



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
Midwest Health Care Network

VA Midwest Health Care Network (VISN 23)  
2805 Dodd Road, Suite 250  
Eagan, Minnesota 55121

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**EAGAN, Minn.** — The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Brent A. Thelen. the new director of the St. Cloud VA Health Care System.

“Dr. Thelen possesses sound leadership qualities and proven experience,” said Mr. Robert McDivitt, VA Midwest Health Care Network Director. “I am certain he will be an asset to our VISN, our employees and volunteers, our health care partners, the community, and importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve.”

Dr. Thelen has been with the Department of Veterans Affairs for over 16 years. He currently serves as the Director, Quality Management Systems/ISO Consultant Division (QCD-ICD) in Washington D.C.

Dr. Thelen holds a PhD in Engineering/Industrial Management from Columbia University, Master of Science in Business Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering Technology from Southern Illinois University.

The St. Cloud VA Health Care System is headquartered at the St. Cloud VAMC in St. Cloud, MN. VA Clinics are located in Alexandria, Brainerd and Montevideo, Minnesota. Services are delivered through outpatient clinics. The HCS provides primary and subspecialty medical, urgent, specialty and mental health care; acute psychiatry services; and extended care and rehabilitation services. The HCS also provides a number of special emphasis services including residential and outpatient mental health and substance abuse programs, a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment program, a Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program, outpatient programming for serious mental illness, homeless Veterans programs, a suicide prevention program, a Post 9/11 Transition and Care Management program, a Women Veterans program, an Incarcerated Veteran Program, and a Veterans Justice Outreach Program. Extended Care and Rehabilitation services include Home-Based Primary Care, Adult Day Health Care, Memory Care, Hospice Care, Short Stay and Nursing Home Care, including ventilator care.

The VA Midwest Health Care Network, also known as Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23, is one of 18 Health Care Systems in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration. The Network serves more than 440,000 enrolled Veterans residing in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Health care services are delivered through an integrated system of 9 hospitals, 69 community-based outpatient clinics, 8 community living centers and 4 domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs. The Network employs over 15,000 full-time employees and has an annual operating budget in excess of \$3.3 billion.

[www.visn23.va.gov](http://www.visn23.va.gov)