**News Release**

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**New York/New Jersey VA Health Care Network Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 2)**

**Announces New Healthcare System Director**

*Michael J. Swartz Brings Leadership, Proven Experience to Western New York*

**Buffalo, NY** — The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael J. Swartz as the new director of VA Western New York Healthcare System (VAWNYHS). Mr. Swartz will oversee delivery of health care to dual campus system with medical centers located in Buffalo and Batavia, New York and seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) with an operating budget of $400 million.

“We are excited to bring Mr. Swartz on board as the new director of VA Western New York Healthcare System,” said Dr. Joan E. McInerney, Director, New York/New Jersey VA Health Care Network. “As the Medical Center Director for the Canandaigua VA he showed sound leadership qualities. His proven experience will be a valuable asset to VA Western New York Healthcare System, the employees, volunteers, and most importantly, the Veterans we are honored to serve there.” Mr. Swartz has been serving as the interim director for VA Western New York Healthcare System since January, 2018.

Mr. Swartz joined VA more than 30 years ago and has held progressive leadership positions - associate director, Syracuse VA Medical Center; director, Bath VA Medical Center and most recently, he served as both director for the Canandaigua VA Medical Center and acting director for the Bath VA Medical Center. He was responsible at the Canandaigua VA for operations and strategic direction, an operating budget of 120 million dollars and 900 employees serving over 20,000 Veterans in the Greater Rochester New York area. The Canandaigua VA Medical Center also manages the Rochester VA Outpatient Clinic (ROPC) located in Rochester, New York. For the Bath VA he managed an operating budget of 90 million dollars, four CBOCs and 700 employees serving over 13,000 Veterans.

Mr. Swartz holds a Masters of Public Administration in Health Care Management from the SUNY Brockport. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

VA Western New York Healthcare System employs over 1,900 full time equivalent employees. VAWNYHS operates seven CBOCs serving ten counties in Western New York. The Batavia campus is located on 48.8 acres in Genesee County’s largest city. It consists of a 67-bed Community Living Center as well as 32-bed residential care post-traumatic stress disorder program and military sexual trauma program. CBOCs have been established in Dunkirk, Lackawanna, Jamestown, Lockport, Olean, Niagara Falls, and a satellite site in Springville New York.

VAWNYHS is academically affiliated with the University at Buffalo (State University of New York at Buffalo) School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences where VA plays a critical role in both undergraduate and post graduate medical education in the university’s “Harvard style” clinical practicum model. In addition, VAWNYHS hosts affiliation agreements with more than 60 universities and professional schools. During FY 2017, it is estimated that more than 1,000 health professionals and medical trainees rotated through the Buffalo and Batavia campuses.

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