

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 11/08/2024

Health Policy Team Operations

Meetings:

- November 4: Deputy Director for Health Policy (DDHP) met with Vamsee Potluri, Executive Medical Center Director at the Washington DC VA Medical Center to discuss current infrastructure challenges and the possibility of conducting a System Worth Savings trip in the future.
- November 5: HPT attended monthly VSO Health Care, Mental Health, and Suicide Prevention working group, and reviewed upcoming legislation and dates for testimony. Updates to the EDF Omnibus were discussed.
- November 6: HPT spoke with Legionnaire from Dept. Of California to learn his story regarding amputation and VA care to gain personal perspectives from members for upcoming testimony regarding life after limb loss.
- HPT met with Tony Cross, Be The One Manager to discuss the current state of the program, areas for collaboration, and goals to increase suicide prevention readiness.
- November 7: HPT met with Maxim Health to discuss the future of home care through the VA
- November 8: HPT participated in the VSO Program Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers workgroup meeting to discuss actions to be taken to improve the VA Caregiver Program.
- November 8: HPT participated in the SWWV Caucus Pre-Brief that focused on women veterans as they transition from the military to the civilian sector.

Claims & Appeals Team Operations

Accreditations

- Applications received from TAL Departments	1
- Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office	1
- 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	233
- Memos Generated	6
- Phone Inquiries	107
- Internal Quality Reviews	3
- Individual Training	1 hour
- Team Training	4 hours
- Hearings	1
- Board Dispositions	53
o Appeals Granted	13 (24.5%)
o Remanded	33 (62.3%)
o Denied	5 (9.4%)
o Other	2 (3.8%)

Retroactive Awards Won for Veterans \$1,414,805

National Veterans Service Office

- Phone Calls	51
- Emails	10
- Referrals	9
- Discharge Upgrades	0
- Written Correspondence	3
- Claims Submitted	9
- Evidence Submitted	0
- POA Submitted	6
- Training Hours	0

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims	20
- Supporting Submissions	9
- Sensitive Claims	3
- Rating Reviews/Audits	112
- Contacts	249
- Debt Notices Received	322
- Insurance Questions	0
- Waivers Granted	29
- Pension Notification Letters Processed	40
- Debt Waiver Granted	\$657,473

Benefits Policy Team Operations

Meetings:

- November 4: National veterans service officer attended the VA Mail Portal meeting discussing VA QuickSubmit process.
- November 5: Deputy Director for Benefits & Claims (DDBC) attended Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)- Veterans Service Organization partnership meeting, receiving updates on current VBA initiatives and programs.
- November 6: DDBC met with Veterans Health Administration Veterans Service Organization liaison for routine updates and discussion on mutually interested topics.
- November 8: DDBC met with Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) liaison to discuss current BVA appeals issues.

Legislative Activities:

- Benefits Policy team is working with Health Policy team to develop 2025 VA&R Division Legislative Priorities

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End of VA&R weekly update – 11/08/2024