

Appendix A - VISN Market Plan Executive Summaries

VISN 1 Executive Summary

Access

Primary Care - The draft National CARES Plan attempts to balance meeting national access guidelines with ensuring the current and future viability of its acute care infrastructure. Because of this, while new access points in this VISN are included in the National Plan, they are not in the high implementation priority category at this time.

Hospital Care - Access in the North and Far North markets is being met through community contracts. In addition, telemedicine and telecare programs will be used across the network to improve quality and access for primary care and specialty care. The Maine Telemedicine program for the private sector will be used to provide cost effective care to the Maine veterans in collaboration with the VA.

Campus Realignment/Consolidation of Services

Bedford – Outpatient services will be maintained at the Bedford campus. Current services of inpatient psychiatry, domiciliary, nursing home and other workload) from the Bedford campus will be transferred to Brockton, West-Roxbury and other appropriate campuses (Manchester). The remainder of the Bedford campus will be evaluated for alternative uses to benefit veterans such as enhanced use leasing for an assisted living facility. Any revenues or in kind services will remain in the VISN to invest in services for veterans.

Jamaica Plains – Study the feasibility of redesigning the Jamaica Plains campus to consolidate services into buildings for operational savings and to maximize the enhanced use lease potential of the campus for assisted living or other compatible types of use. Retain multi-disciplinary outpatient clinic.

Outpatient Services

Primary Care - Increasing primary care demand in the Far North, East and West markets is being met primarily through community contracts, telemedicine, and expansion of existing CBOCs. Some in-house expansion is planned for Brockton, Togus and Newington. Excess outpatient demand from West Roxbury and from the Causeway Clinic will be moved to Jamaica Plains.

Mental Health - Increasing demand for mental health in the Far North and North markets is being met through community contracts, telemedicine, and expansion of existing CBOCs that will include mental health services.

Specialty Care - Increasing specialty care demand in all four markets is being met using community contracts to the extent feasible, telemedicine, shifting selected services to CBOCs and in-house expansion through significant new construction and conversion of vacant space. Northampton will lease 50,000 sq.ft. in the Springfield area. West Roxbury and Providence have replacement operating room projects in their specialty care expansions.

Inpatient Services

Medicine - Increasing inpatient medicine demand and access gaps in the Far North and North markets is being met through community contracts, also needed to resolve access gaps. Increasing inpatient medicine demand in the East and West markets is being met through in-house expansion at West Roxbury, Providence and West Haven.

Psychiatry - Decreasing inpatient psychiatry demand in the East market is being met through the consolidation of acute psychiatry at Bedford, Brockton and Providence.

Vacant Space

VISN 1 will have total of 255,829 sq.ft. of vacant space in 2022. This represents a reduction of 51.4% from 2001 (526,674 sq.ft.).

Extended Care

Proposed capital investments to remedy space deficiencies in nursing homes include renovation of 51,289 existing sq. ft in the West market (Northampton & West Haven) and the renovation of 43,017 sq. ft in the Far North market (Togus).

Collaboration

VBA - Relocate the VARO from Hartford to Newington.

Facility Condition - Low facility condition scores (scores below 3.0) at many VISN 1 facilities have been addressed through renovation projects that are phased early in the plan due to immediate infrastructure needs, many of which have been on hold pending CARES. No space is being renovated that will not be needed through the year 2022.