

From the Summer/Fall 2002 Newsletter

FROM THE FIELD

If there is any ethics related activity you feel the Center should be aware of, please let us know by clicking [here](#).

Local Ethics Advisory Committees Developing Integrated Ethics Programs.

Ethics committees at the Kansas City, MO and Danville, IL VAMCs recently hosted a meeting with Michael Cantor, MD, JD, Special Assistant to the Director of the National Center for Ethics. Both committees noted progress towards the implementation of an Integrated Ethics Program (IEP) to better meet the ethical challenges that arise in health care. The term "IEP" refers to a model designed by the National Center for Ethics to help VA facilities improve their ethics committees' effectiveness. The Danville ethics committee, in particular, reported its successful use of techniques learned at VISN 11's IEP education program. Particular concerns were expressed about the challenges of ethically allocating resources in a time of budgetary limitations and the need for better systems to track advance directives.