



Department of Veterans Affairs Operational Management Review (OMR)

Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)

February 22, 2012



Major Initiative Overview

- ❖ **Major Initiative Lead:** Arthur (Joe) Paiva, VLER Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO)
- ❖ **Major Initiative Sponsor:** Roger W. Baker, Office of Information Technology (OIT)
- ❖ **Purpose:** The Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) enables VA and its partners to proactively provide the full continuum of services and benefits to Veterans through Veteran-centric processes made possible by effective, efficient, and secure standards-based information sharing.
- ❖ **Intent:** The Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) is an inter-agency, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) led transformation of business processes and information systems to be more Servicemember and Veteran-centric by providing standards-based information sharing and transparency.
- ❖ **Strategy:** VLER will exploit information exchange and eliminate barriers to information sharing, in order to engage, empower, and increase Veteran participation.



Request for DEPSECVA Action

Request Description	Requested DEPSECVA Actions
1. None at this time.	

DEPSECVA Action Items

Action Item / Source	Response / Status
1. FY12 Operating Plan / OMR	Executive Director VLER completed plan and submitted to Mr. Baker on Jan 13, 2012. Currently pending concurrence from VBA and VHA.



Recent Key Accomplishments

Key Accomplishments

- 1. Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs):** Continued to coordinate finalization of joint VBA/VHA Business Requirements Document under review by business owners; market research symposium held 26 Jan & 27 Jan with goal of researching near-term solutions that provide clinical and rating efficiency, accessibility, and computability of DBQs in support of paperless disability claims process.
- 2. Data Access Service (DAS) and Bidirectional Health Exchange (BHIE):** The 32K data chunking enhancement to the BHIE framework, that resolves the truncation of data packets larger than 32K to Vista, successfully moved to Production January 28, 2012. This enhancement allows clinicians to see complete text of large notes that was previously truncated after the 32K limit was reached. VLER Data Access Service (DAS) 1.0 completed SQA testing. It is now available for the Warrior Support Information Sharing Initiative (ISI) Product Development team. This will enable VA and DoD software applications (VTA & DESITI or AWCTS) to share care coordination information.
- 3. Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN):** Presented VAP 2.0 Courses of Action (COA) to business leaders and stakeholders for delivering functionality to address incorporation of requirements for SSA exchange, which consist of Veterans Authorization Preferences (VAP) 1.0 defect resolution, decoupling of authorizations & restrictions, and reporting enhancements.
- 4. NCA/Memorial:** Completed functionality testing for Memorial and Decision Support System (MADSS) on January 13, 2012. The VLER Memorials team enhanced the National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO) and MADSS capability to allow the processing and reporting of employee records via MADSS. This information enables improved resource planning to ensure quality support and delivery of memorial services for our nation's Veterans and eligible family members.



90-Day Look Ahead

Planned Key Accomplishments Within Next 90 Days

1. Brief VA leadership regarding VLER strategic direction to ensure alignment and full integration across the enterprise. Publish EDM to institutionalize VLER and a VLER Operating Plan based upon the confirmed strategic direction.
2. Publish a joint BRD that addresses improved access, usability, and computability of DBQs for Veterans, VBA and VHA providers, and private clinicians in paperless disability claims process. Prepare supporting documentation for acquisition of near-term DBQ solution in support of VCA-2 Rapid Acceleration IPT.
3. Veteran Authorization and Preference (VAP) project within the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) portfolio is currently pending release. VAP will educate Veterans and Servicemembers on the various types of information the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) collects on them in order to provide services and benefits. VAP release (v1.0.0.9) will also correct three (3) defects found in its first release and will improve the consent directive processing time for the Release of Information (ROI) staff.
4. The Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN): A new release of VistAWeb v15 will allow incorporation of new Nationwide Health Information Network (NwHIN) partners. VistAWeb is a read only internet web application under the VLER initiative. This release will also provide new functionality to allow the clinician to view C62 image data from the Department of Defense (DoD). The Veteran and VA clinician will both benefit as additional health data will be available for clinical decision making.
5. Continue architecture development for VLER Data Access Service (DAS) which will support the efficient exchange of VLER health, benefits and personnel data securely and accurately between all data producers and consumers that exist among DoD, VA, and external partners thereby enhancing Veterans' rapid access to benefits.
6. Develop Business Requirements Document (BRD), functional models, Requirements Specification Documents (RSD), and the draft System Design Document (SDD) to support strategic planning for Memorial Affairs Redesign (MAR).
7. Publish joint BRD for an initial DBQ capability that will improve access, usability, and computability of DBQs for Veterans, VBA and VHA providers, and private clinicians in paperless disability claims process.
8. Facilitate VA and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) efforts to share information.
9. Communications: Deploy public-facing homepage that provides readers in depth information about VLER, how to participate, current news stories and useful links to health, benefits and memorials landing pages. Plan article series for publication in VSO periodicals. Deliver presentations to national VSO conferences. Produce range of EXSUMs supporting VA leadership. Issue "Message from the CIO" on 3rd anniversary of VLER citing accomplishments and upcoming milestones. Develop "new media" strategy including use of Facebook, Twitter, VA blog site and Pdtv. Develop story boards supporting production of informational video.



Key Issues and Corrective Action Plans

Key Issues	Corrective Action Plans
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> If VLER resources are not fully on-boarded in a timely manner, then it impacts the ability of contractor resources to properly support VLER projects. 	<p>VLER IT PMO COTR actively engaged with TAC. VA Security Clearance point of contact and VA Security Investigation Center to establish repeatable processes for all contractors requiring background investigations. Daily monitoring of status of each clearance in progress. There are plans to possibly centralize on-boarding at VA.</p>

Major Risks and Mitigation Plans

Major Risks	Mitigation Plans
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Poor coordination of hard dependencies (both from within VA and with other agencies), then there could be slippages of software incremental delivery and overall full operational capability delivery and there could be increased costs. 	<p>Use all available software tools (ClearQuest and Primavera Master Schedules) and processes (PMAS) to accurately depict all dependencies between concurrent work to ensure a complete understanding of the interrelationships of the architecture and usage of common COTS products. Improve communication with external dependencies on calls, IPTs, and meeting.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Important VLER projects may not be fully funded. 	<p>Developed value statements and business cases for UFRs in order to secure funding.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to meet established milestones for projects with external dependencies, based on different priorities, funding, and schedules. 	<p>Develop funding strategy, and ensure VLER funding profile includes other project dependencies.</p>



MI Milestone and Strategic Plan Performance Measures

Milestone Performance as of January 31, 2012

Planned Milestones to Date	Of Planned Milestones, # Completed	% of Planned to Date	Total Milestones Completed to Date	Total Planned FY12	% Total FY12
-	-	-	0	-	-

Legend (% of Planned to Date)



Strategic Performance Measures as of January 31, 2012

Measure	Start of FY12 Value	End of FY12 Target	Forecast End of FY12 Value
Achieve bidirectional information exchange in at least three sites between VA, DOD and the private sector by end of FY12.	10	13	13+
Complete the prototyping and pilot phases by the end of FY 12.	Started	Complete	Completed



Additional MI Performance Measures *

Measure	Start of FY12 Value	End of FY12 Target	Forecast End of FY12 Value
Increase in number of all VA designated "Authoritative Sources" who have XML Schemas, Data Dictionaries and Business Rules published in accordance with established processes and formats	0	2	2
Increase in number of new information services made available to VA enterprise	0	2	2
Increase in number of new healthcare service provider partners with whom VA is able to share information (electronically, without human intervention)	10	13	15
Increase in number of new non-healthcare service provider partners with whom VA is able to share information (electronically, without human intervention)	N/A	2	2
Increase in number of manual VA business processes enabled by automated information sharing between systems	N/A	2	2

* These measures are in addition to Strategic Plan (Refresh) measures



Overall Status Summary

Fiscal Year-to-Date as of ████ January 2012

		Planned to Date (\$ in millions)	Actual (\$ in millions)	% Actual vs. Planned to Date	Remaining (\$ in millions)	Total FY12 (\$ in millions)	% Actual vs. Total FY12
Spend	Program	-	\$0	-	-	-	-
	IT	-	\$████	-	\$████	\$████	████
FTE	Program	-	████	-	-	-	-
	IT	████	████	100%	0	████	100%

Legend (% of Planned to Date)

> 90%	80-90%	<80%
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Contracts as of ████ January 2012

	Total Planned Contracts		Contracts Awarded		Contracts Not Awarded		"Actionable" Package Being Worked by Contracting Officer	Developing Acquisition Package	Developing BRD
	Number	Value (FY12, \$ in millions)	Number	Value (FY12, \$ in millions)	Number	Value (FY12, \$ in millions)			
IT	-	-	████	\$████	-	-	-	-	-
Program	-	-	0	\$0	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	████	\$████	-	-	-	-	-