



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

VA Long Beach
Healthcare System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Long Beach Highlighted in Healthcare Equality Index 2016

VA Long Beach Healthcare System Named as “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by National Survey

LONG BEACH, Calif. – VA Long Beach Healthcare System, serving Veterans in Orange and South Los Angeles Counties, as well as Long Beach, has been recognized as a [“Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality”](#) by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization.

The findings were part of HRC Foundation’s *Healthcare Equality Index 2016*, a unique annual survey that encourages equal care for LGBT Americans by evaluating inclusive policies and practices related to LGBT patients, visitors and employees.

VA Long Beach earned top marks in meeting non-discrimination and training criteria that demonstrate its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT Veterans, and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing the quality health care and respect they deserve.

VA Long Beach states, “It is critical to us at this facility, to insure ALL Veterans that served this nation and guarantee our freedom, are equally free to access care in a compassionate, safe and welcoming environment, free of discrimination. We are proud of the work we have accomplished and the care we provide.

VA Long Beach Healthcare System is one of a select group of 496 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named *Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality*. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria, including patient and employee non-discrimination policies that specifically mention sexual orientation and gender identity, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

“Despite all the progress we’ve made, far too many LGBT people still lack inclusive and affirming healthcare. Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality are helping to change that, and, in the process, making the lives of LGBT patients and their families better each and

every day,” said Chad Griffin, President of the Human Rights Campaign. “LGBT people have a right to be treated equally in all aspects of our lives, and HRC celebrates VA Long Beach for its work to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all patients.”

The *Healthcare Equality Index* offers healthcare facilities unique and powerful resources designed to help provide equal care to a long-overlooked group of patients, as well as assistance in complying with regulatory requirements and access to high-quality staff training. The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Health Equity coordinates facility participation in the Healthcare Equity Index. This office is responsible for championing equitable health for all Veterans including Veterans from LGBT communities.

For more information about the *Healthcare Equality Index 2016*, or to download a free copy of the report, visit www.hrc.org/hei.

For more information about the VA Office of Health Equity, visit www.va.gov/healthequity.

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