



News Release

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Legal services offered at new Veterans medical center

NEW ORLEANS – Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System is partnering with Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) to offer legal services to Veterans twice a week at the new Veterans medical center in mid-city New Orleans.

Legal services are available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Veterans Service Center located on the first-floor concourse of the new medical facility at 2400 Canal Street.

“At the new Veterans medical center, we want to care for the whole Veteran, and that means creating partnerships like this one. Outside issues can influence a person’s health and if we can find a way to get our Veterans some additional support, we will so that they can focus on improving their overall health,” said SLVHCS Medical Center Director Fernando O. Rivera, FACHE.”

The legal services, which are free of charge depending on certain income eligibility requirements, are part of a Veterans Justice Project and are administered by a licensed Louisiana Bar Association attorney. The SLLS will provide service for civil legal issues, military discharge upgrades, family law, social security, wills, successions, consumer matters, and landlord-tenant issues. The SLLS cannot accept cases involving medical malpractice, criminal defense, or personal injury.

“The VA medical-legal partnership uses an integrated approach to addressing the unmet legal needs of Veterans,” said SLLS Executive Director Laura Tuggle. “We are so proud to partner with VA to serve Veterans as they once served us.”

SLLS’s Veterans Justice Project is being supported through a fellowship grant from the New Orleans Bar Association, which funds an attorney dedicated full-time to serving Veterans with additional help provided by other SLLS staff.

“Based on our recently completed legal needs assessments of more than 300 Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care patients, this new partnership fills a gap for Veterans needing legal help to improve their lives and health,” said SLLS attorney Jeanmarie Nicholson, who staffs the new legal clinic.

Veterans who would like to use the Veteran Medical Legal Clinic are encouraged to call 504-529-1000, ext. 250 to make an appointment, although walk-ins are accepted. Veterans should bring proof of identification, their DD 214, any personal records related to their specific issue,

and any letters or information from any federal agency related to their claim. The Veteran will participate in a preliminary intake interview with an attorney which should take less than an hour.

For more information about the new Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website www.neworleans.va.gov, Facebook at www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans or Twitter at www.twitter.com/vaneworleans.

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