VA needs report flawed

Many who know the harsh realities won't get a chance to share their stories

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN

MANCHESTER — A market-based report that assessed the health care needs of New Hampshire and Vermont veterans listed a community clinic that doesn’t exist.

The report chronicles all the Vet- ersan Administration sites in the two states and included a community-based outpatient clinic in St. Johns- bury, Vt., that the report said served nearly 7,000 veterans in 2017.

This community does not now or ever has had such a clinic, according to U.S. Rep. Annie Kuster, D-N.H.

She questioned top Department of Veterans Affairs officials about the glaring mistake in the Jan. 5 draft report that concluded the Manches- ter VA Medical Center should not be expanded it, “Kuster said during a sub-committee hearing Thursday.

The Jan. 5 draft report was used as a supporting document for the so-called Vision 2025 Task Force draft report that concluded the Manches- ter VA Medical Center should not become a full-service hospital.

“This whole methodology is called into question because the market assessment considers this facil- ity that doesn’t exist and talks about the transfer of care from a sub- committee hearing Thursday.

“We NEED programs that get to the heart of the matter — anger, resent- ment, bitterness. ‘Things are on our minds’ because the military works for us. We don’t have that anymore, there is no community.” — ANDREW MORROW, 27, a counselor who said he was in treatment for years. He enrolled in its treatment programs before filing for the 15-month, faith-based Teens Turn New Hampshire Challenge New Hampshire.

“Treatment is a voluntary decision on their part. They want help, but they’re not forced to stay. If they would have no stay in treatment, it would probably work a lot better.” — PETER FRANZOS, captain, Manchester Fire Department Rescue 1.

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Error: Outpatient clinic listed as having served nearly 7,000 vets in 2017 does not exist.

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President Trump is coming to talk about drugs.

What would you tell him?

By KEVIN LANDRIGAN

&#8220;Do you really think people who have been addicted are going to be rehabilitated in 14 days? Just when you start to feel good, they kick you out. No coping skills. No follow up. No money. There is nothing out there.”

JUSTINE GINGAS GAGNON

of Washington, mother of Washington, 24, who was addicted to drugs and kicked out by her drug dealer over her weekend.

“You’re not all sick, terrible individuals. We’re parents, working people. I was arrested, worked, wanted to get high. I didn’t think there was a lot of hope for me, and it’s re- rally hard if you don’t have that.” — KAYTLE CRANFORD, 24, addict for four years, 63 days sober.

“I’m not able to go in the state and talk to the people who are being affected by this — the police chief and the people who live in the community and live in the state. They are the ones that will talk to their elected officials. They are the ones that will talk to their police chief. They are the ones that will talk to their elected officials.” — U.S. Sen Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., signs a petition opposing Trump’s drug operation. He will talk about it.

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