



Veterans Healthy Times

VA Boston Healthcare System

Medical Foster Homes

VA Boston Healthcare System has joined a nationwide initiative to offer our veterans an alternative to institutionalized long term care: Medical Foster Homes (MFH). Medical Foster Homes will provide care, in a non-institutional, community based family setting, for eligible veterans of all ages who are dependent, chronically or terminally ill. This alternative long term level of care will allow veterans to have the option of remaining in a community family setting, when they lack the social supports to remain in their own homes. In a medical foster home, the veteran will receive round the clock supervision and care from their caregiver, as well as medical care from one of the VA Homecare teams.



This is a unique collaboration between the veteran, their family, the community caregiver and the VA. The veteran will receive daily personal assistance, and supervision of their medical care from the caregiver. The VA will provide medical care and caregiver education in the Medical Foster Home through either the Home Based Primary Care team or the SCI Home Care team. The caregiver will receive monthly compensation from the veteran based on the level of assistance the veteran requires. The veteran's satisfaction with the home and coordination of services will be overseen by the MFH Coordinator.

There are many benefits to this new long term care option including providing our veterans with a safe and therapeutic family environment where their medical care needs are met through the end of their lives.

There are currently several homes established in the Boston and Brockton areas, with additional homes going through the application and inspection processes.

If you would like more information about the MFH's or have any questions, please contact the Medical Foster Home Coordinator, Caitlin Oliveira, LISCW at 857 203 5681

Latest Generation Committee

Summer Edition

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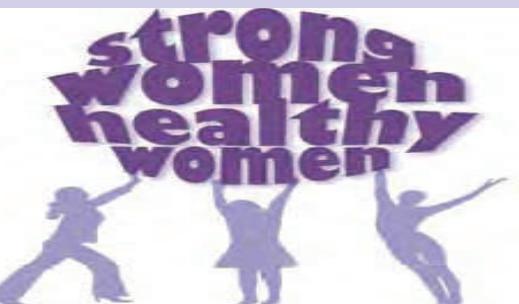
What's New at the VA 4

VA Boston
Healthcare System



VA Boston Healthcare System:

Women Veterans' Expo



On behalf of VA Boston Healthcare System, we are excited to extend an invitation to participate in our first-ever *Women Veterans' Expo*.

The event will be held on **September 12, 2009, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Shaw's Center** in Brockton, MA. Participation will be free for attendees, and lunch will be provided for all.

Our goal for this event is to recognize the contributions made by our growing population of women veterans, including not only those who have recently returned from Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, but also women veterans from other eras as well.

We envision this Expo as a venue that will enable us to provide our women veterans with various educational materials

and lectures, health promotion activities, and disease prevention screenings in a convenient, warm and welcoming environment.

As the date draws nearer, more details will be available at www.boston.va.gov/news_and_Media/expo.asp. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Public Affairs.

“No Veteran dies alone”

For months before one of our Veteran hospice patients passed, Courtney Dos Santos, LICSW, worked to help get his affairs in order. His wife was in a nursing home in another area of the state, and his stepchildren did not want to assume responsibility. Ms. Dos Santos and hospice volunteers John Ramara and Bill

McGrann were his regular companions up until the time of his death, when they learned there was no one to make his funeral arrangements.

Ms. Dos Santos contacted Mary Dunn, Supervisor of Patient Services for assistance, who contacted administrators at the

wife's nursing home and the staff at Bourne National Cemetery. It was decided that Ms. Dunn would take care of plans for the funeral, but as arrangements progressed, she learned that there would likely be no attendants at the funeral. With no one attending, the Veteran would be buried with quiet dignity...but without a military funeral honors ceremony. When she shared the news with Ms. Dos Santos, Mr. Ramara, and Mr. McGrann, they decided they would all attend to honor the Veteran. When the day for the funeral came, the four from VA Boston were, in fact, the only mourners present.

Ms. Dos Santos accepted the folded flag that had draped the casket on behalf of the Veteran's widow. One of the volunteers commented that he was proud to be able to attend with them, and reiterated his oft-spoken motto that “no Veteran dies alone”.

Courtney Dos Santos (left) and Mary Dunn





VA Welcomes Vets Home with New Web Site

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has launched its new "Returning Veterans" Web site --

www.oefoif.va.gov -- to welcome home Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts with a social, Veteran-centric Web site focusing on their needs and questions.

"VA is entering the world of Web 2.0, because that's where this generation of Veterans is already communicating," said Dr. Gerald M. Cross, VA's Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Health.



"We're opening our doors to them virtually to let them know what they can expect when they step through our doors in reality."

The Web site will feature videos, Veteran stories, and a blog where Veterans are encouraged to post feedback. The site also will restructure the traditional index-of-benefits format found on other VA pages into question-based, categorized, and easily navigated links by topic. This

will allow Veterans to discover available benefits as they explore areas of interest.

"We hope our returning Veterans find this site easy and helpful, but also engaging," Dr. Cross said. "As the site grows, we will be linking to Veterans' blogs and highlighting more of their own stories from their own views. We are their VA, so we are eager to provide a forum for Veterans to discuss their lives."

After Hours Telephone Care program

VA New England now offers telephone advice services to veterans 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Veterans will use this after hours services by dialing the same telephone numbers used for advice during the day. The After Hours Telephone Care Program staff will have full electronic access to your appointments and health records.

Services provided by the VA Regional Call Center include:

Medical Services—Advice, self-help medical information, medication education and triage

Appointments—Confirmation, notification of cancellations and/or reschedule appointments

Prescriptions Assistance—Prescription information, medication order status, auto or telephone refill system, request renewals

Services offered at each site.



If you need some advice the VA is a phone call away!
1-800-865-3384

VA Boston Healthcare System

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We're on the web
www.boston.va.gov

The Real Warriors Campaign

The Real Warriors Campaign is an initiative launched by the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) to promote the processes of building resilience, facilitating recovery and supporting reintegration of returning service members, veterans and their families. The campaign features a broad-based call to action, including information for families and employers on what to expect when service members come home and how to support and encourage them to seek help for their psychological needs.

For more information about the campaign, visit the Real Warriors Campaign at www.realwarriors.net. Click the public service announcements featuring service members telling their stories of seeking treatment and achieving successful military and post-military careers. View informational posters and flyers and read service-specific content designed for active duty service members, veterans, Guard & Reserve, families and health professionals.

DCoE Outreach Center -For Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Information and Resources. 866-966-1020



For our littlest visitors

As more and more younger veterans visit VA Boston, they are often accompanied by their families. In an effort to accommodate their needs, EMS and Engineering have worked to install "baby-changing stations" at each of the campuses. The next time someone inquires, please direct them to the nearest location:

Jamaica Plain:

C1-31, bldg 1, 3rd floor men's room

C3-28, bldg 1, 1st floor women's room

Brockton:

A202, bldg 3, 2nd floor unisex bathroom

West Roxbury

GB-105, bldg 1, ground floor unisex bathroom

A-G64, bldg 2, ground floor female bathroom

GB-114, bldg 3, ground floor female bathroom

GB-116, bldg 3, ground floor male bathroom



Baby changing stations have been added