

STATEMENT OF WENDELL OCASIO, MD  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER  
ABLEVETS, LLC  
FOR PRESENTATION BEFORE THE  
HOUSE VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION  
MAY 22, 2019

Chairwoman Brownley, Chair Lee, Ranking Member Dunn, Ranking Member Banks, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittees, thank you for this opportunity to testify today regarding VA's Caregiver Tool development. AbleVets LLC is a certified Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business specializing in cybersecurity, agile engineering, analytics and technology enablement solutions for government.

AbleVets was awarded the "Caregiver Tool Development" (CareT) contract (VA11816F10090010) on July 5, 2017. The delivery requirement for the 10-month Base Period was for AbleVets to, starting with an existing CareT application code base, implement a defined set of additional application requirements, migrate data from Caregiver Application Tracker (CAT) Rescue into the CareT product, test the final product, and deploy into production. The two 12-month Option Periods were focused solely on sustaining the CareT application once deployed into production.

Ultimately, AbleVets was obligated \$3.5M over a 23-month period, successfully completing and delivering the Base Period requirements. The government accepted all deliverables and issued a Satisfactory performance rating. We are currently performing the Optional Task "Transition Out" requirements prior to the contract close-out on May 28, 2019. A more detailed summary of the work AbleVets performed is below:

Upon award of the contract in July 2017, AbleVets was provided the existing CareT source code and supporting files that were developed under a previous contractor. We made modifications to this code to implement the additional requirements documented in the VA-approved requirements backlog.

In August 2017, AbleVets began efforts to migrate data from VA's transitional Caregiver management tool called, CAT Rescue, into CareT. The CAT Rescue effort was performed by a separate contract/contractor. The CAT Rescue contract experienced delays and eventually in April 2018, VA decided not to deploy CAT Rescue. Based on the new plan to transition VA's production caregiver tool called CAT directly to CareT, our data migration requirement shifted to migrate data from CAT instead. Because of this change, VA exercised a 4-month cost-modification to the AbleVets CareT contract, resulting in the target date for completion of CareT being extended to September 4, 2018.

In August 2018, the VA program manager issued a new requirement consisting of changes to a specific piece of functionality that had been completed under the previous CareT contract. This

piece of functionality provided a ‘portal’ interface to allow veterans and caregivers to complete the application online, which would then be transferred directly to the VA staff for adjudication. As VA directed the implementation of this new requirement in late August, they awarded AbleVets a 3-month cost-modification to AbleVets’ CareT contract, providing time for us to complete this new requirement. The result of this contract modification was to extend the target date for completion of CareT to December 4, 2018.

In late November 2018, upon completion of the new portal requirement, AbleVets had remaining data migration to complete. The migration effort had taken longer than estimated due to the need to come up to speed on the CAT database since the data model was significantly different than the initially planned CAT Rescue. VA and AbleVets agreed to a no-cost extension to allow time for the data migration to complete. At that time, the new target date for completion of CareT was moved to Feb 28, 2018.

End to end user-acceptance testing began on the CareT application November 2018. Throughout this testing, AbleVets worked closely with VA to identify any issues identified by the testers and categorize them as application defects or issues representing additional requirements beyond the approved baseline. AbleVets resolved defects in parallel with continued user-acceptance testing.

In mid-January 2019, AbleVets was informed by VA program management that they decided to pause further testing. During this pause, AbleVets continued to resolve open defects that had been identified to that point. By mid-February 2019, AbleVets had resolved all identified defects and completed the data migration efforts. At that point we were informed by VA that the Department had chosen not to proceed with deployment of CareT, and thus were not going to exercise the sustainment Optional Years. Instead, VA exercised the “Transition Out” Optional Task – a 90-day knowledge transfer and close-out period. We have successfully performed Transition Activities, have had all contract deliverables and invoices approved, and are on-target to end support on May 28, 2019.

Thank you.