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Dr. Carolyn Clancy Named Interim Under Secretary for Health

On June 25, 2014, Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Sloan Gibson announced the appointment of **Dr. Carolyn Clancy** as the VA's Interim Under Secretary for Health, effective July 2, 2014. Dr. Clancy has been at VA since August of 2013, serving as the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality, Safety and Value. Prior to her appointment at VA, Dr. Clancy, a general internist, served as Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Dr. Jonathan Perlin Named Senior Advisor to the Acting Secretary –

The Department also appointed **Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin**, Chief Medical Officer and President, Clinical Services for Hospital Corporation of America, to a short term assignment as Senior Advisor to the Acting Secretary. Dr. Perlin, who previously served as VA Under Secretary for Health, is also chair-elect of the American Hospital Association. Dr. Perlin will be taking a leave of absence from his current duties.

VA to replace medical appointment scheduling system

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) continues the acquisition process to replace its medical appointment scheduling system. On June 28, 2014, the VA hosted pre-solicitation "Industry Day" meetings with technology vendors to discuss the Department's upcoming scheduling systems acquisition.

"Our top priority is getting Veterans off waitlists and in to see their doctors," said Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson. "We're taking a series of immediate actions to ensure our Veterans receive the timely access to quality health care they have earned and deserve. We need lasting, long-term reforms, including a complete overhaul to replace the outdated technology for our scheduling system."

VA used the "Industry Day" event as a way to communicate with vendors and reduce the risk of miscommunication on technical requirements. The information shared during the event will provide VA with a better understanding of what needs to be included in the upcoming scheduling system solicitation, with the ultimate goals of receiving solid proposals and reducing time to field new technologies.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -

This year's National Veterans TEE (training, exposure, experience) Tournament will be held September 8-11, 2014 in the Iowa City area. Over 200 Veterans are expected to participate. Volunteers are needed throughout the week. Golfing locations are held at Lake McBride, Quail Creek, Blue Top, Iowa City Elks, and West Liberty golf courses.

Not Just Golf – Other events include bowling kayaking, horseback riding, and a Wellness night at the Riverside Casino and Resort.

If you or someone you know is willing to spend a few hours or want to help out throughout the week, contact Kirk Sickels, Director National Veterans Tee Tournament at 319-358-5963 or email him at kirt.sickels@va.gov

VA Celebrates 70th Anniversary of the Original “GI Bill”

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) celebrates 70 years of investment in the education and economic prosperity of America’s Service members and Veterans. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act, better known as the “GI Bill” was enacted on June 22, 1944. The law provided a wide range of benefits for Veterans returning from World War II, including low-cost home loans, education and vocational training. The original GI Bill was heralded as a success and major contributor to America's stock of human capital that sped long-term economic growth across the Nation.

Post 9/11 GI Bill - Roughly 8 million out of 16 million World War II Veterans used their GI Bill education benefit. Subsequent legislation expanded and extended similar “GI Bill” benefits to generations that followed, including Veterans of the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars as well as those serving during peacetime. Passage of the Post-9/11 GI Bill provided this important benefit to our newest generation of Veterans, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserve components.

This newest generation includes Veterans like Jennifer Martin, who after serving 8 years in the United States Marine Corps, used her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Speech Language Pathology from the University of the District of Columbia. Jennifer is now conducting research at the VA Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, as part of her Doctoral studies at Gallaudet University. Upon graduation, she hopes to work with Veterans who suffer from hearing loss and tinnitus. VA education and training benefits are a key resource for Veterans transitioning from military service to the civilian workforce.

eBenefits - The new eBenefits Veterans Employment Center is the first online interagency website that brings together, in one place, public and private job opportunities, as well as resume-building and other career tools. Through the online eBenefits portal, Veterans, transitioning Service members and spouses are connected to high quality career choices by matching their identified skills with available public and private job opportunities.

Veterans can easily access this and other online resources, as well as register or upgrade to a free Premium account, at www.ebenefits.va.gov.

July 2014

VA Midwest
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NETWORK  **UPDATE**

www.visn23.va.gov

What's YOUR health age? – Take the 'healtheliving' assessment to find out!

The [healtheliving](#) assessment is the first step to making healthy changes. This online tool asks you questions about your health history and habits. For example, there are questions about your family health history and lifestyle choices. It also includes reports that provide your health age, current health status, and suggestions to improve your health – and lower your risk of disease.

Jay Shiffler, a 20-year Army Veteran, took the healtheliving assessment recently. His health age “was not quite what I’d hoped it would be. One of the indicators in the healtheliving assessment was my weight. My BMI (Body Mass Index) was too high, and it showed me that there are larger implications than say, just knee and back pain. “I found it reassuring that it is completely confidential. I don’t have to talk about some of these things in front of a doctor. I can do this all in the privacy of my own home.”

Receive personalized reports

The summary report in the healtheliving assessment shows Veterans the positive effect of making changes. With graphic displays, it offers Veterans the chance to see the impact of specific changes. It says “Here are some things you might want to do to improve your health age”, noted Shiffler. You can select the recommendations to recalculate your health age. “It helped me focus on what I needed to improve,” said Shiffler

Why should you take the healtheliving assessment?

- It’s confidential, safe, and secure.
- It’s quick, free, and easy—you complete it online, in about 20 minutes.
- It’s informative and personalized.
- None of your information will affect any VA benefits or disability ratings

How can the healtheliving assessment help you reach your goals?

Explore and learn: Walk more? Eat better? Try the interactive feature to learn how making these changes can improve your health age. Share with your doctor and health care team: Reaching your health goals can be easier if you choose to share your healtheliving assessment reports with your health care team. Set goals for healthy change: Use this assessment to help you make a plan to improve your health.

Three easy steps to the healtheliving assessment:

- Log in to your online account at My HealthVet (If you’re new to My HealthVet, you can [register for an online account now](#)) at www.myhealth.va.gov
- Select the healtheliving assessment icon;
- Complete the assessment and find out your health age today!

To learn more go to: https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/anonymous.portal?nfpb=true&nfto=false&pageLabel=spotlightArchive&contentPage=spotlight/March2014/spotlight-HLA-MHV_article.html



Calendar of Events – July 2014

- Jul 1 St. Cloud** [Veterans' Law Clinic](#) - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST) VAMC, Building 28, Room 126
- Jul 2 Nebraska** [Omaha VA Pantry for Veterans](#) - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CST) 825 Dorcas St, Ste. 200, Omaha
- Jul 2 Nebraska** [Veteran Group Exercise Class](#) - 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (CST) VAMC 3rd Floor TV Studio, 4101 Woolworth Ave, Omaha
- Jul 3 St. Cloud** [Mobile Vet Center](#) - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CST) Princeton Library, 100 4th Ave. S., Princeton
- Jul 4** [Holiday](#) – Independence Day
- Jul 7 Nebraska** [VA Food Pantry](#) - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CST) VA Clinic, Bldg 40, Room 105, 600 S. 70th St, Lincoln
- Jul 7 Nebraska** [Veterans Group Exercise Class](#) - 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (CST) Omaha VA Medical Center 3rd Floor TV Studio, 4101 Woolworth Ave, Omaha
- Jul 7 St. Cloud** [Veterans Affairs Radio Show](#) - KNSI AM 1450/FM 103.3
- Jul 8 St. Cloud** [VA Caregiver Support Line](#) - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CST) From your home phone!
- Jul 8 St. Cloud** [Free Summer Golf Instruction \(Women's Session I\)](#) - 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CST) Building 96, St. Cloud VA Health Care System
- Jul 9 Minneapolis** [Veterans Career Fair](#) - 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (CST) Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive in Brooklyn Center
- Jul 9 Sioux Falls** [147th Army Band](#) - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CST) Sioux Falls VA, CLC 3
- Jul 9 Sioux Falls** [Patriotic Concert](#) - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CST) Veterans Memorial Park
- Jul 10 Minneapolis** [Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall](#) - Independence Park, Marshall
- Jul 10 St. Cloud** [Free Summer Golf Instruction \(Men's Session I\)](#) - 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CST) Building 96, St. Cloud VA Health Care System
- Jul 11 Sioux Falls** [Tobacco Cessation](#) - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CST) Sioux Fall VA, Front Lobby, Room F-07
- Jul 15 St. Cloud** [Veterans' Law Clinic](#) - St. Cloud VA Medical Center, Building 28, Room 126
- Jul 16 St. Cloud** [Voices for Veterans Radio Show](#) - 8:10 AM - 8:45 AM (CST) WJON AM 1240
- Jul 16 St. Cloud** [Quarterly Memorial Service](#) - 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CST) St. Cloud VA Chapel
- Jul 16 Nebraska** [Omaha VA Pantry for Veterans](#) - 825 Dorcas St, Ste. 200, Omaha
- Jul 17 Minneapolis** [Minnesota American Legion and Auxiliary conventions](#) - Rochester
- Jul 18 Nebraska** [VA CoffeeHaus-Lincoln](#) - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CST) Auditorium, 600 S. 70th St, Lincoln
- Jul 18 Nebraska** [VA CoffeeHaus](#) - 600 S. 70th St, Lincoln, Neb (canteen on lower level)
- Jul 18 St. Cloud** [Southwestern Minnesota Veterans' Law Clinic](#) - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CST) Montevideo CBOC

* Dates and times are correct as of June 25, 2014. Information may have changed, please check local VA Health Care System websites for the latest information.

For More information, call the Network Office at (651) 405-5600 or
Log on at www.visn23.va.gov or email sharyl.schaepe@va.gov