

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 06/14/2024

Division Operations

Meetings:

- June 11: Division Director participated in a panel discussion at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Innovation Summit, discussing immersive technology in veteran healthcare.
- June 13: Division Director attended the Flag Day Celebration held by WeTheVeterans at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Health Policy Team Operations

Meetings:

- June 11: Health Policy Team (HPT) attended the In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Working Group meeting to discuss legislative and organizational updates regarding fertility treatment access.
- June 11: HPT attended the monthly update meeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ATLAS program. Changes to the website and publicly facing information has been updated, and the expansion into Montana's University system has been successful.
- June 11: HPT attended the VA Perinatal Reproductive Education Planning and Resources (PREPARE) meeting to discuss the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) women veterans report and participate in a panel discussion about mental and maternal health of women veterans.
- June 12: HPT met with Dr. Linda Torres to discuss the VA National Standards of Practice (NSP) and role/scope of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).
- June 12: HPT attended the Express Scripts Military Service Organization (MSO)/Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Roundtable to discuss pharmaceutical and prescription changes for TRICARE beneficiaries and legislative updates.
- June 13: New Mexico Congressional delegation was notified of upcoming System Worth Savings trip to Albuquerque VA Medical Center, and trip preparations have been completed.
- June 13: HPT attended the VSO Prosthetic Working Group meeting and discussed legislative updates regarding veterans' access to prosthetic services and changes being made internally and through legislative amendment proposals.
- June 14: HPT met with the coordinator of the VA Compassionate Care Corps coordinator to discuss their role at the American Legion National Convention.
- June 14: HPT attended a listening session with Lykos Therapeutics to discuss next steps of MDMA use for PTSD treatment following the Federal Drug Administration's Advisory Committee rejection of MDMA being used as a treatment for PTSD.

Claims & Appeals Team Operations

Accreditations

- Applications received from TAL Departments	15
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office	15
- Certifications approved by VA's Office of General Counsel	26

The American Legion Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) Unit

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days)	22
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared	236
- Memos generated	15
- Phone inquiries	190
- Internal quality reviews	5
- Individual training	1.5 hours
- Team training	0 hours
- Hearings	3
- Board dispositions	161
o Appeals granted	31 (19.3%)
o Remanded	89 (55.3%)
o Denied	36 (22.4%)
o Other	5 (3.1%)
 Retroactive awards won for veterans	 \$469,131

Veterans Service Office

- Compensation & Pension Claims	53
- Emails	29
- Veterans Correspondence	1
- Phone Calls	60

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims	19
- Supporting Submissions	5
- Sensitive Claims	4
- Rating Reviews/Audits	68
- Contacts	176
- Debt Notices Received	117
- Insurance Questions	12
- Waivers Granted	38
- Pension Notification Letters Processed	0
- Debt waiver granted	\$834,065

Benefits Policy Team Operations

Meetings:

- June 11: Benefits Policy Team participated in a VBA-VSO roundtable concerning updating VBA communication letters regarding claims and benefits matters.
- June 11: Benefits Policy Team observed HVAC subcommittee on Information Technology hearing entitled, “The VA Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System: Mission Accomplished.”
- June 12: Deputy Director of Benefits & Claims (DDBC) and Benefits Policy Team attended an Open House event with Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and toured their new Washington HQ office.
- June 13: DDBC discussed the current status with upcoming Department Service Officer Symposium with Bergmann & Moore, LLC

Tiffany Ellett

Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

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End of VA&R weekly update – 06/14/2024