

CENTRAL TEXAS MEDICAL SERVICES CAPABILITIES

Presentation For

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By

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General Thurman and Commission Panel members, Good Afternoon. Thank you for inviting me to share in this listening session. I am a retired COL after 26 years in the Army Medical Corps. I am a 2nd generation Army Officer and have a son in law who is an Army Staff Sergeant currently in the Infantry who is also a Bradley Fighting vehicle driver. At one point in my Army career I served as a Deputy Commander for Clinical Services (DCCS) at Heidelberg MEDDAC. Both I and my family have experienced medical care in the Army and Civilian facilities in Bell County. Our personal experience coupled with my experience as an Executive Medical leader in the Army and as a Civilian provides a broad understanding of the needs of our military families and the ability of our civilian medical community's' abilities to deliver the care.

This region is blessed to have nationally recognized, high-value healthcare resources, which are very capable of supporting the needs of our civilian and military communities as well as augmenting the medical capabilities available at Fort Hood.

As of December 31, 2014, the civilian provider community supporting S&W Memorial, McLanes's Children's Hospital, Metroplex and Seton Medical Center Harker Heights totaled 1,224 providers (both physicians and physician extenders). Our provider to population ratio approximates 1 provider for every 350 residents, and our inpatient beds to population ratio is at healthy 3 beds for every 1,000 community members.

- S&W Memorial Hospital in Temple is a premier Level 1 Trauma Center with strong residency programs affiliated with the Texas A&M College of Medicine, and includes the McLane Children's Hospital which is the only stand-alone Pediatric Hospital between Dallas and Austin
- All of our medical providers, clinics and hospitals are in the TRICARE network and welcome TRICARE patients. Many physician practices and hospitals derive a significant portion of the operating resources from TRICARE. At Metroplex, 40% of its annual revenue is from TRICARE. Many of our employed and private practice clinics serve a significant percentage of TRICARE patients and possess additional capacity for patients. The medical community overall is prepared to provide needed, cost effective services
- A 2012 Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice report ranked our service area as one of the best dollar values for medical spending in the nation. President Obama's

Health Care Reform team has cited S&W as a model in the delivery of cost effective, high quality, specialized care that needs to be emulated nationally.

Our area hospitals are supported by over 50 medical specialties. Time will not allow me to discuss all the services provided by our community and hospital based physicians. Therefore, I will highlight some of the unique and synergistic medical capabilities available to support and augment the services provided by the Army at Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center and the Temple VA Hospital.

- There are 2 Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) in Bell County. For over 4 years Metroplex has operated a Level 2 Neonatal Transitional Care 4 bed Nursery to manage critically ill premature infants born to mothers after 32 weeks. The 3 year old McLane Children's Hospital has 112 beds, 16 PICU beds and 48 NICU beds. Since it has been open, it has admitted 2,111 pediatric patients and has cared for 445 neonates since July 2014. The majority of these patients are children of military families.
- S&W started kidney transplants in 1997 and remains the only kidney transplant hospital between Austin & Dallas. S&W expanded its transplant program performing its first successful heart transplant in March 2010. S&W added a lung transplant program in Sep 2012 making it the only lung transplant program between Dallas and San Antonio. Other transplant services include corneal, pancreas, and blood stem-cell transplants
- Metroplex has 2 Hyperbaric Chamber facilities, in Killeen and Lampasas and S&W also has a hyperbaric facility in Temple. The use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy at these facilities have prevented countless amputations due to poor circulation and have induced healing in pressure sores that have proved resistant to conventional therapy.
- The number of pts requiring specialized chronic pain therapy has increased in our area. In response, Interventional Pain Management Clinics for Chronic Pain pts have grown to 6 clinics in the Killeen area in addition to the S&W Pain Clinics in Killeen and Temple.
- We are keenly aware that the Behavioral Health needs in our community are of significant interest to the Army and the Fort Hood families. Metroplex has dedicated 60 beds to Behavioral Health treatment for adults, adolescents and children on an inpatient and outpatient basis. Cedar Crest Hospital and Residential Treatment Center in Belton has 88 inpatient and 24 residential treatment beds and is a dedicated mental health facility offering a wide range of services including a Military Patriot Program. S&W has 26 inpatient beds. All three facilities serve many military families and are currently in a growth mode to meet the mental health needs of our community.
- Metroplex, Seton Medical Center Harker Heights and S&W all have 24/7 Interventional Cardiology programs all geared to open closed cardiac (heart) blood vessels within 90 minutes of onset of a heart attack. They all work closely with all the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) both civilian and from Fort Hood to ensure the highest value and lifesaving care is provided in the most expeditious manner.
- The hospitals in the community jointly participate in emergency preparedness. As we practice together in community wide emergency preparedness exercises, we share what we

have learned to optimize our responses. Our collaboration across the county and joint preparation no doubt enabled us to respond to the Fort Hood shootings in 2009 and 2014.

Every hospital within the service area is an active member of the American Hospital Association and has pledged to live by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim of

1. Improving the Patient Experience of Care
2. Improving the health of our population and
3. Achieving aims 1 & 2 while reducing the per capital cost of care

Our collective commitment as medical services providers is to create appropriate, cost-effective formal and informal partnerships with the installation medical services team and to fill needed gaps thereby allowing the most efficient use of resources by the Army to support the families who serve and have served us in letting freedom ring.

General Thurman, Commission Panel members, I respectfully submit that the medical community beyond the gates of the "Great Place" is more than capable of supporting the military and their families. We all have the traditional and unique capabilities located right here, all with a 30 mile drive from Fort Hood.