



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information

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Syracuse VA & Sterling Medical Associates Unveil New Veterans Community-Based Outpatient Clinic in Watertown

Watertown, NY- Officials from the Syracuse VA Medical Center and Sterling Medical Associates of Cincinnati, Ohio held an Open House at the new VA Watertown Community Based Outpatient Clinic Friday, May 29th.

The Clinic provides primary health care and specialty referral services to some 4,000 Veterans in Jefferson, St. Lawrence and Lewis Counties and the surrounding North Country. Contracts for operation of CBOC's are competitively bid every five years to ensure that Veteran patients are receiving the best possible care from the most capable providers. Sterling Medical was selected to take over the operation of the Clinic last December.

Sterling Medical relocated the CBOC to 144 Eastern Blvd, in Watertown approximately 3 miles from the former location in the C.A.N.I. Building located at 19472 US Route 11.

The new location offers considerably more space for patient privacy and enhanced services, providing VA the ability to implement PACT (Patient Aligned Care Teams) and enhance care for Veterans through expanded laboratory services and new, state-of-the-art telehealth services.

Sterling Medical has also increased staffing to provide greater access and more personalized care. Sterling Medical currently operates five other VA CBOC's in New York State; located in Jamestown, Lackawanna, Schenectady, Springville and Troy.

“Sterling Medical was selected to operate the CBOC because their proposal was the most responsive to the needs of our Veterans and they are committed to providing the high quality of health care the Veterans of the North Country are accustomed to. As we can see here today, they are off to a great start with this wonderful state of the art facility”, said Richard Kazel, External Medical/Surgical Care Line Manager for the Syracuse VA.

“We are looking forward to continuing our long record of service to the Veterans of New York State, where we have performed uninterrupted services on behalf of the VA CBOC program since 1998. Sterling Medical has for many years performed medical services in support of programs for active duty military and their dependents in the upper New York State region, and we are excited about the opportunity to provide high quality medical services, education, and other outreach programs to include veterans of the Watertown area with addition of this new CBOC in the region,” said Brandon Blatt, Vice President, of Sterling Medical.

VA staff will continue to provide Audiology, Optometry/Optician, Behavioral Health, Homeless Outreach and Vocational Rehab services at the C.A.N.I. Building. Plans also call for expanding Optometry/Optician services to 5 days a week and expanding the Home Based Primary Care Services at that location.

For more information about VA services at the Watertown CBOC call 315-221-7026. For information regarding eligibility for VA health care visit the VA website at <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/>, or call 888-823-9656.