


McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center Richmond, VA

**PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE TO
OUR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS**



NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ **Rural Expansion of Home Based Primary Care Program at McGuire VAMC**
 - ▶ **Proposal from Geriatrics and Extended Care**
 - ▶ **Office of Rural Health Funding Initiative – 2/2009**
- 

HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE

- ▶ Established at McGuire VAMC 12/2003 to provide Primary Medical Care to veterans within 30 mile radius of VAMC that are HOMEBOUND and/or unable to be treated in a traditional hospital based outpatient setting. Primary Care is provided in the veteran's home !
- ▶ Primary focus of HBPC is Primary Medical Care from a comprehensive team:
 - Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant –Registered Nurse, Clinical Social Worker – Certified Occupational Therapists Psychologists – Pharmacist – Dietitian – Attending Physician

HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE

- ▶ **RICHMOND VAMC – HBPC has grown to provide Primary Medical Care to an Average Daily Census of 250 veterans**
- ▶ **Home Based Primary Care staff presently consist of 24 full time / part time clinical providers**
- ▶ **HBPC has accreditation by The Joint Commission in 2004, 2005 and 2007**

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ To develop a partnership with our Native American neighbors by recognizing their unique place in American Development, honoring their culture and their unique sacrifices to our country by providing ONSITE primary care via Home Based Primary Care
- ▶ Six Native American tribes resided in the Richmond VAMC catchment area
- ▶ In FY 08 – Richmond VAMC served only 158 veterans who identified themselves as Native American

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ The Commonwealth of Virginia formally recognizes 6 Native American tribes close to VAMC – Richmond

- Chickahominy 1983
- Eastern Chickahominy 1983
- Mattaponi 17th Century
- Pamunkey 17th Century
- Rappahannock 1983
- Upper Mattaponi 1983


- NONE of these tribes have received FEDERAL RECOGNITION

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

None of the 6 NA tribes are large tribes in large areas but rather smaller tribes in proximity to one another in a rural area east of the VAMC – Richmond

- ▶ WE proposed serving all of the sites with a mobile HBPC Team.
- ▶ WE envisioned visiting each site weekly for PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE through a Mobile Clinic
- ▶ We envisioned providing Non–acute care utilizing each tribal center location

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ We envisioned following a HBPC model of Mobile site visits and homebound visits
 - ▶ We envisioned that we would develop a relationship with leaders of the 6 NA tribes and would find out the individual needs of the Veterans in those tribes
 - ▶ We envisioned developing health care strategies that are adapted to the unique needs of the NA culture
- 

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ August 3, 2009, we were notified that the Native American Rural Health Initiative has been approved for HBPC – Richmond
- ▶ Staffing approved for the NA initiative included:
 - Nurse Practitioner
 - Registered Nurse
 - Clinical Social Worker
 - Certified Occupational Therapist
 - Registered Dietitian
 - Clinical Pharmacist ½ time

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ **Position Descriptions posted on USA JOBS**
- ▶ **HBPC Coordinator and Clinical Nurse manager established contact with Tribal Chief/leaders**
- ▶ **HBPC visits to each tribal center to learn cultural differences and individual needs**
- ▶ **Monthly meetings with Tribal Chief/leaders to discuss the VA desire to provide Primary Care to Native American Veterans in their tribal sites**
- ▶ **Major surprise! – Native American Veterans wanted rural veterans treated within the proposed service at tribal sites**

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ **Cooperation with Chief of Engineering to obtain bids for a Mobile Clinical Van to provide “vehicle” for medical care.**
- ▶ **Discussion with Native American Tribal Chief of their concept of primary medical care as provided by VA**
 - **Primary Medical care on site**
 - **Specialty care provided in the Medical Center Setting**
 - **Eligibility for veterans to receive VA care**
 - **Relationship with established community providers**
 - **Trust issues established with NA Leaders**

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

- ▶ **Multiple projects to facilitate productive conclusion of project:**
 - Meeting with individual Tribal Leaders
 - HBPC staff attending local Pow-wow's
 - Design of MOBIL VAN for clinical care
 - Awarding Contract for Mobile VAN
 - Elicited Native Americans to work with VA staff on the interior design of the Mobile Van
 - Always the “dreaded” policies and procedures for a new method for VA to provide community based primary care – mobile community based outpatient clinic (CBOC)
 - Establishing standards for TJC accreditation

NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE



NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE



NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE



NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE



NATIVE AMERICAN INITIATIVE

▶ WHERE ARE WE NOW:

- CLINIC VAN DELIVERED 3/15/10
- CLINICAL VISITS HAS STARTED/SCHEDULED
- STAFF ON BOARD AND TRAINED
- NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONY PLANNED FOR MAY 8, 2010 TO DEDICATE MOBILE VAN
- NATIVE AMERICANS TREATED BY VAMC RICHMOND HAS INCREASED 10% BY 5/1/10