DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
Washington DC 20420

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UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH'S INFORMATION LETTER

2013 MARSHA GOODWIN-BECK INTERDISCIPLINARY AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN GERIATRICS

1. This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Information Letter announces that nominations are being solicited for the Marsha Goodwin-Beck Awards for Excellence in Geriatrics.

2. These awards, honoring Marsha E. Goodwin-Beck, Registered Nurse-Certified (RN-C), Master's Degree of Arts (MA), Master's Degree of Science in Nursing (MSN), and former Director of Geriatric Programs, recognizes outstanding geriatric health care providers and leaders in the interdisciplinary care of older Veterans. The recipients of these awards should show a sustained commitment to the needs of Veterans in their advancing years. Marsha Goodwin-Beck, RN-C, MA, MSN, served as VHA's Director of Geriatric Programs for 14 years. During that time, she exemplified the ideal in national leadership in geriatrics. Her intelligent, articulate, and passionate approach to the geriatric health policy challenges of the day made her an effective spokesperson on any and all long-term care issues.

3. Two award categories have been established: Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery and Excellence in Geriatric Leadership.

a. **Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery.** The recipient is an individual health care provider in any health care setting who has demonstrated excellence in "hands on" direct geriatric patient care.

b. **Excellence in Geriatric Leadership.** The recipient is an individual health care provider in a leadership or management position who has demonstrated excellence through exceptional support for direct patient care providers, for geriatric education and training, or for geriatric health policy leadership, including support of innovations enhancing the quality of direct geriatric patient care delivery, education, and training.

4. One award per category is given annually. The nominees must be employed by VHA currently at least 5/8th time in any health care profession. Each winner receives a plaque and a $5,000 cash award.

5. Each facility Director, VHA Central Office Chief Consultant, Clinical Program Director, or Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center Director may nominate one candidate in each category per year.

6. An evaluation committee appointed by the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services reviews all nominations. The evaluation committee recommends final nominees through the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services and Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, to the Under Secretary for Health, who approves the final selection.

7. Attachment A to this Information Letter lists the criteria for nominations and package submission. Inquiries may be directed to Marcia Holt-Delaney, Geriatrics and Extended Care Services (10P4G) Marcia.Holt-Delaney@va.gov or at 202-461-6769.

Robert A. Petzel, M.D.
Under Secretary for Health

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION: E-mailed to the VHA Publications Distribution List 3/1/2013

ATTACHMENT A

THE PROCESS

1. CRITERIA

a. **Award for Excellence in Geriatric Clinical Care Delivery.** The criteria for this award includes:

(1) Evidence that the nominee exemplifies excellence in the delivery of geriatric care and has had an effective role in improving the quality of health care for aging Veteran patients.

(2) Evidence that the nominee has been a positive role model for the health care profession and is recognized by management and colleagues for excellence and dedication in the provision of geriatric care.

(3) Evidence that the nominee works effectively with the health care team to promote excellence in the interdisciplinary delivery of clinical care in geriatrics.

(4) Evidence that the nominee is recognized by the patients served, or their families, as an outstanding health care practitioner.

b. **Award for Excellence in Geriatric Leadership.** The criteria for this award includes:

(1) Evidence that the nominee's leadership exemplifies Marsha Goodwin-Beck's excellence in leadership and has significantly contributed to improving the quality of geriatric patient care, education and training, or health policy either locally, throughout the Veterans Integrated Service Network, or nationally.

(2) Evidence that the nominee supports originality, creativity, and innovation in the delivery of direct geriatric clinical care, education, and training.

(3) Evidence that the nominee's outstanding leadership is recognized by management, colleagues, and subordinates.

2. NOMINATION PACKAGE: The nomination package needs to include:

a. A letter from the facility Director, VHA Central Office Chief Consultant, Clinical Program Director, or the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center Director, addressed to the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services, summarizing the basis for the nomination. The transmittal letter is to include the nominator's name, office, mail symbol, and telephone number.

b. There must be concurrence by the facility Director and Network Director for field nominees, or the VHA Chief Officer for VA Central Office nominees.

c. There must be a current curriculum vitae, resume, or other summary of education, training, and work history.

d. There are to be three letters of support outlining the nominee's contributions.

e. There must be a summary of the nominee's achievements clearly identifying the nomination category. This summary is not to exceed three pages in length and must address the items under criteria subparagraphs 1a or 1b.

3. SUBMISSION

a. Submit an original and five copies of the complete nomination package to: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services, ATTN: Marcia Holt-Delaney (10P4G), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

b. The nomination package is due to the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services no later than April 26, 2013.