

Ideas & Information You Can Build On

# Breaking Ground



## Integrated Planning And Delivery For New VA Outpatient Clinic

**W**hen you've been in business for more than 50 years as The Hamstra Group has, you have the opportunity to learn a thing or two from the work you have performed in the past. That's how our design-build team feels about the recently-completed Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Chico, California.

The new CBOC replaced the VA Northern California Health Care System's older center at 280 Cohasset Road, which included three less-efficient buildings. The \$43 million facility, located in Meriam Park, is twice the size of the former facility and provides active duty service members, veterans and their families in the Chico area with a more efficient, integrated system of patient care.

Apart from all of the services being housed under one roof, efficiencies are achieved through the implementation of the VA's PACT, or Patient Aligned Care Team—a new space module design program. The PACT represents a significant change in the VA's approach to care for our nation's veterans.

Prior programming and planning for the new 42,000-square-foot VA center drew from the knowledge our team gained on a similar project we constructed—the Major General William H. Gourley Outpatient Clinic in Marina, California—which was the first of its kind in the nation. It was this project, and others we have worked on, that helped refine building blocks, department adjacencies, room template development, wayfinding and flow for the VA's healthcare delivery model in Chico.

The Hamstra team worked with Nichols, Melburg and Rossetto Architects and Engineers on both the Marina and Chico VA clinics. Some of the more interesting design features in this new LEED® Silver Certified building include isolation rooms with independent air systems for seeing patients with contagious conditions; lights that turn on and off as people enter and leave rooms; auto-dimming lights that are triggered by outside lighting conditions; an open-concept setting and exam rooms with barn doors, rather than swing doors.

The new facility at 1601 Concord Avenue was completed this summer and now provides a wide range of medical services including primary care; Agent Orange treatment; audiology/hearing aid fitting; behavioral health, PTSD and substance abuse; compensation and pension; chiropractic care; dental; dermatology; ear nose and throat; eligibility and enrollment; home-based primary care and home telehealth; homeless program support; laboratory; nutrition; outpatient sleep; pharmacy; physical and occupational therapy; optometry and optical shop; radiology; social work; women's health; and wound care to more than 9,000 service members and their families. That number is expected to grow as thousands of

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# Outpatient Clinic... *continued from page 1*

veterans living in the outskirts of Butte County are not currently using VA services.

“In the past, veterans in the Chico area didn’t have access to all of the services and had to incur additional expense by going to private medical providers. This was a hardship. Now, the facility allows for more medical services to be delivered in one place—all under one roof,” states On-site Project Manager Karl Whitaker.

Interim Site Manager Don Black noted that the new clinic will allow the current staff of 100 to expand to 154. The additional staff is needed to fulfill new services that have not been previously offered. Six new doctors have been added as well.

The Hamstra Group serves as a long-term facilities contractor, leasing the new clinic to the VA. In addition, our team is excited to put our experience to work on yet another new VA clinic in Missoula, Montana which will be underway in 2020.



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