

**VA DESERT PACIFIC
HEALTHCARE NETWORK**



NEWS RELEASE

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VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network Announces New Phoenix VA Health Care System Director and Chief of Staff

Long Beach, Calif. – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced the appointment of two senior health care leaders to key roles with the Phoenix VA Health Care System, effective October 2, 2016.

Ms. RimaAnn O. Nelson is appointed as the Director of the Phoenix VA Health Care System and Dr. Maureen McCarthy is appointed as the Chief of Staff. Both will oversee the delivery of health care to some 85,000 Veterans who live in the metropolitan Phoenix area and in Show Low, Payson and Globe, Ariz.

They will continue to build on the significant accomplishments of the past two years. In May 2016, PVAHCS completed 95% of appointments within 30 days of a Veteran's preferred date, and 81% within seven days of the Veteran's preferred date. Since December 2015, eight key permanent Service Chiefs were hired as well as 758 new full time employees out of the goal of 800 additional positions that were identified as critical.

“Over the past 2 years, in large part due to the leadership of Deb Amdur and Barbara Fallen, the Phoenix VA Health Care System (PVAHCS) has made irrefutable progress in increasing access to quality care that our Veterans have earned and deserve,” said VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson, “Improving services at PVAHCS remains a top priority for VA and I have full confidence Ms. Nelson will provide the sound leadership required to continue to build upon the progress we have made.”

Ms. Nelson was previously the Director of the VA Regional Office in Manila, Philippines. She also served as the Medical Center Director for the St. Louis VA Health Care System, which delivered health care to some 55,000 Veterans in Missouri and parts of Illinois. She also served in leadership roles at the Salt Lake City VA Health Care System and had been a VA employee for 14 years.

Ms. Nelson graduated from the University of Utah with undergraduate degrees in Nursing and Community Health Education and a graduate degree in Public Health/Health Services Administration. She has also completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program through Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and Leadership VA.

Dr. Maureen McCarthy comes to Phoenix from the Veterans Health Administration in Central Office serving as the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health -- Patient Care Services, where she had a key role in the development of clinical care guidelines and policies. She has 25 years of experience as a VA clinician, and brings her prior experiences as a Chief of Staff, and former Associate Chief of Staff for Education at the Salem, Virginia VA Medical Center.

Dr. McCarthy graduated from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completed her residency in psychiatry. She is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

The Phoenix VA Health Care System (PVAHCS) is a Joint Commission Accredited, complexity level 1b tertiary care facility serving Veterans in Phoenix, Arizona. PVAHCS maintains outpatient clinics located in: Gilbert, Central Phoenix, Scottsdale, Payson (Contract), Show Low, Globe and Surprise, Ariz. PVAHCS is a teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services with state-of-the-art technology and research. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, long-term care, and tertiary care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neurology, oncology, dentistry, nutrition, geriatrics and extended care

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