

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION DIVISION

Director: Cole Lyle., 202-263-5759, clyle@legion.org

March 31 - April 4

HEALTH POLICY TEAM (HPT) OPERATIONS

Updates:

- April 1: The HPT attended the” Harnessing Biomedical Innovation: Modernizing VA Healthcare for the Future,” HVAC hearing. This hearing consisted of 4 panelists representing Boston Scientific, Podimetrics, Phillips, and the Center for Sleep at the University of Arizona. The panelists discussed innovative products and projects that are currently being used at the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- April 2: The HPT attended the monthly Center for Women Veterans virtual meeting. This meeting discussed homelessness and the many programs that the VA offers for women veterans who are or are at risk of homelessness.

Legislative Bill Reviews:

- **H.R. X – VA Marriage and Family Therapists Equity Act**
 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration.
 - Position: **Support**
 - Supporting Resolutions:
 - [Resolution No. 370: Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselors and Marriage Family Therapists](#)

CLAIMS & APPEALS TEAM OPERATIONS

Accreditations

- | | |
|---|----|
| - Applications Received from TAL Departments | 14 |
| - Certifications Submitted by TAL Washington Office | 17 |
| - Certifications Approved by VA’s Office of General Counsel | 17 |

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

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|--|------------|
| - Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) Prepared | 223 |
| - Memos Generated | 4 |
| - Phone Inquiries | 174 |
| - Internal Quality Reviews | 3 |
| - Hearings | 1 |
| - Board Dispositions | 59 |
| ○ Appeals Granted | 17 (28.8%) |
| ○ Remanded | 34 (57.6%) |
| ○ Denied | 5(8.5%) |
| ○ Other | 3 (5.1%) |

Retroactive Awards Won for Veterans \$1,324,601

National Veterans Service Office

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| - Phone Calls | 105 |
| - Emails | 42 |
| - Referrals | 20 |

- Discharge Upgrades	1
- Claims Submitted	6
- POA Submitted	3
- HLR Informal Conference Calls	4
- In-Person Conference	2

Pension & Debt Management

- New Compensation Claims	11
- Supporting Claims	1
- Sensitive Claims	4
- File Reviews	178
- Phone Contacts/E-Mails/Inquires	267
- Debt Notices Received	236
- Waivers Requested	11
- Waivers Granted	14
- Walk-Ins	12
- Misc. Notification Letters Processed	63
- Debt Waiver Granted	\$547,703

BENEFITS POLICY TEAM (BPT) OPERATIONS

Updates:

- March 27: Claims and Benefits Training team conducted a site visit at the National Conference Center to finalize contract and space details before the deadline.
- March 28: Policy team completed their virtual yearly mandatory TMS training.
- March 31: Benefits Policy team completed their assigned Bills Reviews (3) that have been submitted for Director Approval.
- Benefits Policy Team completed the San Juan ROAR report.
- April 2: Benefits Policy Team created the outline and rough draft for the HCVA DAMA Subcommittee on Claims and Benefit Delays.
- April 3: Benefits Policy Team scheduled meeting with Shirley Kang (Group Sales Manager at the DSO Symposium Site) for Friday, April 4, 2025, to discuss the renegotiation of our 301 Symposium contract.
 - Reviewing the potential for hosting a Claims Clinic in tandem with the Symposium
 - Reviewing the potential of hosting a golf fundraiser near the Symposium

Projects

- Completed ROAR Report for San Juan.

DSO School

- Compiled Questionnaire data for 301 DSO Symposium attendance.
- Made phone calls to each TAL State Department Leadership to inquire about 301 Symposium nominations and factors surrounding attendance.
- Compiled list of recommendations from each department representative for improving the 301 Symposium.