



*(November 12, 2015)*

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

**Alma L. Lee**  
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH**

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I'd like to invite you to share your expertise and insights with others across VHA through our Promising Practice Consortium. The consortium is a new platform where anyone in VHA can share successful operational, clinical, and programmatic practices, and learn from others' experiences in key strategic areas that align with my priorities.

To contribute, visit the [Promising Practice Consortium](#) group on VA Pulse. If you're not already a member of the VA Pulse community, visit [www.VAPulse.net](http://www.VAPulse.net) and enter your VA email address under "New Users."

By submitting a promising practice, you'll become a member of the consortium, and have the opportunity to discuss how other facilities, management teams, and care providers are solving problems, increasing morale, and improving the Veteran experience. Ultimately, you will have access to organizational resources that can help your facility, business unit, or care team implement and track the progress of new initiatives.

The submission site will be open through December 15, 2015. Practice submissions will be evaluated not only by subject matter experts, but also by peer institutions and management teams in the consortium. Certain practices will qualify for “Gold Status,” a designation given to your entire facility as a result of your work.

I encourage you to learn more about the Promising Practice Consortium on VA Pulse, and get involved today. Share your ideas, and make a lasting impact on the care we provide our nation’s Veterans.

DAVID J. SHULKIN, M.D.

Follow me on Pulse - <https://www.vapulse.net/community/under-secretary-for-health>