



Lebanon VA
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News Release

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VA Lebanon Clinicians Gather at Retreat

On January 12 and January 14, 2010, the Lebanon VA Medical Center's recently appointed Chief of Staff (COS), Dr. Kanan Chatterjee, hosted half day "clinician retreats" at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Grantville. More than 150 "hands on" clinical providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, dentists, podiatrists, psychologists and labor leaders attended the events.

The theme of the retreat was enhancing provider engagement in future opportunities and issues confronting the Lebanon VA as it continues to expand care for Veterans in south central Pennsylvania. The Lebanon-based regional healthcare system provided care to over 42,000 Veterans in 2009 and continues to expand from the recent economic downturn and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mr. Robert Callahan, Director and CEO of Lebanon VA, presented the stakeholder-driven 10-year strategic vision for expanding and enhancing care to Veterans. "Our best resource to develop new and innovative practices is an engaged workforce with clinicians leading those efforts." Mr. Callahan briefed the group on the \$35M project already in active design and construction at the South Lebanon Township site and how the new programs will better serve Veterans.

Dr. Chatterjee emphasized, "Our sole purpose is to serve Veterans and it is our honor to do so." Clinicians participated in various team building exercises to identify additional opportunities to better serve and enhance care to Veterans. "Ideas and opportunities generated during the meeting will then be shared with Veterans groups for input, prioritized, and be included in future strategic plans, as we further expand care to Veterans," said Ms. Linda Umberger, Strategic Planner for the facility.

When asked if this will happen again in the future, Dr Chatterjee replied, "This is the first meeting of its kind here in Lebanon and generated many advancements, I expect that to continue."

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