

(b) (6)

Subject: WH Meeting on VA Health Care w/ (b) (6)
Location: WH
Start: Wed 10/4/2017 9:30 AM
End: Wed 10/4/2017 10:15 AM
Recurrence: (none)
Organizer: DJS
Categories: White House

Hi (b) (6)

Apologies for the delay. Wednesday at 130 works for (b) (6) !

Thank you,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@va.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2017 2:44 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6)@va.gov; (b) (6)@va.gov; (b) (6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

Hi (b) (6) just checking back with you.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 10:25 AM
To: (b) (6); (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

Hi (b) (6) –

Would any of the following times work for (b) (6) next week?

- Wednesday, October 4 from 1:30-2:30pm - 4:30-5:30pm
- Thursday, October 5 from 3-5pm

Thanks,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6); (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6); (b) (6)]
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 10:18 AM
To: (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6); (b) (6); (b) (6)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

(b) (6) who can help you with scheduling for (b) (6)!

Kind regards,

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6)@va.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 10:14 AM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)@va.gov; (b) (6)@va.gov; (b) (6)

(b) (6)@va.gov>

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

Hi (b) (6) and (b) (6) –

Can you share who would be best to work with setting a meeting up with (b) (6) Secretary Shulkin and Dr. Carolyn Clancy?

(b) (6)

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 1:24:00 PM

To: (b) (6); (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6);

'mbsherman (b) (6) 'brucemoskowitz (b) (6); (b) (6)

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

YES – we will make ourselves available to learn more and try to be helpful

From: DJS [mailto:vacodjs1@va.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2017 12:50 PM

To: (b) (6) (b) (6) >

Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6) 'mbsherman (b) (6)

'brucemoskowitz (b) (6) (b) (6)

<(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

(b) (6) I do want to move forward with an independent evaluation of our quality comparison methodology.

I'm adding Dr (b) (6) (who will soon be acting undersecretary for health) who is one of the top quality experts in the country. She is prepared to review this methodology and make some recommendations on an independent review panel- Would it be helpful to have her meet with someone from your office to review where we are or do you have another suggestion to move forward? We also want to integrate Dr Moskowitz into this approach as he has some very useful approaches to this as well.

David Shulkin

Sent with Good (>>>www.good.com<<<)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 06:04 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: DJS; 'IP'
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) mbsherman (b) (6) brucemoskowitz (b) (6) '
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare (b) (6)

Please let me know what we can do to help move this along. Good out of the box thinking...

From: DJS [<mailto:vacodjs1@va.gov>]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 5:18 PM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) bsherman (b) (6) brucemoskowitz (b) (6)
(b) (6) >
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare

(b) (6) -I agree with Ike and the team that measuring VA against private hospitals is critical - so while CMS is not able to deliver this for months we have now developed our own tool to do this-we are fine tuning the model this week and can share it by friday. If it does not get us where we need to be then working quickly with an independent group would make a great deal of sense.

David

Sent with Good (>>>www.good.com<<<<)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) (b) (6)]
Sent: Sunday, September 24, 2017 04:31 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: (b) (6)
Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) mbsherman (b) (6) ; brucemoskowitz (b) (6) '
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: VA Healthcare (b) (6)

This is a creative idea to fast track the process – I think it could be worthwhile as a way of collecting the data quickly by an independent group. If they can spend time with the other raters and get a sense for what they are looking for, perhaps the data they are collecting can be used to help determine the star ratings

From: IP (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 8:58 AM
To: (b) (6) (b) (6) >

Cc: (b) (6) (b) (6)
mbsherman (b) (6); 'brucemoskowitz (b) (6) >
Subject: VA Healthcare (b) (6) (b) (6)

(b) (6)

We have been talking to Dr. Shulkin for many months about identifying the existence of healthcare delivery issues at VA medical centers. There is no doubt that issues exist in abundance and were created by decades of historical federal government hiring practices, regulatory hiring rules and mismanagement. We originally were hoping that the hospitals could be rated (with the star rating system) by CMS, as they do with private hospitals. However, they recently advised that they would not be able to focus on the VA hospitals until December 2018. As an example, we think that some of the VA hospitals are delivering some specialty healthcare when they shouldn't and when referrals to private facilities or other VA centers would be a better option. Not every VA hospital has both the breadth and depth of specialized medical expertise in every specialty, which then creates risk to the patients and the system. One idea discussed was to institute a self-rating program, but self-ratings are rarely of any practical use. Our solution is to make use of the academic medical centers and medical trade groups, both of whom have offered to send review teams to the VA hospitals to help in this effort. The purpose of this email is to see if you know of any impediments to taking them up on this offer and to get your thoughts in general about this approach.

All my Best,
Ike