

New VA Law Dramatically Speeds Up Hiring of Medical Center and Network Director Positions

WASHINGTON — On June 23, President Donald J. Trump signed into law S. 1094, the “Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017,” which makes a number of changes to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) authorities related to personnel, accountability and whistleblower protections.

While the accountability and whistleblower-protection provisions outlined in the bill are generally well known, the law also provides VA with direct-hiring authority to fill medical center director and network director positions.

Thanks to the new law, VA now has the flexibility to hire qualified health-care executives expeditiously to lead its key health-care organizations without going through a previously cumbersome and time-consuming hiring process.

“Being able quickly to hire skilled executives to lead our medical centers and networks is a powerful tool to ensuring the best possible leadership being put in place,” said VA Secretary Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Leaders establish the vision for our thousands of employees who are doing their best to serve our nation’s Veterans. They also ensure accountability for those employees who do not deliver the care our Veterans deserve.”

Veterans Matter Program and VA Announce Milestone of Helping 1,500 Homeless Veterans Secure Stable Housing

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department Veterans Affairs (VA) and Veterans Matter — a program that provides security deposits to homeless Veterans in 14 states and the District of Columbia — today announced that, through their joint efforts, they have helped 1,500 Veterans exit homelessness and move into permanent housing.

Veterans Matter, supported by John Mellencamp, Dusty Hill, Katy Perry, Kid Rock and many others in the entertainment industry, was established in 2012 by the Toledo, Ohio-based nonprofit 1Matters.org, and focuses exclusively on providing security deposits to homeless Veterans who qualify for rental subsidies from the joint U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. In providing these security deposits, Veterans Matter removes a major barrier to securing stable housing for homeless Veterans.

“VA can’t end Veteran homelessness alone,” said Anthony Love, senior adviser and director of community engagement for the Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office. “Partnerships with innovative, community-oriented groups, such as Veterans Matter, have played a major role in the decline in Veteran homelessness in recent years.”

“In collaboration with VA, we are able to make a greater impact for homeless Veterans than we could on our own,” said Ken Leslie, who founded Veterans Matter and was once homeless himself.

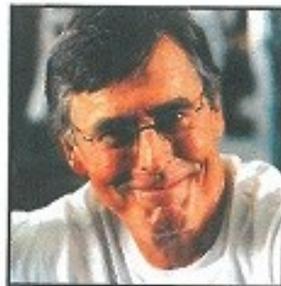
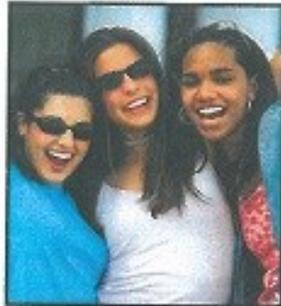
Once Veterans are housed through the HUD-VASH program, VA case managers can connect them to other supportive services — such as employment assistance, health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling — to help them recover and improve their ability to stay housed.

Based on data released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2016, since 2010, there has been an estimated 47 percent reduction in homelessness among Veterans across the country. Further, HUD said, between 2015 and 2016 alone, the number of homeless Veterans decreased by 17 percent. In addition, of all VA homeless programs that assist Veterans, HUD-VASH assists the largest number of Veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness. And of those Veterans in the program, 91 percent remain housed. The program has allocated more than 88,000 housing vouchers nationwide to date.



Healthcare for *Everyone*

ALL Patients ACCEPTED - Men, Women & Children of all ages
including those who have no insurance, are under-insured or have insurance



KNOX COUNTY COMMUNITY
**Health
Center**
Knox County Health
Department

Corner of Coshocton & Upper Gilchrist Rds.
Mount Vernon

740-399-8008

Monday - Friday • 8 AM - 4:30 PM
Open until 6 PM 3rd Tuesday every month
Same Day Appointments Available
Saturday & Evening Appts. Available

Your One-Stop Shop

Primary Care

We can be your medical home

Pediatrics

Well-Child Visits, Immunizations

Women's Health

Pregnancy tests & Pap tests

Physical Exams

Work, School, Sports

Dental care

Cleanings, Fillings, Extractions

Mental Health

Counseling, Treatment

www.knoxhealth.com



"like" us on **facebook**