Articles & Features

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Outreach Event Affords Area Veterans Enrollment Opportunities

By Kevin L. McIver, MVAMC Public Affairs Officer

MARTINSBURG—The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MVAMC) and area partners teamed up to provide Veterans with needed health care information at the 2010 Appalachian Outreach Event held March 27 in Emmitsburg, Md.

"The event was an excellent example of how the Martinsburg VAMC, our community partners, and local Veterans Service Organizations can collaboratively work together to bring quality health care information and services to our rural Veterans," said Kim Waggoner.

Waggoner, who is the Executive Assistant to MVAMC Medical Center Director Ann R. Brown, spearheaded the event along with members of the medical center's marketing committee and numerous area partners.

"The partners who rallied to support our Veterans included the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, AMVETS (American Veterans), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Emmitsburg Volunteer Fire Company No. 6, the Martinsburg Vet Center, and the Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs," said Waggoner. "Their dedication to our Nation's heroes reflects proudly on their organizations and their local communities."

Services provided during the outreach event included eligibility and enrollment information, information on specialty outreach programs for Women and OEF/OIF Veterans, minority Veterans program, information on pharmacy, audiology and prosthetic services, mental health information, and information on the new outpatient clinic to open this fall at Fort Detrick, Md.

Notably, the event was very important for providing rural health outreach information to Veterans.

Partners teamed up to provide valuable health care information to area Veterans at the 2010 Appalachian Outreach Event held March 27 in Emmitsburg, Md. *Photo: VA / Kevin L. McIver*

"The event was important to Veterans because in many areas they have a good distance to travel to get information," said Veteran and American Legion Post 121 Commander James Jordon. "We would like to see VA reach out across the United States between VA hospitals and rural areas similar to this event to help them get started in the system."

"Our goal is to continue to support outreach events," said co-organizer Wadeea Hines, "especially in rural areas to inform our Veterans about available health care services." Hines serves as the executive assistant to the MVAMC Chief of Staff in addition to serving on the marketing committee.

For more information on VA health care visit http://www.martinsburg.va.gov/patients/eligibility.asp.

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