



# News Release

For Immediate Release:  
May 17, 2016

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## ***New Orleans VA received outpatient building for December opening***

NEW ORLEANS – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System received the outpatient building at the new Veterans medical center from the construction team Friday, May 13.

With the new outpatient building, SLVHCS is on schedule to start seeing patients this December at its new location. The inpatient building and patient parking garage were turned over to SLVHCS in December 2015 and the central energy plant was turned over in January.

“These turnovers are significant events in the activation of the new Veterans medical center,” said Fernando O. Rivera, FACHE, SLVHCS medical center director. “We will be a tertiary care regional referral hospital where Veterans will come to from all over the southeast to receive world-class care right here in the crescent city.”

The new 1.6 million square foot Veterans medical center will begin phased operations in late 2016 for Veterans in the 23 parishes of southeast Louisiana. Ambulatory and day procedures will begin in 2017, followed by complex surgeries later in the year. Veterans from the Texas-Louisiana border to the panhandle of Florida will come to SLVHCS for inpatient care when the new medical center is fully operational.



Fernando O. Rivera, FACHE, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System Director (left) looks on as Katie Kuehn, director Acquisition Support, Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction and Facilities Management and Steve Maslen, Sr., vice president Clark Construction Group, Clark McCarthy Healthcare Partners, sign the documents turning over the outpatient building to SLVHCS Friday, May 13. (VA photo by Anne Marino)

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