

**Opening Statement of Travis Dalton  
President, Cerner Government Services  
Subcommittee on Technology Modernization  
House Veterans Affairs Committee  
June 4, 2019**

Thank you, Chairwoman Lee, Ranking Member Banks and distinguished members of the committee. My name is Travis Dalton, President of Cerner Government Services. Appearing with me are David Waltman and Julie Stoner from Cerner.

We thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and for your continued engagement and support of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program.

Just over a year ago, VA partnered with Cerner to proactively transform care for Veterans to help them lead longer and healthier lives. We remain honored and humbled to be part of this mission, and we have assembled a world-class partnership to deliver it.

Electronic Health Record Modernization is not just about technology, but transformation at scale. We realize the size and complexity of VA. This won't be easy, but it is achievable and we are making progress.

This program will ensure a lifetime of seamless care for Veterans and Service members across the Department of Defense (DoD), VA, and community providers.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a long history of innovation and excellent care for those who have served all of us. We are building on that foundation and moving forward together.

This project will give providers the right tools and data at the right time to make the right decisions. With EHRM, Service members and Veterans will no longer have to carry stacks of paper records. Providers will have access to the Veteran's record wherever they deliver care.

Using advanced analytics and decision support we will be able to: better identify, diagnose, treat and manage chronic conditions; combat suicide, and opioid and substance abuse through interoperability and workflow tools that support clinicians; operationally move from 130 disparate systems to one open, modern, integrated system that's easier and more efficient to update and maintain.

It won't happen overnight, but we can and will achieve these goals.

This undertaking is immense. It carries risks and we don't take the challenges lightly. We must deploy to over 1,700 sites, train over 300,000 VA employees, collaborate with DoD to make decisions, interoperate with the community, aggregate decades worth of clinical data, and update technology.

The only way to get there is for all of us to work together: VA, DoD, all of you, our partners here today, VSO's and other stakeholders.

We are on the right track. We have confidence in Mr. John Windom and his leadership of this effort at VA. That has been imperative to our progress. Examples of that progress include:

We have established 18 councils made up of VA care providers nationwide, Cerner experts, partners, industry leaders, and DoD.

The councils have completed 5 of 8 National Workshops in Kansas City. They are making decisions, setting standards, and bringing best practices and lessons learned to implement one health record system across all VA.

We created an advanced learning academy to ensure early training of super users and advocates for the program.

Along with Booz Allen, we have a robust team in the Pacific Northwest hosting local workshops and implementing our change management plan.

We have completed 18 of 19 roadshows to engage clinicians at each VISN.

We migrated 23.5M Veterans health records consisting of 70 billion data records into the Cerner data center. This is the first time that VA data is in the same system as DoD health data.

We are impressed with the dedication, spirit and passion of the providers we work with inside VA and DoD. We are humbled by the opportunity to be in VA Medical Centers and to interact with clinicians and Veterans receiving care. It reminds all of us every day why we work so hard on this program.

This is personal for many of you who have served and so many of us who have a history of service in our families. I know it is for me. I think about my grandfather and the issues he suffered from upon return, and how health record modernization would have helped him.

We can do this, but it will take all of us working together. On behalf of Cerner we are honored to be part of it.

Thank you and I look forward to our discussion today.