

Lake Charles, Louisiana
Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)

Summary: Impact on Veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of failure to secure authorization of lease:

If Congress cannot enact the authorization for this new CBOC, Veterans will be forced to receive their care through a mobile clinic, which is extremely undersized and offers only basic primary care. For other care, Lake Charles Veterans will continue to be required to travel 200 miles round-trip to the Alexandria VA Medical Center to receive the services that would have been offered by the new clinic. The existing mobile clinic offers little patient privacy, which may impede full and open communication with VA health professionals.

Veterans will be denied the relief to these access problems that would be brought by expansion of Primary Care as well as new services for Mental Health, Dermatology, Audiology, Ophthalmology, Prosthetics, Urology, Women's Health, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Oncology, and Physical Therapy and Rehabilitative Services.

Continued failure to authorize the clinic will also result in continued strain on the Alexandria VA Medical Center, and will increase waiting times there as demands for care increase.

The community would lose the benefit of 42 additional VA employees connected with the expanded clinic.

Veterans planned to be served under proposed lease (dependent on lease authorization): 6,000 Veterans

Detail on adverse impact of failure of authorization:

- *Veterans will continue to be forced to receive their care in an overcrowded mobile clinic, a situation projected to get worse with increasing demand.*
- *The configuration does not afford patient privacy to the extent needed to ensure patient confidentiality.*
- *Veterans in the Lake Charles area will be required to continue to drive 200 miles roundtrip to the parent facility, the Alexandria VA Medical Center, to receive the services the new clinic will have offered.*
- *The mobile clinic cannot expand and provides only the basic primary care services; the new clinic will be 24,088 Net Usable Square Footage (NUSF) to meet the current and projected workload demand.*
- *The Alexandria VA Medical Center will continue to be overcrowded and will be unable to decompress to the expanded clinic.*
- *Six employees support the programs in the existing mobile clinic; the expansion would increase the number to 48 employees.*
- *Alexandria's Space Deficit will remain, 60,042 sqft*