

with the attorney or agent of record and for potential use in a reasonableness review. The fee agreement information is used by VA's Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to associate the fee agreement with the claimant's claims file for potential use in processing as the direct payment of a fee from the claimant's past-due benefits award. The information provided in the fee agreements are used by both VBA and OGC to determine whether they are in compliance with the statutes and regulations governing paid representation. The data collected under Motions for Review of Such Fee Agreements is used when a motion is filed by a claimant or raised sua sponte by VA to determine the reasonableness of an agent or attorney fee from a claimant's award of VA benefits. Also, when a claimant receives an award of benefits and has retained more than one attorney or agent who has been found eligible for direct payment of fees, the data is used to determine each of the attorney's or agent's contribution to and responsibility for the ultimate outcome of the claimant's claim.

**Affected Public:** Individuals and businesses or other for-profit organizations.

**Estimated Annual Burden:**

a. *Application for Accreditation as a Claims Agent, VA Form 21a:* 2,137.5 hours (975 hours for initial responses by attorneys, 225 hours for initial responses by non-attorneys, 187.5 hours for follow up responses by non-attorneys, and 750 hours for recertifications by accredited attorneys and agents)

b. *Filing of Representatives' Fee Agreements:* 3,125 hours (750 hours for first time filers and 2,375 hours for repeat filers).

c. *Motions for Review of Such Fee Agreements:* 420 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:**

a. *Application for Accreditation as a Claims Agent or Attorney, VA Form 21a:* 20 minutes (45 minutes for initial responses by attorneys, 45 minutes for initial responses by non-attorneys, 45 minutes for follow up responses by non-attorneys, and 10 minutes for recertifications by accredited attorneys and agents)

b. *Filing of Representatives' Fee Agreements:* 13 minutes (1 hour for first time filers and 10 minutes for repeat filers).

c. *Motions for Review of Such Fee Agreements:* 2 hours.

**Frequency of Response:** One time.  
**Estimated Number of Respondents:**

a. *Application for Accreditation as a Claims Agent, VA Form 21a:* 6,350

(1,300 initial responses by attorneys, 300 initial responses by non-attorneys, 250 follow up responses by non-attorneys, and 4,500 recertifications by accredited attorneys and agents).

b. *Filing of Representatives' Fee Agreements:* 15,000 (750 first time filers and 14,250 repeat filers).

c. *Motions for Review of Such Fee Agreements:* 210.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Danny S. Green,**

*VA Interim Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Performance and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, that the subcommittees of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board will be held Tuesday, August 6 through Friday, August 9, 2019, at the 20 F Conference Center, 20 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20001; and Tuesday, October 29 and Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. The meetings will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m., on the dates listed below:

| Meeting                                                                           | Date(s)                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Chronic Medical Conditions and Aging.                                             | August 6, 2019.                        |
| Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders and Neuropathic Pain.                                | August 6, 2019.                        |
| Behavioral Health and Social Reintegration.                                       | August 6-7, 2019.                      |
| Career Development Program.                                                       | August 6-7, 2019.                      |
| Sensory Systems and Communication Disorders.                                      | August 7, 2019.                        |
| Regenerative Rehabilitation Rehabilitation Engineering and Prosthetics/Orthotics. | August 8, 2019.<br>August 8, 2019.     |
| Brain Health and Injury ..... Musculoskeletal Health and Function.                | August 8-9, 2019.<br>August 8-9, 2019. |
| Center and Research Enhancement Award Program.                                    | October 29-30, 2019.                   |

The subcommittee meetings will be open to the public for approximately one-half hour at the start of each meeting to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program.

The objective of the Board is to provide for the fair and equitable

selection of the most meritorious research projects for support by VA research funds and to offer advice for research program officials on program priorities and policies. The ultimate objective of the Board is to ensure that the VA Rehabilitation Research and Development program promotes functional independence and improves the quality of life for impaired and disabled Veterans.

Board members advise the Director, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service and the Chief Research and Development Officer on the scientific and technical merit, the mission relevance, and the protection of human and animal subjects of Rehabilitation Research and Development proposals. The Board does not consider grants, contracts, or other forms of extramural research.

Members of the public who wish to attend the open portion of the teleconference sessions may dial 1 (800) 767-1750, participant code 35847. The remaining portion of each subcommittee meeting will be closed to the public for the discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of the research applications and critiques. During the closed portion of each subcommittee meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would likely compromise significantly the implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the meeting is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

No oral or written comments will be accepted from the public for either portion of the meetings. Those who plan to attend (by phone or in person) the open portion of a subcommittee meeting must contact Tiffany Asqueri, Designated Federal Officer, Rehabilitation Research and Development Service, at Department of Veterans Affairs (10X2R), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or email [Tiffany.Asqueri@va.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Asqueri@va.gov), at least five days before the meeting. For further information, please call Mrs. Asqueri at (202) 443-5757.

Dated: July 19, 2019.

**LaTonya L. Small,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans; Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans will be held August 28–29, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time). The meeting sessions will take place at Minnesota Housing, 400 Wabasha Street North, Suite 400, Lake Superior Conference Room, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Sessions are open to the public, except when the Committee is conducting tours of VA and other Veteran service facilities, participating in off-site events, and participating in administrative workgroup sessions to discuss topics for its recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Tours of VA and Veteran service facilities are closed, to protect Veterans' privacy and personal information in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with an on-going assessment of the effectiveness of the policies, organizational structures, and services of VA in assisting Veterans at-risk and experiencing homelessness. The Committee shall assemble, and review information related to the needs of homeless Veterans and provide advice on the most appropriate means of providing assistance to that subset of the Veteran population. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding such activities.

On Wednesday, August 28, 2019, the Committee will convene an open session and the agenda will include briefings from officials at VA and other federal, state and local agencies regarding services for homeless Veterans. On Thursday, August 29, 2019, the Committee will convene a closed session to conduct tours of VA and Veteran service facilities, participating in off-site events, and participating in administrative workgroup sessions to discuss topics for its recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Tours of VA and Veteran service facilities are closed, to protect Veterans' privacy and personal information, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations

from the public. Interested parties should provide written comments on issues affecting homeless Veterans for review by the Committee to Mr. Anthony Love, Designated Federal Officer, Veterans Health Administration, Homeless Programs Office (10NC1), Department of Veterans Affairs, 811 Vermont Avenue NW (10NC1), Washington, DC 20420, or via email at [Anthony.Love@va.gov](mailto:Anthony.Love@va.gov) and [Leisa.Davis@va.gov](mailto:Leisa.Davis@va.gov).

Members of the public who wish to attend should contact [Anthony.Love@va.gov](mailto:Anthony.Love@va.gov) and [Leisa.Davis@va.gov](mailto:Leisa.Davis@va.gov) of the Veterans Health Administration, Homeless Programs Office no later than August 1, 2019, to provide their name, professional affiliation, email address, and phone number. There will also be a call-in number at 1–800–767–1750; access code: 50653#. Attendees who require reasonable accommodations should also state so in their requests. Please arrive to Minnesota Housing, 400 Wabasha Street North, Suite 400, Lake Superior Conference Room, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102, at least 20 (twenty) minutes before the meeting start time to clear the building security checkpoint.

Dated: July 22, 2019.

**Jelessa M. Burney,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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