



Director, VA Central Iowa Health Care System

Judith Johnson-Mekota, FACHE, was appointed Director, VA Central Iowa Health Care System on December 15, 2013. As Director, Ms. Johnson-Mekota is responsible all aspects of VA health care delivery in central Iowa. The VA Central Iowa Health Care System provides acute and specialized medical and surgical services, residential outpatient treatment programs in substance abuse and post-traumatic stress, and a full range of mental health and long-term care services, sub-acute and restorative rehabilitation services and domiciliary care. A VA medical center is located in Des Moines and community based outpatient clinics are located in Mason City, Fort Dodge, Knoxville, Marshalltown and Carroll, Iowa.

She began her career with the US Department of Veterans Affairs in 1992 as a nurse manager of a Coronary Care unit at the Iowa City VA Medical Center. Throughout her career she has held positions of increasing responsibility at VA facilities in Iowa and Kansas. Prior to being appointed Director for VA Central Iowa Health Care System, Ms. Johnson-Mekota served as the Deputy Network Director for the VA Midwest Health Care Network in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a position she held since 2010.

Ms. Johnson-Mekota holds a baccalaureate degree in Nursing from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and a Master's degree in Nursing Administration/Informatics from the University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA. She has over 15 years of extensive nurse management experience in private sector tertiary health care settings. She completed VA Health Care Leadership Institute in 2005 and is a 2007 graduate of the VA Executive Career Field program. She possesses a strong knowledge base on Advanced Clinic Access Systems Redesign principles and is a national Systems Redesign Coach with emphasis on Specialty Care and Inpatient Flow. She is certified as a fellow with the American College of Healthcare Executives.