

# VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 06/28/2024

### *Health Policy Team Operations*

#### **Meetings:**

- June 23 – 27: Health Policy Analyst Matthew Cardenas and Andrew Petrie conducted a System Worth Saving (SWS) site visit to the VA New Mexico Healthcare System.
- June 24: Health Policy Team (HPT) met with the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA) to discuss research regarding Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and scope of practice in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- June 25: HPT attended the VA press conference on the data breach of VA partner “Change Healthcare” in February. VA claims there have been no adverse patient effects. There has been some additional backlog in claims processes.
- June 26: HPT attended the Department of Defense (DoD) Webinar on Sexual Assault Prevention, where DoD and VA representatives provided an overview of the efforts and changes related to preventing sexual assault and harassment, as well as providing support for survivors. Prevention efforts are prioritized and are well-resourced; independent reports have demonstrated improvements, but work must be continued to sustain progress and disseminate resources.
- June 27: HPT met with Maxim Healthcare services. This organization offers compassionate care in the home to individuals with chronic and acute illnesses and disabilities. The meeting detailed how these service offerings could potentially enhance the quality of life within the veteran community.
- June 28: HPT met with representatives from SyncMD. The meeting centered around how this security innovation can help streamline the veteran claims process and improve access to healthcare.
- June 28: HPT and Legislation Team participated in a roundtable discussion with the Congressional for Country Caucus on Emerging Therapies.

## *Claims & Appeals Team Operations*

### **Accreditations**

- Applications received from TAL Departments 7
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office 7
- Certifications approved by VA's Office of General Counsel 12

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

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days) 0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared 257
- Memos generated 7
- Phone inquiries 176
- Internal quality reviews 4
- Individual training 1 hour
- Team training 1 hour
- Hearings 1
- Board dispositions 85
  - o Appeals granted 37 (43.5%)
  - o Remanded 31 (36.5%)
  - o Denied 14 (16.5%)
  - o Other 3 (3.5%)
- Total Retroactive awards won for veterans \$995,457

### **National Veterans Service Office**

- Phone Calls 88
- Emails 34
- Referrals 0
- Discharge Upgrades 0
- Written Correspondence 3
- Claims Submitted 27
- Evidence Submitted 0
- POA Submitted 0
- Training Hours 0

### **Pension & Debt Management**

- New Claims 15
- Supporting Submissions 6
- Sensitive Claims 2
- Rating Reviews/Audits 82
- Contacts 135
- Debt Notices Received 171
- Insurance Questions 5
- Waivers Granted 2
- Pension Notification Letters Processed 30
- Total debt waiver granted \$4,153

## ***Benefits Policy Team Operations***

### **Meetings:**

- June 21: Benefits Policy Team (BPT) participated a meeting with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) regarding Vietnam-era veterans' exposure to burn pits.
- June 26: BPT monitored the House Veterans Affairs Committee's (HVAC) Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) Subcommittee hearing on the National Work Queue (NWQ).
- June 26: DDBC met with GAO staff regarding VA accreditation of VSOs, attorneys, and agents.
- June 27: BPT participated VA PACT Act Quarterly Briefing hosted by VBA.
- June 27: DDBC joined Executive Director and leaders from other Divisions to participate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of G.I. Bill signing hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs at the National Press Club.
- June 27: DDBC and legislative associate attended a roundtable discussion on VA notification letter on Capitol Hill hosted by House HVAC DAMA Subcommittee.

### **Chanin Nuntavong**

Acting Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

(202)-263-5740

End of VA&R weekly update – 06/28/2024