

# VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

## WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 11/01/2024

### *Health Policy Team (HPT) Operations*

#### Meetings:

- Oct 25: HPT attended the second Department of Defense Survivor Symposium. Topics Discussed included, DoD Tricare, VA remarriage penalties, and education and employment services for active duty surviving spouses.
- Oct 29 – 30: The Deputy Director for Health Policy (DDHP) was invited to participate in the 2024 VHA Innovation Experience (iEx). This year's iEx provided attendees with the opportunity to mingle with innovators, VA employees, veterans, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs. The American Legion was invited to participate in a 75-minute Breakout Session titled: Connection Café: Engaging Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs). The discussions were centered on increasing collaboration and information sharing with community partners, VA, and VSOs. Additionally, this year's iEx highlighted many promising interventions including:
  - [FastTrack PGx Results](#): empowering timely tailored prescriptions and precision medicine
  - Re-Engaging Veterans in Pain through Extended Reality ([VIPER](#)): [Virtual Reality](#)
  - [HIVES](#)- Honeybee Initiative for Veteran's Empowerment and Support
- Oct 29: HPT attended the EHRM (Electronic Health Record Modernization) Quarterly Town Hall Briefing
  - EHRM rollout resumption is delayed to FY26 as VA and Oracle work to address system issues and ensure ready deployment without veteran harm.
- Oct 30: HPT Digitally attended Secretary McDonough's "State of the VA" Presentation, where the continued expansion of the PACT act was discussed, specifically inclusion of K2 veterans.

## *Claims & Appeals Team Operations*

### **Accreditations**

- Applications Received from TAL Departments	12
- Certifications Submitted by TAL Washington Office	12
- Certifications Approved by VA's Office of General Counsel	2

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

- AMA Appeals Pending (125+ Days)	0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) Prepared	244
- Memos Generated	4
- Phone Inquiries	136
- Internal Quality Reviews	3
- Individual Training	1 hour
- Team Training	0 hours
- Hearings	1
- Board Dispositions	49
o Appeals Granted	11 (22.4%)
o Remanded	30 (61.2%)
o Denied	6 (12.2%)
o Other	2 (4.1%)
- Retroactive Awards Won for Veterans	\$933,343

### **National Veterans Service Office**

- Phone Calls	66
- Emails	11
- Referrals	15
- Discharge Upgrades	2
- Written Correspondence	3
- Claims Submitted	5
- Evidence Submitted	0
- POA Submitted	4
- Training Hours	0

### **Pension & Debt Management**

- New Claims	34
- Supporting Submissions	8
- Sensitive Claims	3
- Rating Reviews/Audits	249
- Contacts	251
- Debt Notices Received	347
- Insurance Questions	1
- Waivers Granted	28
- Pension Notification Letters Processed	41
- Debt Waiver Granted	\$460,992

## ***Benefits Policy Team (BPT) Operations***

### **Meetings:**

- October 28: Benefits Policy Team virtually attended the Electronic Health Record Modernization VA/VSO briefing.
- October 30: Deputy Director for Benefits & Claims (DDBC) met with representatives from International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) Veterans Assistance Program discussing topics of mutual interest.
- October 30: Benefits team watched Secretary of Veterans Affairs' address on State of the VA at the National Press Club  
(<https://www.youtube.com/live/pznyRtfZj8k?si=CW1NIRNjgh6vQa5l>)

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End of VA&R weekly update – 11/01/2024