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News Release

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VA New England Healthcare System Announces New Medical Center Director *Clifford Brings Leadership, Proven Experience to Bedford VAMC*

BEDFORD, Mass. — The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Joan Clifford as the new director of Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VA Medical Center (Bedford VA). Clifford will oversee a comprehensive healthcare system classified as a Complexity Level 3 facility that provides care to approximately 20,000 enrolled Veterans from Eastern Massachusetts, with an operating budget of \$200+ million.

“We are pleased to appoint Dr. Clifford as the new director of Bedford VA Medical Center,” said Dr. Michael Mayo-Smith, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 1 director. “Her sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and for the Veterans we are honored to serve. She is currently serving as in a critical leadership role at VA Central Office overseeing improvements in access to care for Veterans.”

Clifford currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Access to Care, Veterans Health Administration – Central Office (VHA-CO), Washington, DC. Clifford has held positions of increasing complexity within the Veterans Health Administration over the past twenty years, mostly within the VA Boston Healthcare System, most recently as the Deputy Nurse Executive in the VA Boston multi-site tertiary care system. Clifford has served in several acting positions, tapped for her experience and leadership to fill critical vacancies.

Clifford is certified in healthcare management as a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) and is also certified as an advanced nurse executive by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

Clifford received a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Massachusetts General Hospital Institute for Health Professions, a Master of Science in Management from Emmanuel College in Boston and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Salem State College, Salem, Mass.

Bedford VA Medical Center is part of the VA New England Healthcare System which includes eight medical centers, located in the six New England States: Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. It is an integral part of VISN 1, headquartered in Bedford, Mass. Bedford VA Medical Center is comprised of one main campus located in Bedford, Mass. and three Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) located in Lynn, Haverhill and Gloucester, Mass.

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