

# **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION**

## **WEEKLY UPDATE**

Week Ending — 07/05/2024

### ***Health Policy Team Operations***

#### **Meetings:**

- July 2: Health Policy Team (HPT) attended the Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Health Care and Mental Health Meeting, which focused on the new External Provider Scheduling (EPS) system the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is using to schedule community care appointments. The system is in year 1 of a 5-year rollout plan.

## *Claims & Appeals Team Operations*

### Meetings

- July 2: Benefits Policy Team conducted consultation with B&M, LLC concerning the pros/cons of recently introduced H.R. 8545--Camp Lejeune Justice Corrections Act.
- July 2: Deputy Director of Benefits and Claims (DDBC) & Executive Director held planning session with law partner Glenn Bergmann, of B&M LLC, to prepare for fall's upcoming DSO Symposium in Leesburg, VA.
- July 2: Benefits Policy Team attended monthly VSO-VBA Partnership meeting with VBA's Liaison, Martin Caraway, to review various national convention schedules held by veterans service organizations, hear feedback of working group on Capitol Hill, and discuss latest rollout policies of VA notification letters, "overdevelopment" of VA claims, recently released 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter VA claims metrics, and latest Supreme Court rulings.

### Legislative Bill Reviews

- Statement For Record (SFR) – Drafted for upcoming House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) hearing concerning 10 pending legislations.

LEGISLATION	POSITION
Draft Legislation - H.R. 2971, Veterans Claims Education Act of 2023	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. 6362, Protecting Benefits for Disabled Veterans Act of 2023	Support
Draft Legislation - <i>H.R. 6507, Mark Our Place Act</i>	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. 7729, Dennis and Lois Krisfalusy Act	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. XX, Preserving Veterans' Legacy Act of 2024	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. XX, Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. XXXX, Rural Veterans' Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2024	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. XXXX, Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. XXXX, Veterans 2nd Amendment Restoration Act	Support
Draft Legislation - H.R. XXXX, Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act	Support

## Accreditations

- Applications received from TAL Departments	10
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office	10
- Certifications approved by VA's Office of General Counsel	9

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

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days)	0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared	195
- Memos generated	3
- Phone inquiries	125
- Internal quality reviews	3
- Individual training	0 hours
- Team training	0 hours
- Hearings	1
- Board dispositions	79
o Appeals granted	25 (31.6%)
o Remanded	41 (51.9%)
o Denied	11 (13.9%)
o Other	2 (2.5%)
 Retroactive awards won for veterans	 \$904,251

## National Veterans Service Office

- Phone Calls	65
- Emails	21
- Referrals	0
- Discharge Upgrades	0
- Written Correspondence	0
- Claims Submitted	26
- Evidence Submitted	0
- POA Submitted	0
- Training Hours	0

## Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims	23
- Supporting Submissions	8
- Sensitive Claims	6
- Rating Reviews/Audits	58
- Contacts	130
- Debt Notices Received	14
- Insurance Questions	0
- Waivers Granted	6
- Pension Notification Letters Processed	0
- Debt waiver granted	\$115,821

**Chanin Nuntavong**

Acting Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

(202)-263-5740

End of VA&R weekly update – 07/05/2024