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(S.D.)-Meeting Tonight In Hot Springs Regarding VA

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 02/17/2014 09:54 AM

(Hot Springs)- A task force from the National American Legion will be back in Hot Springs tonight (Monday), just two years after gathering information on the proposed restructuring of the VA Black Hills Health Care System that including closing the VA Medical Center in Hot Springs.

KNEB in Scottsbluff is reporting that Roscoe Butler...American Legion Assistant Director for Health Care, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation...and a team from the "System Worth Saving" task force is holding a public input meeting tonight (Monday) from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Hot Springs American Legion.

Bob Nelson of the Save the VA Committee says Butler and his team will visit the medical center to interview patients, staff and administrators before hosting tonight's meeting to get comments from area veterans about their health care.

The report from the 2012 task force visit recommended not making changes to the existing medical services at the Hot Springs VA unless a new facility was in place to handle the needs of veterans and to keep the Domiciliary in Hot Springs.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki announced last month that the agency would do a required Environmental Impact State on the plan, which Bob Nelson says shows that locally-led efforts to save the Hot Springs center are having an effect.

Task Force chairman Ralph Bozella says the Legion conducts site visits each year to evaluate and report on the quality of health care veterans are receiving, with its next report to be a comprehensive look at VA health care.

(Story courtesy KNEB)