



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

#### **Linda McConnell, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE**

**VHA Chief Nursing Officer (CNO)**  
**Office of Nursing Services (10A1)**

As the VHA Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), Linda McConnell provides executive leadership and strategic direction for the Office of Nursing Services. She advises the Under Secretary for Health on nursing issues that impact Veteran care for the over 98,000 VA nursing personnel nationwide. She collaborates with VHA leaders to plan for current and emerging health care needs of our Nation's Veterans.

Prior to her current position, Linda McConnell served as the Associate Director for Patient Care and Nursing Services and Chief Nurse Executive (CNE) for a large level 1c VA healthcare system, serving approximately 55,000 Veterans. She was responsible for planning, directing and managing Nursing Service, Education and Staff Development Service, Sterile Processing Service, Social Work Service, and Chaplain Service, with over 800 direct line employees and a budget over 70 million dollars. Ms. McConnell previously provided sound leadership for patient care improvements serving as the Associate Director for Nursing Services for a large level 1A complexity VA healthcare system and tertiary care referral center, serving approximately 40,000 veterans. She has a broad background providing leadership for various patient care programs areas such as Medical, Surgical, Intensive Care, Mental Health, Spinal Cord Injury, Polytrauma, Primary Care, outpatient Specialty Care, and Extended Care programs.



Ms. McConnell has successfully completed a number of highly regarded leadership development programs. She completed the Executive Career Field Development Program, Leadership VA, and the Federal Executive Institute Nurse Executive Program. Additionally, Linda McConnell is Board Certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center as an Advanced Nurse Executive and certified as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. She has a number of professional and civic affiliations including; American Organization of Nurse Executives, American Nurses Association, American College of Healthcare Executives, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Nursing Practice program.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

- 2008 – 2016 Associate Medical Center Director for Patient Care/Nursing, Mountain Home Veterans Affairs Healthcare System, Johnson City, TN
- 2006 – 2008 Associate Director for Nursing Services/Chief Nurse Executive, Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Richmond, VA
- 2001 – 2006 Associate Chief Nurse for Primary Care, Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Richmond, VA
- 1993 – 2001 Associate Chief Nurse, Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Nashville, TN

#### **EDUCATION:**

- 1991 Master of Science in Nursing, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas
- 1987 Bachelor of Science in Nursing, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas
- 1976 Associate of Applied Science in Nursing, Texarkana College, Texarkana, Texas