

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 07/12/2024

Division Operations

Meetings:

- July 11: VA&R Health Policy, Benefits Policy and Veterans Program Manager attended the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promising to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2022 panel discussion, hosted by The American Legion's Legislative Division, to discuss the importance of improving research and screening for toxic exposure and the need for continuous outreach to eligible veterans.

Health Policy Team Operations

Meetings:

- July 9: Health Policy Team (HPT) attended monthly In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Working Group meeting to discuss sections of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) FY 2025 related to coverage of fertility benefits, organizational updates, and next steps for September meeting.
- July 9: HPT attended the Defense Health Agency (DHA) Military Service Organization (MSO)/Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Working Group to discuss the organization of DHA health research programs and strategic plan priorities.
- July 9: HPT attended the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Perinatal Reproductive Education Planning and Resources (PREPARE) meeting to learn about the Boost Team at the San Francisco Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, a clinician-driven outreach program that engages women veterans in care navigation. The goal of the Boost Team is to engage women veterans in care navigation, address their concerns, and escalate identified system-level problems to leadership; currently, the team is looking to expand the model to other facilities.
- July 10: HPT attended the Toxic Exposure in the American Military Coalition subcommittee meeting on veterans and family toxic exposure health.
- July 10: HPT attended the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Legislative Hearing which addressed various bills related to disability, survivor, and burial benefits.

- July 10: HPT attended the Center for Women Veterans National Partners and Stakeholders Meeting to discuss benefits related to service dogs, prosthetics and sensory aid services, and upcoming women veteran events.
- July 10: HPT met with Sync.MD and representatives from the National Security Division to discuss the state of Sync.MD technology and potential uses for veterans receiving healthcare overseas.
- July 10: HPT attended meeting with Eugene Luskin, CEO of Sync.MD, concerning their medical record sharing software and how it could be of help to veterans when seeking medical care.

Benefits Policy Team Operations

Meetings

- July 8: Benefits Policy Team (BPT) attended bi-monthly Veterans Service Organization (VSO) partnership meeting to discuss pending legislation,
- July 8: National Veterans Service Officers attended internal refresher training delivered by Bergmann & Moore.
- July 9: BPT held planning session with Bergmann & Morre, LLC to discuss details on planning for upcoming DSO Symposium in Leesburg, Virginia.
- July 10: Deputy Director for Benefits and Claims (DDBC) and Legislative staff attended appeals roundtable meeting with staff members from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) on Capitol Hill to discuss ways to improve or reform the appeals process with VA Office of General Council, Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA), and other VA agencies.
- July 11: DDBC and BVA Appeals Team participated BVA VSO Quarterly Meeting on current BVA caseload and technology training.

Claims & Appeals Team Operations

Accreditations

- Applications received from TAL Departments 3
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office 3
- 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 210
- Memos generated 4
- Phone inquiries 169
- Internal quality reviews 3
- Individual training 0 hours
- Team training 0 hours
- Hearings 1
- Board dispositions 63
 - o Appeals granted 14 (22.2%)
 - o Remanded 28 (44.4%)
 - o Denied 19 (30.2%)
 - o Other 2 (3.2%)
- Total retroactive awards won for veterans \$851,174

National Veterans Service Office

- Phone Calls 66
- Emails 30
- Referrals 0
- Discharge Upgrades 0
- Written Correspondence 5
- Claims Submitted 25
- Evidence Submitted 0
- POA Submitted 0
- Training Hours 1

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims 22
- Supporting Submissions 6
- Sensitive Claims 2
- Rating Reviews/Audits 49
- Contacts 144
- Debt Notices Received 274
- Insurance Questions 0
- Waivers Granted 4

- Pension Notification Letters Processed 60
- Total Debt waiver granted \$90,507

Chanin Nuntavong

Acting Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

(202)-263-2981

End of VA&R weekly update – 07/12/2024