Community Care, VA Central Office and Kameron Matthews, M.D, JD, FAACP as the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Office of Community Care, VA Central Office.

Dr. Kuy has demonstrated exceptional leadership in her career, including serving as a Special Advisor within the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as well as in her role as the Associate Chief of Staff at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston, TX. In addition, she has served as the Chief Medical Officer for Medicaid with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. Dr. Kuy received her Doctor of Medicine at Oregon State University and her Masters in Health Science from Yale University. Additionally, she completed the VA Scholar and Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellowship as well as the Presidential Leadership Scholars Program.

Dr. Kameron Matthews is a board-certified family physician with a focus on underserved medicine and advocacy. She is honored to been awarded the 2017 National Minority Quality Forum’s 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health, 2015 National Medical Association Council for the Concerns of Women Physicians Emerging Trailblazer Award, the 2015 NACHC Health Professions Education and Training Award, and the 2015 Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Health Braintrust Congressman Louis Stokes Public Health Advocate Award. Dr. Matthews assumed the role of Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Community Care effective July 23, 2018.

American Legion’s First Female National Commander
Denise Rohan Likes What She Sees at MGVAMC while in Spokane area for annual WA State Convention

“VA would not exist if it were not for the American Legion and its charter approved by Congress in 1919,” explained Medical Center Director Dr. Robert Fischer as he addressed Legion members during their annual WA State Convention in Spokane Valley last week. Guests learned VA was created 11-years after the American Legion and today, 88-years later, VA serves more than 9-Million Veterans who want to achieve their health care goals—with VA support.

Just days before the speech, American Legion’s National Commander, Denise Rohan (U.S. Army Veteran), and several VIPs met with Dr. Fischer and toured the facility with VA Voluntary Service's James Deen (top right). Commander Rohan voiced her pleasure for seeing the facility, including our 5-star Community Living Center! The State convention was very well attended by current military personnel and Veterans. Dr. Fischer met for the first time with Spokane Valley Mayor Rod Higgins and Ms. Lourdes “Alfie” Alvarado-Ramos, Director, WA State Veterans Affairs who is a U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major (Retired). As head of WA DVA, she oversees local managers of the WA State Veterans Home in Spokane, and the E. Washington Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake.
MNVAMC's Clinical Educators and Services Present Resource Fair for Veterans and New VA Employees

Imagine having a variety of information, all related to the health care services, programs, and people supporting operations at the medical center, all easily accessible and in one place? The idea turned into a reality as Clinical Educator Kim Connolley, MSN, RN led an enthusiastic group of staff who displayed and presented their program or service to Veteran patients and new employees.

The quarterly resource fair allowed guests to meet Subject Matter Experts from many areas, including: Homeless Veterans, Women’s Health, Social Work Service, the Veterans Choice program, Employee Engagement, Emergency and active shooter awareness training.

Other services represented included Suicide Prevention, our VA LGBT Committee, Nursing Education, career advancement, and Infection Control.

The quarterly resource fairs are designed to educate staff and Veteran patients in a one-stop-shop setting to meet the experts and learn more about VA services.

Links to Helpful New Resources for VA Employees

New VA Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization

New VA Mission Act FAQ’s & Info

New Hatch Act Info

VA Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Guide

VBA News

MGVAMC’s Behavioral Health Service Presents 7th Annual Community Mental Health Summit

VA community partners and Mental Health Professionals are invited to join Mann-Grandstaff VAMC’s Behavioral Health Service team at Gonzaga University August 28th! MGVAMC’s Point of Contact is Alaina Taylor (USAF Veteran) at 434-7710.

The annual summit brings local providers, agencies, and non-profits together for a day long retreat (including CEUs) focusing on the mental health needs remaining in Spokane and the surrounding area. Ending Veterans homelessness is a critical component to the effort and thankfully this year, MGVAMC opened its new Health Care for Homeless Clinic (HCHV) at 504 E. 2nd Ave. downtown. (follow this link for ribbon cutting photos).

Follow this link to new video showcasing local efforts, including VA’s outreach to homeless Veterans.
A Message from the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center Executive Leadership Team  

July 20, 2018

Dear Valued MGVAMC Staff and Colleagues:

On behalf of the executive leadership team, Dr. Rebecca Meiers, Dr. Scott Nye, Darci Raschke, Rick Richards and myself, please accept our heartfelt thanks for your magnificent performance during the recent Cerner Corporation/VA Central Office (VACO) and VA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) visits this past week. We received numerous compliments from these groups such as:

🌟 “This is the most beautiful VA hospital and campus I have ever visited.”
🌟 “I can’t believe this hospital is 70 years old!”
🌟 “You have the most wonderful and enthusiastic staff.”
🌟 “Even though we know you had several things going on at the same time, we felt like we were the only activity going on.”
🌟 “I was so impressed with how well your staff get along with each other.”

Special thanks to our Environmental Management and Engineering Services who work so hard behind the scenes every day to make our aged facility beautiful and comfortable.

We are so proud to be a part of this wonderful staff and hospital. There is absolutely no doubt we can continue to achieve great things for our Veterans and each other. Have a wonderful weekend – you deserve it!

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. FISCHER, MD, MGVAMC Director

Below left: Cerner Corporation of Kansas City, MO spent three days at Spokane’s Mann-Grandstaff VAMC conducting a Current State Review as part of VA/DoD/Cerner’s Electronic Health Record Modernization project. Above, is Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke, VISN 20 Network Director Michael Murphy (far-right), Dr. Robert Fischer, VAMC Director, and members of the new VA-Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (VA-OEHRM), and Fairchild AFB’s 92nd Medical Group - July 2018.