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Veterans Administration planned changes

WASHINGTON — The Veterans Administration will announce a major consolidation of its medical system Friday. It calls for closing all or portions of several hospitals while building and expanding others. The plan has the backing of President Bush. Among the changes:

New Hospitals

- Orlando
- Las Vegas
- Aurora, Colo., replacing old Denver hospital.

Closings:

- Pittsburgh. Consolidate three hospitals into two, closing Highland Drive facility; Enhancing University Drive and Heinz campus facilities. Lease or sell Highland Drive.
- Brecksville, Ohio — close/consolidate at Cleveland.
- Gulfport, Miss. — close/consolidate into Biloxi.

Partial Closing / Realignment:

- Knoxville, Iowa. Convert to outpatient clinic. Move inpatient care and nursing to Des Moines.
- Canandaigua, NY. Move psychiatric patient care to Buffalo and Syracuse. Maintain long-term care and develop new multi-specialty outpatient clinic.
- Livermore, Calif. Move in-patient care to Palo Alto.
- Montrose, NY. Moving inpatient and nursing care to Castle Point. Continue domiciliary (homeless vets) care.
- Kerrville, Texas. Move inpatient care to San Antonio when renovation there is complete.
- Saginaw, Mich. Move inpatient care to Detroit and Ann Arbor.
- Fort Wayne, Ind. Move inpatient care to Indianapolis.
- Butler, Pa.

Major expansions:

- Tampa — New bed tower.
- San Juan, P.R. — New bed tower
- Biloxi, Miss. — New blind rehabilitation center.
- Long Beach, Calif. — New blind rehabilitation center.
- Columbus, Ohio — Expanded multi-specialty outpatient clinic.

Further study required before closing or consolidation:

- New York City — potential consolidation of Manhattan and Brooklyn hospitals.
- Boston — potential consolidation of four area hospitals into one new one.
- Walla Walla, Wash.
- Big Spring, Texas.
- Waco, Texas
- Montgomery, Ala.
- Muskogee, Okla.

Small rural facilities will be subject to further study regarding future use:

- Altoona, Pa.
- Erie, Pa.
- Beckley, W.Va.
- Poplar Bluff, Mo.
- Cheyenne, Wyo.
- Grand Junction, Colo.
- Hot Springs, S.D.

VA campuses with large amounts of vacant space will be studied for reduction and alternate uses:

- St. Albans, N.Y.

- Perry Point, Md.
- Augusta, Ga.
- Lexington, Ky.
- Vancouver, Wash.
- White City, Ore.