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# News Release

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## For Immediate Release

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### LEBANON VA MEDICAL CENTER HOSTS HOMELESS SUMMIT

The Summit is the latest example of the high degree of importance the Director of Lebanon VA Medical Center places on supporting the fight to end homelessness among Veterans.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center's Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program held the First Annual Homeless Veterans Summit on January 28, 2011. The purpose of the Homeless Summit was to gather with our local community providers to synchronize plans to end homelessness among Veterans. "This Homeless Summit was a good opportunity to enhance our relationships and have an open dialogue on how VA can more effectively work together with our community partners to end Veteran homelessness," said Robert W. Callahan, Jr, Medical Center Director. Community partners and Lebanon VA staff had the opportunity to discuss perceived existing unmet needs and propose ideas about approaches to meeting those needs.

A total of 44 participants attended the Summit. Representatives from many community partners attended, including Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Defense (DOD), local Department of Welfare, Social Security, Disabled American Veterans, local Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Early Intervention (MH/MR/EI), United Way, local county Department of Veterans Affairs, the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC), YWCA, American Red Cross, representatives from local homeless coalitions, PA National Guard, Treatment Trends, the Governor's Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities, Career Link, and our Grant and Per Diem providers.

"The event helped strengthen our network with community providers to continue in our efforts to end homelessness among Veterans," according to Chris Hoffman, Chief of Social Work Service at Lebanon VA. Our Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) team will be completing a "community friendly" plan to end homelessness, which will be available and disseminated to our community providers in April 2011.

This Summit came at the end of a week-long series of county-level Homeless Coalition Point-in-Time homeless counts throughout the Nation. Lebanon VA HCHV staff participated in counts throughout Lebanon VA's service territory.

The Annual Homeless Summit, involvement in the Homeless Point-in-Time counts, and support of the recent Homeless Stand Down, are recent examples of Lebanon VA's strong support for the VHA priority of ending homeless within 5 years.

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