

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 08/16/2024

Division Operations

Meetings:

- August 16: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Staff conducted the VA&R Commission Resolutions Screening Committee to discuss proposed resolutions from Departments in advance of National Convention.

Benefits Policy Team Operations

Meetings

- August 12: Benefits Policy Team attended VBA workgroup to hear about VA's interagency partnership with other federal entities when rolling out the V-Safe program at <https://vsafe.gov/>, for protecting veterans from predatory claims practices.
- August 13: Deputy Director for Benefits & Claims (DDBC) attended quarterly VA Debt Management Center Stakeholder meeting
- August 14: Benefits Policy Team and National Veterans Service Officers attended an in-service training on the Life Cycle of a veteran's claim process.
- August 14: Benefits Policy Team attended VSO Quarterly meeting, hosted by VA Medical Disability Examination Office (MDEO) to solicit feedback when discussing recent VA changes in its disability claim examinations process and when enhancing the examination process for veterans.

Policy Activities

- Aug 12-15: Benefits Policy Team prepared coversheets on proposed resolutions submitted by state departments for upcoming National Convention.

Claims & Appeals Team Operations

Accreditations

- Applications Received from TAL Departments	7
- Certifications Submitted by TAL Washington Office	7
- 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	249
- Memos Generated	8
- Phone Inquiries	138
- Internal Quality Reviews	3
- Individual Training	1 hour
- Team Training	0 hours
- Hearings	0
- Board Dispositions	73
o Appeals Granted	19 (26.0%)
o Remanded	35 (47.9%)
o Denied	16 (21.9%)
o Other	3 (4.1%)
- Total retroactive awards won for veterans	\$2,121,422

National Veterans Service Office

- Phone Calls	95
- Emails	5
- Referrals	22
- Discharge Upgrades	0
- Written Correspondence	0
- Claims Submitted	36
- Evidence Submitted	0
- POA Submitted	4
- Training Hours	1

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims	24
- Supporting Submissions	0
- Sensitive Claims	3
- Rating Reviews/Audits	84
- Contacts	156
- Debt Notices Received	321
- Insurance Questions	1
- Waivers Granted	7
- Pension Notification Letters Processed	76
- Total debt Waiver Granted	\$228,138

Health Policy Team (HPT) Operations

Meetings:

- August 13: HPT held a meeting with Sync.MD to discuss program updates and innovations. Sync.MD is also staffing a booth for this year's National Convention and wanted to go over potential talking points for our volunteers.
- August 13: HPT attended the Perinatal Reproductive Education Planning and Resources (PREPARE) to discuss updates related to perinatal care across Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, including outreach events on child safety, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and breastfeeding awareness.
- August 14: HPT attended the 2024 National VRCN Convening Virtual Breakout Sessions. The meeting covered challenges regarding transition, mental health, and suicide prevention.
- August 14: HPT attended the White House Veterans Stakeholder monthly call. Discussed Red Cross reciprocity for first aid training for transitioning veterans, the rollout of VSAFE.gov, the fraud prevention site for veterans, and Peace Corp opportunities for veterans.
- August 16: HPT attended the Women Veterans Service Organization meeting to discuss draft legislation, alignment of legislative priorities, and VA reports on implementation of the Deborah Sampson Act.

Legislative Bill Reviews:

- **H.R. XXX**
 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide extended care services to spouses of certain veterans.

Position: **No Position**

Relevant Resolutions:

- [Resolution No. 18: Comprehensive Supports for Caregiver Support Program | Digital Archive \(legion.org\)](#)
- [Resolution No. 20: Home and Community-Based Services and Veteran Choice to Age In Place | Digital Archive \(legion.org\)](#)

Chanin Nuntavong

Acting Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

(202)-263-5740

End of VA&R weekly update – 08/16/2024