

Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine & Dentistry (ACTPCMD)-2018 VACAA & VA MISSIONS ACT Update

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Affiliations Officers for Graduate Medical Education

VA Office of Academic Affiliations

October, 2017



Objectives

- 1) Discuss the size and scope of the VA healthcare system and how it interfaces with trainees.
- 2) Understand VACAA funding with regard to Choice funded medical care and the new residency positions
- 3) Quickly review the 5 Titles of the VA MISSION Act, focusing on the elements of Title 3 & Title 4 that apply to medical education (both undergraduate and graduate).

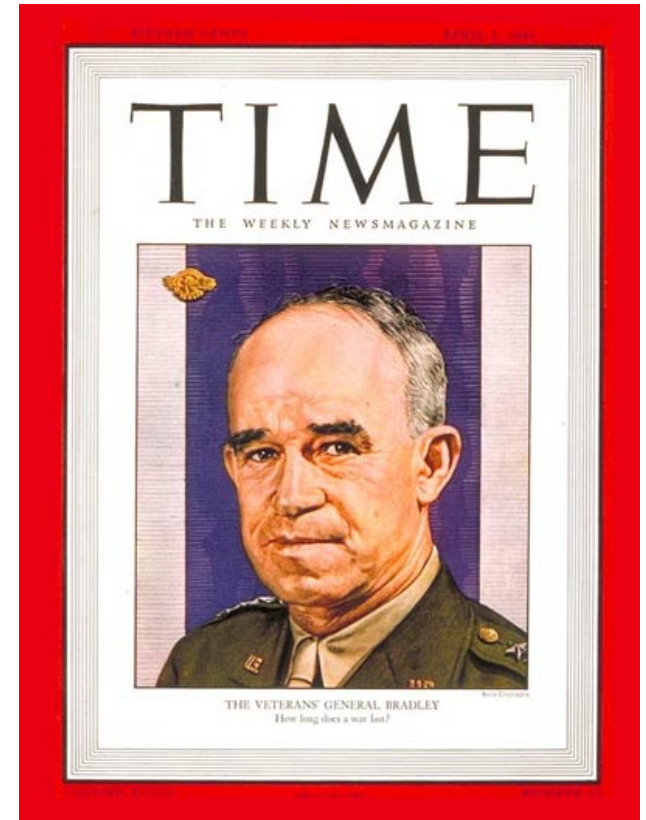
70 Year History of Academic Affiliations

VA Policy

Memorandum

January 1946

Began VA's visionary
association with
American medical
schools



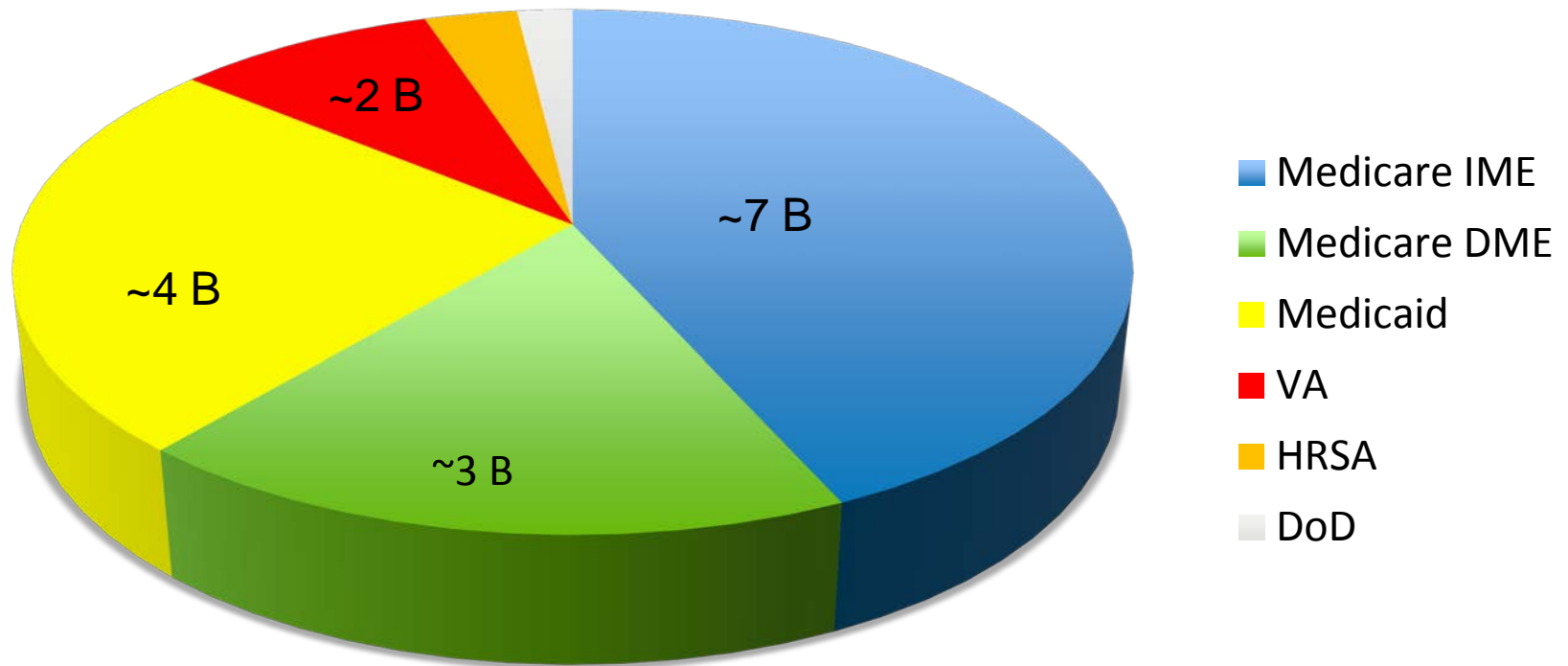
General Omar Bradley

VA Administrator

1945-1947

2014 GME Spending by Federal Sources

> \$16 Billion GME Spending Annually



Veterans Healthcare Administration

- Largest integrated healthcare system in the USA serving more than 8.9 million Veterans each year.
- Care provided at 168 Medical Centers and 1053 other outpatient sites of care in 50 states, Puerto Rico, and Guam.
- The VA healthcare system has a budget of about \$59 billion/year spends \$900 million for trainee stipends (second largest to CMS Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services), and \$630 million on research.

Medical Education Scope

- OAA GME support:
 - 10,500 positions
 - Over 43,000 individual residents
- 24,000 medical students receive clinical training in VA each year
- All but 3 program groups sponsored outside of VA (through Affiliation Agreements)

Scope of Affiliations (AY2014-15)

- 144 of 149 allopathic medical schools
- 34 of 34 osteopathic medical schools
- 40+ health professions
 - 1,800+ colleges and universities
 - 7,200+ program agreements

Training Portfolio – FY2011-17

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	AY 2017
Advanced Fellows	288	297	253	311	383	452	303
Associated Health	24,608	25,122	26,121	26,454	26,410	26,932	25,428
Dental Residents & Students	1,231	1,195	1,397	1,398	986	1,044	849
Physician Residents	36,816	37,809	40,420	41,697	43,004	43,768	43,565
Medical Students	21,502	20,218	21,541	23,031	24,283	25,707	24,683
Nursing Trainees	32,349	32,859	29,067	28,086	28,127	28,845	27,549
Non Health Profession	N/A	N/A	N/A	368	359	463	412
Grand Total	116,794	117,500	118,799	121,345	123,552	127,211	122,789

Veterans Access, Choice, & Accountability Act (VACAA)

- Provision to expand VA GME by “up to 1,500 positions” over 10 years ending 2024
- Round 1: 205.2 approved (residents started 7/15)
- Round 2: 168 approved (residents started 7/16)
- Round 3: 175.2 approved (residents started 7/17)
- Round 4: 226.21 approved (residents started 7/18)
- Round 5: 281.80 approved (would start 7/19)
- Current Totals: **1055.3** new approved or requested positions –22% Mental Health, 36% Critical Specialties, 42% Primary Care

VACAA GME Expansion at 5 Years By the Numbers

VACAA Data by # positions

VACAA GME Initiative	Approved Positions					<i>Cumulative</i>
through 5th Round	<i>Round 1</i>	<i>Round 2</i>	<i>Round 3</i>	<i>Round 4</i>	<i>Round 5</i>	<i>5-yr Totals</i>
Primary Care	102.4	62.2	70.7	114.1	93.8	443.2
Mental Health	57.8	38.2	40.4	31.2	61.5	229.1
Critical Needs- other Specialties	44.0	67.6	64.1	80.8	126.5	383.0
<i>Total positions by year</i>	204.2	168.0	175.2	226.1	281.8	1055.3
Total VACAA Positions Approved						1055.3

Challenges

VACAA GME Expansion by Target

VACAA GME Initiative	Approved Positions					Cumulative
through 5th Round	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	5-yr Totals
Rural Positions (self-designated sites)	18.7	21.5	15.0	10.6	1.7	67.5
Family Medicine Positions	19.9	7.3	19.5	38.9	16.1	101.7
Osteopathic Positions	15.7	1.0	4.3	15.5	20.4	53.6

VACAA Sources of Funding

✓ Direct GME Payments

- For time spent at VA- includes portion of vacation, benefits, and testing, evaluation, and some other fees. Can increase program size above CMS cap (but not ACGME cap).

✓ Planning Grants

- DEO of small VA with no or low GME can apply for money to explore/develop opportunities for new residents/ programs.

✓ Infrastructure Grants

- After VACAA position approved, DEO of a small VA with low GME can apply for money to build necessary infrastructure to support new residents/programs/training sites.

VA Research Funding

- FY 17 Budget is \$673,366,000
- ORD funds approximately 2,200 intramural research projects, including individual investigator awards, large clinical trials, research centers, and career development awards at any one time.
- Approximately 20% of applicants are successful in any given funding round.
- Approximately 60% of investigators are clinicians.
- Program depends on close ties to academic affiliates.

VA Researchers: Bridging VA and Academic Affiliates



**Double the benefits, opportunities and challenges
between two institutions:**

Salary support, Time/effort
Regulatory requirements

THE VA MISSION ACT OF 2018

- Sponsored by John McCain, Daniel Akaka, and Samuel Johnson- became PL 115-182 on 6/6/18.
**VA Maintaining Internal Systems and
Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks**
- Primary purpose: Establish an effective and more efficient community care program for Veterans and create a framework through which to modernize and realign the resources of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

The VA MISSION Act

Title I – Healthcare Delivery

- Expansion of telehealth authority.
- Expansion of the family caregiver program.
- New authority to support the cost of live donor transplant care to Veteran recipients.
- Provisions to improve payments and collections between VHA, insurers, and community providers.
- New training, competency, and continuing education requirements for non-Department healthcare professionals.
- Creation of a “Center for Innovation for Care and Payment” allowing VHA to innovate through the use of pilot programs that can be extended or modified as needed to improve quality of, and/or access to care, or cost savings.

The VA MISSION Act

Title II- Review Commission

- Establishes a commission with guidelines to comprehensively review VHA infrastructure and assets, to modernize, realign, and close facilities strategically.
- There has been some controversy over aspects of this Title because of concerns that VA facility closures could lead to loss of services for Veterans in affected areas.

The VA MISSION Act

Title III- Improve P&D recruits

- Medical School scholarship program (sect 301)
 - 2-4 year scholarships- 18 months payback for each year (up to 50).
 - Includes stipend, tuition, fees, housing like the DoD HPSP
- Veterans Healing Veterans (sect 304)*
 - Pilot program establishes 2 full scholarship positions per class in each of the 4 HBCUs and 5 "Teague Cranston" medical schools for Veterans recently separating from DoD. 12 mos payback/year
- Specialty Education Loan Repayment (sect 303)
 - For eligible GME residents/fellows. Pays off education debt \$40,000/year for each year served at a VA after training. May pick from a list of VAs rather than site being selected for them.
- Improve Education Debt Reduction Program
 - Allows higher limits for established program and expands eligibility criteria

Veterans Healing Veterans

Teague-Cranston HBCU *

1. Texas A&M College of Medicine
2. Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University
3. Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University
4. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University
5. The University of South Carolina School of Medicine

1. Drew University of Medicine and Science
2. Howard University of Medicine
3. Meharry Medical College
4. Morehouse School of Medicine

The VA MISSION Act

Title IV- Underserved Healthcare

- Pilot to furnish mobile deployment teams to underserved VA facilities
- Pilot to place VA –paid GME residents in other “covered” facilities. At least 100 VACAA FTE to be placed in either:
 - Indian Health Service
 - Tribal health care organizations
 - Communities of underserved VA facilities
- VA may assist with program development costs (outside of traditional VAMCs)

Covered Facilities (sect 403a)*

- VAMC
- Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization
- Indian Health Service Facility
- Federally- Qualified Health Center
- DoD
- Other as Sect VA deems appropriate

The VA MISSION Act

Title V-Potpourri, non-GME topics

- Appropriates \$5.2 billion to Choice Fund
- Aligns podiatry with other physicians
- Incorporates peer specialists into PACT Teams
- Allow pilot for medical scribes
- Modifies definitions of major and minor construction projects.

What's Next?

- Regulations need to be established- this is usually an 18 month process.
- Should bring VA more flexibility to work with other government partners when enacted.

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