



# TRUMAN VA BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS—COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

VOLUME 2010, ISSUE 13

## VA HIV TESTS

- ☒ VA recommends that all adults get tested for HIV as part of their routine medical care.
- ☒ An HIV test is the only way to be certain about your status.
- ☒ VA HIV testing for patients is voluntary and confidential.

Get checked during **VA HIV Testing Week**, June 27 through July 3! Say yes to the test.

[www.hiv.va.gov](http://www.hiv.va.gov)

## VA MIGRATES FROM EMPLOYEE EXPRESS TO “MYPAY”

In an effort to increase employee awareness of the upcoming migration from *Employee Express (EEX)* to *myPay*, some employees have received or will receive e-mail messages concerning the change that is scheduled to be effective on June 24. E-mails sent by [Smart-Docs@dfas.mil](mailto:Smart-Docs@dfas.mil) are not spam messages.

Starting June 15, *myPay* will begin notifying VA employees of their new *myPay* temporary passwords. Please do not contact *myPay* prior to receiving your temporary password.

Here are some important points related to this change:

- ☒ Employees will be allowed to make changes/elections in *EEX* through June 17. *EEX* will not be updated after that date.
- ☒ Beginning June 18, *EEX* will be view and download only.
- ☒ *EEX* will be decommissioned for VA on Sept. 30. Employees wishing to retain records of Leave

and Earning Statements from May 12, 2007 through June 19, 2010 and W2s for years 2006 through 2009 should print those items as soon as possible.

If you have questions, contact the following individuals for the Veterans Health Administration: **Laurie Bisbee** (202-461-6559) or **Brandon Bentley** (202-461-6651).



## NEW HOTLINE FOR HOMELESS VETERAN RESPONDERS

Last week, VA Secretary **Eric K. Shinseki**, announced the establishment of a new telephone hotline to provide emergency support and resources to homeless Veterans. Veterans, family members, workers at community agencies and non-VA providers may call the hotline at **1-877-4AID VET** to find out about the many programs and services available to assist homeless Veterans.

Well-trained expert responders will staff the hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will join other responders that staff VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline. Both call centers are physically located at the VA medical center in Canandaigua, New York.

The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans is the latest in a series of initiatives to help homeless Veterans. Last year, Secretary Shinseki launched a campaign to eliminate homelessness among Veterans within five years. Since then, the number of Veterans homeless on a typical night has dropped 18 percent. VA has approximately 4,000 agreements with community partners to

help homeless Veterans. Last year, more than 92,000 homeless Veterans were served by VA's specialized homeless programs, which was an increase of 15 percent from the previous year.



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## TEN RULES FOR MANAGING CONFLICT

### ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Stay calm – Never react in anger. The workplace is no place for that kind of behavior.

Attack the problem, not the person – Focus on the real issues at hand.



Be open and honest – If you remain open and keep your wits about you, you'll manage to do the right thing in a tough situation.

Don't lose perspective – The workplace is about business. You're being paid to do a job, not to fight a war.

Try to be empathetic – Put

yourself in the other person's shoes and try to understand his/her perspective.

Take the high road – Say something that needs to be said at a time and place and in a manner that's reasonable and respectful of all present.

Have faith in yourself – The workplace is no place to blindly march along with the pack.

Don't go at it in public – If you do, be prepared to apologize in public and, worst case, be fired for insubordination.



Then let them have it – If you follow the preceding eight rules, it's okay to go for it. Just try to be civilized.



Disagree and commit – Disagreeing, losing the fight and committing to help the winning plan succeed is being a good employee.



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## NEW LOOK FOR ONLINE HEALTH BENEFITS APPLICATION

In May, VA updated its online Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits. The revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits. The new version also allows Veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records. The revised VA Form 10-10EZ reduces the collection of information from Veterans by eliminating some questions. In addition, there are minor changes to

simplify the wording of questions and provide clarity in the instructions.

Veterans may complete or download the application form at the VA health eligibility website at <https://www.1010ez.mail.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez>. Veterans may contact VA at 877-222-8387 or visit the VA health eligibility website at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).



# JUNE SERVICE PIN RECIPIENTS

### 35-Years

**Joseph T. Giacchi, CRNA**  
Nurse Anesthetist (SC)

### 25-Years

**Charles L. Johnson, Food**  
Service Worker (PS)

**Jo LaFoy, RNP (PC)**

**Barbara I. Sanchez, Medical**  
Records Technician (HAS)

### 20-Years

**Sara L. Hake,**  
EEO Program Manager (DIR)

### 15-Years

**Janet M. Branch, Occupa-**  
tional Therapist (CS)

**Gail A. Compton, RN,**  
Staff Nurse (PC)

### 10-Years

**Laura D. Huber, Patient Ser-**  
vices Assistant (HAS)

**Barbara P. Keller, MD, Staff**  
Anesthesiologist (SC)

**John A. Zimmerschied, MD,**  
Staff Physician (PC)

### 5-Years

**Terri L. Fiegel, Civilian Pay**  
Technician (FM)

**Kristina A. Gaddy,**  
Human Resources Assistant  
(HR)

**Michael F. Leyden,**  
Telephone Operator (HAS)



## NEW CHIEF OF STAFF

**Lana Zerrer, MD,** has been appointed Chief of Staff at Truman VA effective June 20. Dr. Zerrer has served as the Acting Chief of Staff since October 2009, when former Chief of Staff, **William Patterson, MD,** was named Chief Medical Officer for the VA Heartland Network (VISN 15). She joined Truman VA in August 2005 as a Primary Care Provider and was appointed Director of the Primary Care

Service Line in January 2007. Congratulations, Dr. Zerrer!





VOLUNTARY LEAVE TRANSFER PROGRAM

Nancy Burle (PC), Ashlee Holloman (PS) and Laura Huber (HAS) have been approved for the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program. Contact Lena Warren (HR) for information.

Department of Veteran Affairs—Columbia, Missouri

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital
800 Hospital Drive
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Phone: 573-814-6000



LEADERSHIP COLUMBIA GRADUATE
Congratulations to Paula Williams, RN, Nurse Manager of the Home Based Primary Care program and Minority Veterans Coordinator at Truman VA. On June 8, she was recognized at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Leadership Columbia graduation event. The annual leadership development program, which runs from January until June, accepts 30 individuals from chamber member organizations and businesses. Paula is the eighth Truman VA staff member to complete the program since 1997.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Sarah Fehling—Employee of the Month



Julie Heese—Customer Service Star of the Month

WELCOME

- Jesse Cox, IT Specialist (OI&T)
Kelley Gossett, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Sarah Hafner, Medical Support Asst. (PC)
Kamero Haveristic, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Todd Madden, Housekeeping Aid (FM)
Radhika Poreddy, GHAP Fellow (DIR)
Mark Schafer, Security Clerk (Police)
Bruce Schlager, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Tami Schmidt, RN, Staff Nurse (PS)
Daniel Thouvenot, Assistant Chief (Canteen)

FAREWELL

- Belma Ilagan, LPN
Lora Reed, Biomed. Equip. Support Spec.
Justin Zimmerman, Phys. Therapy Aide

ENJOY YOUR FREEDOM? THANK A VETERAN!