News & Events

**VA Secretary Visit:** Robert McDonald visited the San Diego VA Medical Center and Aspire Center as part of his visit to San Diego, which also included trips to the local benefits office and Fort Rosecrans Cemetery. During his visit, he passed out coins to eight employees under the systems redesign program and attended an employee town hall answering questions about care. Photos can be found [here](#).

**Town Halls:** Throughout the end of September, VA San Diego Healthcare System held town hall meetings in three locations – Oceanside, La Jolla and Imperial Valley to gather feedback and listen to concerns from patients. The exchange was meant to build trust among Veterans after the recent events of the nationwide VA scandal. The town halls are the first of new requirement for meetings to be held once every quarter to promote improved communications with Veterans.

**Administration Building Opens:** It took over a year to complete at the cost of almost nine million dollars, but the Administration Building finally opened on Sept. 5. Departments that have moved to the new building include: Occupational Health, Education, Clinical Informatics, Performance Improvement Management Service (PIMS), Environmental Health and Safety, Patient Centered Care, Professional Credentialing Services, Equal Opportunity, Human Resources, Information Technology and Systems Redesign. A list of services can also be found on our [interactive map](#).

**Homeless Outreach:** Every Friday, the Mobile Vet Outreach Van sets up shop a few blocks from Petco Park with a mission to help Veterans impacted by homelessness who live downtown. Acting as a mobile stand down, VA employees from the San Marcos Vet Center have teamed up with our Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team and supporting organizations provide both basic health and community resources to those in need. Get the details [here](#).
**Sorrento Valley Opening**: VASDHS expanded clinical care access with the opening of its new clinic on Aug. 22. The Sorrento Valley Health Clinic staffs four primary care teams and has 15 exam rooms. More details can be found [here](#).

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**Media Hits**

**VA Secretary visits San Diego**: Secretary McDonald’s visit brought many local media outlets to cover the event at the San Diego VA medical center. Among the local outlets in attendance were KPBS, KNSD, UT San Diego, Stars and Stripes, KGTV and Times of San Diego.

**Town Halls**: Local media played a great role in announcing the upcoming town hall meetings during September. Articles were featured on UT San Diego and KPBS announcing the community meetings.

**Sorrento Valley**: Several TV Stations also attended the opening for our new Sorrento Valley Clinic on Aug. 22. Among them were KNSD and KGTV. KPBS also provided an announcement on their TV station prior to the event.

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**Accomplishments & Awards**

**Dr. Oxman Award**: On Aug. 27, Dr. Michael Oxman was notified that he is the recipient of the 2014 John B. Barnwell award by the Clinical Science Research and Development (CSR&D) division of the Office of Research and Development. The award is for outstanding achievement in clinical research and is CSR&D’s highest honor. Dr. Oxman’s award reflects his work with the VA, which includes serving as the principle investigator for the Shingles Prevention Study. The cooperative study was testing the effectiveness of a vaccine to prevent shingles.

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**Upcoming Events**

- **Customer Service Week**: Oct. 6 - 10
- **Columbus Day**: Oct. 13
- **Halloween**: Oct. 31
- **Standard Time Begins**: Nov. 2
- **Veterans Day & Parade**: Nov. 11
- **VAVS Bazaar**: Nov. 13
- **Thanksgiving**: Nov. 27