



*Quarterly Newsletter For Veterans and Stakeholders*

**WINTER 2019**

**Upcoming Events**

**January**

- Jan 1: New Year's Day
- Jan 7: Women Veterans and VA Health Care, Hoss's Corporate Headquarters 7p.m.
- Jan 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 30: Saxton Enrollment Outreach, Saxton Library, 315 Front St, Saxton PA 16678 11a.m.-3p.m.

**February**

- Feb 14: Valentines Day
- Feb 18: Presidents Day
- Feb 25: Green Day
- Feb 28: James E. Van Zandt VAMC Open House 12p.m.-3p.m.

**March**

- Mar 16: Enrollment Outreach Fire Hall, Main St in Carrollton 1-4p.m.
- Mar 25: Green Day
- Mar 29: Vietnam Veterans Day
- Mar 30: Penn State Veterans Outreach Fair, Lewis Katz Law Building/ Penn State University Park Campus 10a.m.-5p.m.

**CONTACTS**

**Community Based Outpatient Clinics**

- **DuBois, Pennsylvania**  
Phone: 877-626-2500
- **Huntingdon VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic**  
Phone: 814-542-2800  
Fax: 814-542-2886
- **Indiana VA Outpatient Clinic**  
Phone: 724-349-8900
- **Johnstown, Pennsylvania**  
Phone: 877-626-2500
- **State College, Pennsylvania Community Based Outpatient Clinic**  
Phone: 877-626-2500

**Important Contacts**

- Primary Care:  
814-943-8164
- Urgent Care:  
814-943-8164
- Veterans Crisis Line:  
800-273-8255
- Public Affairs Office:  
814-943-8164 Ext. 7404
- Pharmacy:  
814-940-7829
- Patient Advocate:  
814-943-8164 Ext. 7489
- Eligibility/Enrollment:  
814-940-6384

**Please update your email with our Enrollment Specialists at 877-626-2500**

## *Message from the Director*

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Completing my first full year as your medical center director has been challenging and rewarding. We have increased in more than 17 services and added more than 100 new employees between our main facility and our five community based outpatient clinics. We are proud to say that those 880 employees, more than 280 who are Veterans, are dedicated to our mission to provide you unparalleled healthcare.

In April, we added a new Associate Director, Derek Coughenour, who came to us by way of the Pittsburgh Healthcare System. He has more than 15 years of dedication to our Veterans participating in direct patient care, chairing management boards and developing through several VA leadership programs. We are proud to have him here and he has proven to be a valuable addition to our team.

In an effort to meet your needs, we grew in more than 17 services. We brought back colonoscopy and EGD services, added optometry and radiology into three of our CBOCs, hired a full-time chiropractor and acupuncturist in Altoona, and added lumbar epidural steroid injections. We listened to you and expanded Urgent Care Hours to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Our staff consolidated office space allowing for us to move everyone into the same campus. This move saved us nearly \$400,000 a year in rent and utilities while creating more room for clinical services.

We developed the nation's largest telehealth infusion clinic. We have had several Veterans successfully complete their treatments. The best part is that they were able to do it close to home.



Even after achieving all of this, we still have a lot of growing left to do. We have plans to add ophthalmology, develop a pain clinic in the Johnstown CBOC, and expand Veterans Courts into Blair County through our Veterans Justice Outreach program.

We need your help to keep growing. Our facilities are prepared to serve more Veterans, and we want to be your first choice as a healthcare provider. You play a vital role in helping your fellow Veterans link up with the services they deserve. If you know of a Veteran who needs assistance or is not using the VA benefits they earned, please call our enrollment specialists so that we can help.

I am proud to be your VAMC Director, throughout our 14-county catchment area. Serving you is truly a calling and I am humbled everyday by your stories, dedication and the moments you share with our staff. Please let us know if there is anything we can do, and thank you for your service!