



System Worth Saving Site Visit Report

- **Date:** October 28, 2020
- **Location:** Virtual Meeting (via Microsoft Teams)
- **Attendees:**
 - Rehab Committee Members*- Chairman Wilson Spence, Gary Munkholm, Daniel Tengwall, Lynn Lyons and Jim Finley
 - *Department Service Officer*- Jeremy Wolfsteller.
 - VISN 23*- Director Robert McDivitt and Public Affairs Officer Ron Woolery.

- **Purpose**

The American Legion Dept. Rehabilitation Committee is tasked with staying engaged with agencies that aid Minnesota veterans. The committee does this by conducting System Worth Saving Site Visits throughout the year. These locations include Sioux Falls, Fargo, St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Health Care Systems, St. Paul Regional Offices, Minneapolis, Hastings, Luverne, Fergus Falls and Silver Bay Veterans Homes. Additional Site Visits are conducted at VA CBOC's, Vets Centers, and Minnesota nonprofits that serve veterans when the budget allows.

VISN 23 Overview

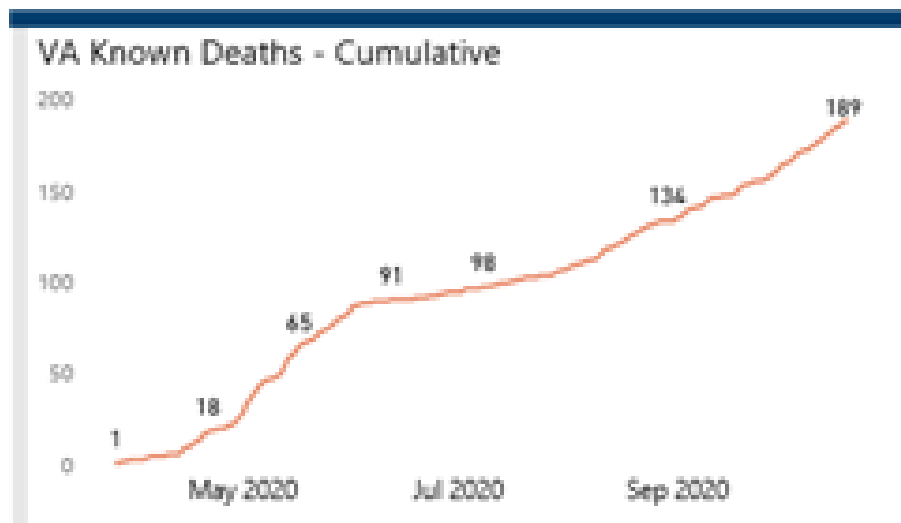
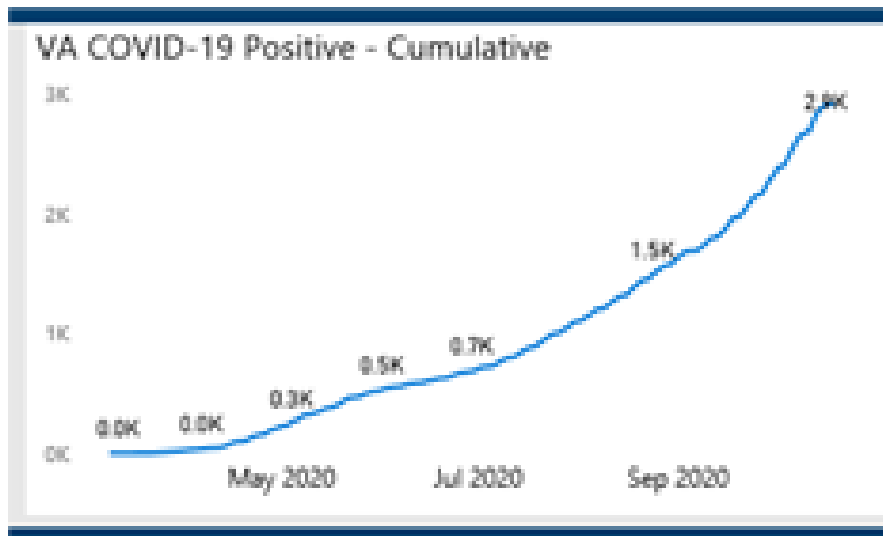
The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) oversight of its regional health care networks is limited. Within VHA, these networks—known as Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN)—manage the day-to-day functions of medical centers and also provide administrative and clinical oversight of medical centers.





Meeting Minutes

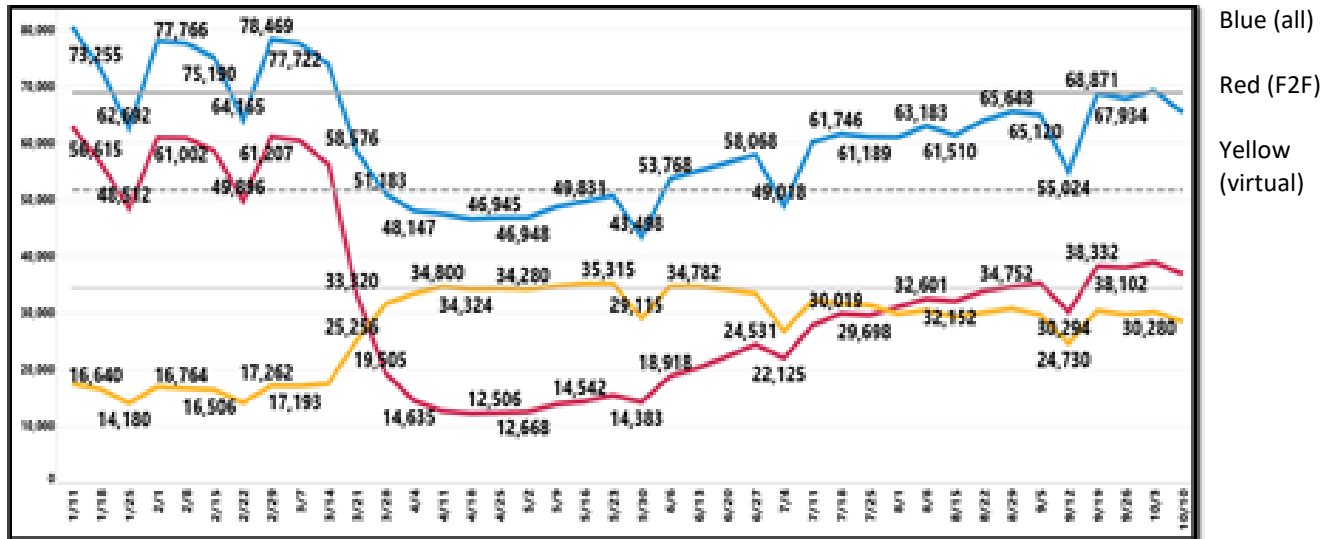
- VISN 23 serves 440,000 veterans, 9 health care systems, 63 community-based outpatient clinics, 8 community living centers and 4 domiciliary residential rehab treatment centers.
- VISN 23 has over 15,000 employees and has an operating budget of \$3.3 billion annual.
- VISN 23 COVID-19 mission has been supported by Federal CARES funding. A total of \$270 million, with \$59m for MPLS and \$25m for St. Cloud. Across the VISN is an ample supply of PPE.
- VISN 23 has deployed 187 employees in support of COVID-19 pandemic across the country.
- VISN 23 Health Care Systems in Minneapolis and St. Cloud bed report for ICU and MED SURG capacity: 171 active beds, 122 occupied (71.3%) 49 available and COVID19 beds 89.





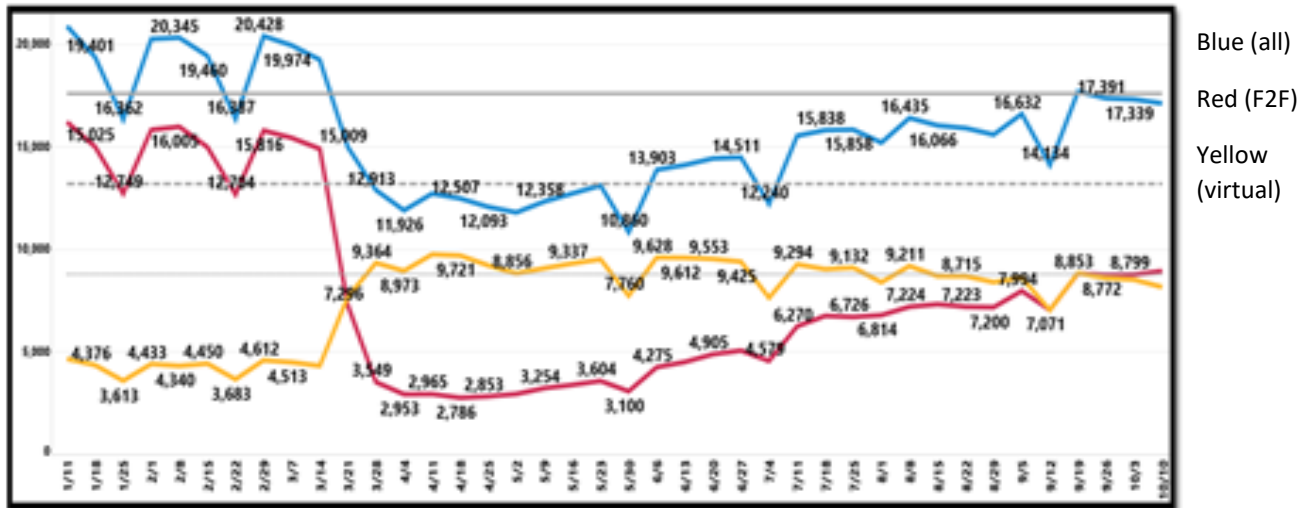
Meeting Minutes Continued:

- VISN 23 Encounter Trend: This represents patient outpatient appointments by week, including face to face, virtual and all.



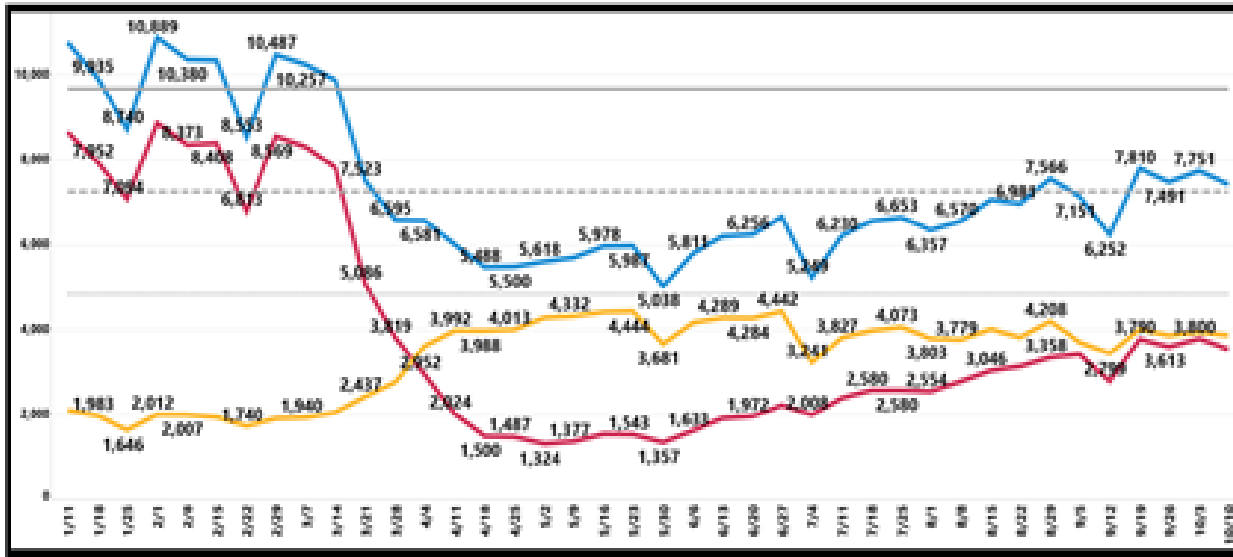
- Minneapolis and St. Cloud VA Health Care Systems encounter trend: this represents patients outpatient appointments by week, including face to face, virtual and all.

Minneapolis VA Health Care System





St. Cloud VA Health Care System



Blue (all)
 Red (F2F)
 Yellow (virtual)

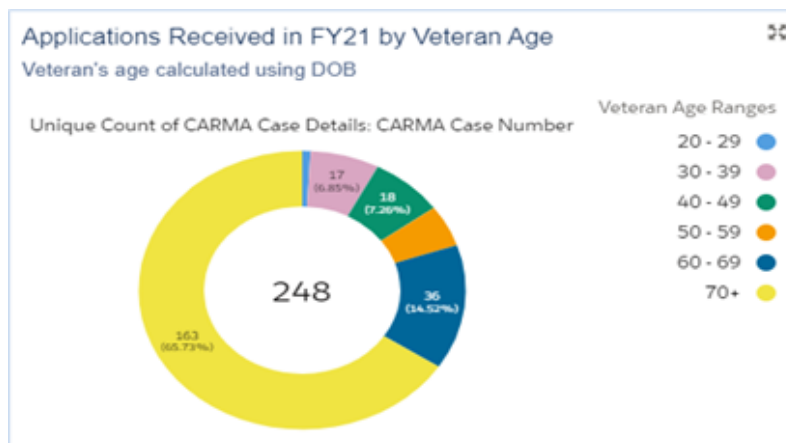
The MISSION Act of 2018 authorized VA to:

- Expand Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) to eligible Veterans of all eras of service, which will occur in two phases:
 - Phase I: Eligible Veterans injured on or before May 7, 1975
 - Phase II: Eligible Veterans injured between May 7, 1975-Sept. 11, 2001
 Offer additional services such as legal and financial assistance.

Expansion Benchmarks & Timeline:

- Regulations– Final Rule published to Federal Registry on July 31, 2020
- CARMA– IT System CARMA is successful deployment
- Phase I Expansion– Occurred on October 1st, 2020
- Phase II Expansion– Projected for 2022

VISN 23 has received 248 applications in the first month of expansion.



Department Rehabilitation Chairman: Wilson Spence III

Department Service Officer & Committee Secretary: Jeremy Wolfsteller

