

To NACHC's Veterans Interest Group—

Thank you for your commitment to serving Veterans in your communities and being part of NACHC's Veterans Interest Group (VIG). The VIG provides the opportunity for people who work with health centers to informally network and share information about issues that impact services to Veterans. Our focus is on providing policy updates, sharing promising practices and identifying emerging issues related to Veterans and health center efforts to serve them.

**YOUR INPUT NEEDED:** If you are with a health center, please take this quick ten- minute survey regarding health center involvement in the **VA's Choice Program and Community Care Network**. Your responses will inform NACHC's awareness of these programs level of penetration across the country.

- **Survey link is open March 6-March 12, 2020**  
[https://nachc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8xIjyHyMbqv5Wld](https://nachc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8xIjyHyMbqv5Wld)

**P&I FORUM - MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** We will be convening an in-person Veterans Interest Group meeting Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 4:30-5:30 PM/EDT in the Hoover Room, Marriot Wardman with remote dial-in available. Included on the agenda will be:

- Updates on the VA Community Care Program authorized by the MISSION Act
- VA's recently announced community dental pilot program
- Emerging issues discussion

Please spread the word about this meeting and encourage others to join us on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

- An outlook calendar appointment with remote teleconference login has been sent to the VIG mailing list.

**CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE:** Veterans committees in the House and Senate monitor VA's implementation of the MISSION Act. These committees exploring:

1. Is VA attempting to "privatize" services provided to Veterans;
2. Are Veterans waiting too long to see a provider; and
3. Are providers being paid in a timely fashion.

**STATUS OF THE VA'S COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM:** Except for Alaska, the VA has Third Party Administrators (TPAs) in place for all parts of the USA. The TPAs are working to establish community provider networks connected to each Veteran Medical Center. This is a major undertaking and proceeding slowly pace. Since these networks will be tied to individual Medical Centers, it is imperative that health centers reach out to the VA Center nearest them to be recognized as a community provider. Find your closest "VA Health" facility at <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>

**STATUS OF THE VA'S COMMUNITY DENTAL ACCESS PILOT:** Inspired by the work of FQHCs around the country, staff in the VA's Innovation Office have learned how some health centers are already providing Veterans with needed dental services. Dental benefits are very limited for VHA-enrolled Veterans. The VA Innovation Office is seeking to implement a pilot program that would formalize the way health centers can provide dental services to Veterans. NACHC recently provided formal comments on the pilot program, which were distributed to the VIG in January and are on our website at <http://www.nachc.org/health-center-issues/special-populations/veterans/> This topic will be discussed at our March 17th Veterans Interest Group meeting.

**KEEP IN TOUCH:** If you have questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to NACHC's staff leads for Veterans issues: Dick Bohrer or Gina Capra at [trainings@nachc.org](mailto:trainings@nachc.org) or call (301)347-0400. Thanks for all the work you do, and we look forward to seeing you in March!