

Department of Veterans Affairs  
North Texas Health Care System  
2007

Dallas VA Medical Center  
Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center  
Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic  
Tyler VA Primary Care Clinic

## The Right Choice for Health Care

### Vision

To be a patient centered integrated health care organization for veterans providing excellence in health care, research, education; an organization where people choose to work; an active community partner and a back-up for National emergencies.

From the words of President Abraham Lincoln, the Department of Veterans Affairs adopted as its motto in 1959, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan." It is VA's mission to honor America's veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being using these five core values: trust, respect, excellence, compassion and commitment.

Of 153 VA medical facilities across the country, VA North Texas Health Care System (VANATHCS) is the third busiest in the nation and part of VISN 17 – VA Heart of Texas Network which includes VA systems in South and Central Texas.

VANATHCS is designated as a Polytrauma site for VISN 17 to address the multiple severe injuries sustained by combat veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF). Interdisciplinary care treats traumatic brain injuries and other conditions resulting from explosions, blasts, missiles, fragments, etc. The OEF/OIF program includes a transition patient advocate, social worker, case manager and nurse case manager to help return these newest veterans to the highest level of independent function. Mental Health professionals offer crisis intervention, treatment for PTSD, depression and other conditions as well as intensified rehabilitation for those with serious mental illness and expanded programs for homeless veterans and those with substance abuse problems. Suicide prevention coordinators are available 24/7 at Dallas, Bonham and Fort Worth.

Dallas VA Medical Center is the corporate headquarters for VANATHCS and serves as the tertiary referral center. Primary care and multi-specialty outpatient clinics are provided, making VANATHCS the 7 th largest health care system based on number of patients seen. Expanded and enhanced health care services include computerized radiology, lithotripsy and specialized clinical programs as well as state-of-the-art intensive care units, operating rooms and ambulatory care facilities. Innovative clinical services include acute medicine/surgery care, and rehabilitative and extended geriatric care as well as hospice program. Through strategic partnerships with The University of Texas Southwestern

Medical Center at Dallas, Baylor College of Dentistry, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas Woman's University, University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Tech University, Dallas VAMC is considered a major teaching and medical research center. In FY 07, 673 resident physicians, 396 medical students and 8 dental residents received training, and there were 320 active research projects totaling \$12.3 million.

Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic improves access to outpatient services to veterans residing in the western communities of our primary service area. FWOPC provides primary care, some types of day surgery, dental, nutrition, physical therapy, audiology, optometry, ophthalmology, ear nose and throat, mental health, podiatry, laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, and social work services. Patients who require hospitalization or more specialized outpatient care are referred to Dallas VA Medical Center. Veterans benefits and service offices are available as well as VA supported housing, and Home Based Primary Care. FWOPC has outgrown its present location, and a new 218,000 square foot clinic is scheduled to open in 2010 that will be the largest leased space in VA.

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center in Bonham provides a full range of primary and geriatric services for the region's population of aging veterans, including nursing home care, long-term rehabilitative care, and domiciliary care. Specialty services such as audiology, dermatology, ENT, GYN, Optometry, Podiatry, Rheumatology, Speech Therapy and Spinal Cord Injury are also available as well as a Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program. Long-term programs in the Community Living Center include restorative care, dementia special care, respite care, and palliative care. Biopsychosocial rehabilitation, homeless program, substance abuse, health maintenance, compensated work therapy, incentive work program and Veterans Industries vocational rehabilitation are part of the Domiciliary program. For other specialty outpatient care, transport vans and buses shuttle patients daily to Dallas VA Medical Center. Cooperative relationships with local health care professionals provide a greater choice of health care services and improve accessibility for veterans in southern Oklahoma. Partners with Grayson County College and other allied affiliates, SRMVC offers programs in nursing, social work, dentistry and psychology. The Clyde W. Coper Texas State Veterans Home is a 160-bed facility located adjacent to the SRMVC campus.

Tyler VA Primary Care Clinic became the first VA-staffed community based outpatient clinic at VANTHCS in May 2007. Providers, nursing and administrative staff ensure veterans residing in Smith, Camp, Henderson, Van Zandt, Rains and Wood counties receive a full continuum of VA health care services, including primary care, radiology, mental health services and specialty consults. The Kilgore Disabled American Veterans Chapter 21 provides shuttle service to Dallas VA Medical Center for other specialty care.

The Fisher House™ program is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military and veterans in their time of need. Fisher House™ Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers

that provide "a home away from home" so that family members can be close to a loved one during their hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury. Safe comfortable housing will soon be available for families of veterans receiving health care at VA North Texas Health Care System. Construction of a Fisher House is underway on campus at Dallas VA Medical Center that will provide free temporary lodging for families of VA patients. Scheduled to open in late Fall 2008, the two-story Fisher House will include 21 suites complete with a common kitchen, laundry facilities, spacious dining room, living room, library, picnic pavilion and toys for children. An elevator to the second floor provides easy access for disabled guests.