

# **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION WEEKLY UPDATE**

Week Ending — 11/18/2022

## **Health Policy**

### **Meetings**

- November 14: Health Policy Analyst, Kenneth Harman, attended VA Health Services Research and Development (HSR&D) cyber webinar series entitled, *Guidance on Spiritual Support for Veterans Re-entering Community Post-Incarceration*.
- November 14: Health Policy Analyst, Kenneth Harman, attended VA HSR&D cyber webinar series entitled, *Suicide Risk and Prevention among Female and Male Veterans Using and not Using VA Healthcare*.
- November 15: Health Policy Analyst, Kenneth Harman, attended VA's newly created VetResources Community Network (VRCN). VRCN enables community and strategic partners to access resources, promising practices, tools, consultation services, improve outreach and the customer experience (CX), build trust, and create a coordinated support model that is anchored in ease, effectiveness, and emotional resonance.
- November 16: Health Policy division observed House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) full committee markup hearing concerning VA clothing allowance and veteran wait times to receive primary, mental health, and specialty care appointments at medical centers.
- November 16: Director for Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R), Katie Purswell, and Deputy Director for Health Policy, Tiffany Ellett, attended a Veteran Service Organization, Annual Capitol Hill Women Veterans Event, *Women Veterans' Mental Health and Suicide Prevention*.
- November 16: Health Policy Team attended virtual HVAC full committee markup & Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) PACT Act hearing.
- November 17: Health Policy Analyst, Marie Black, attended virtual PACT Act townhall webinar hosted by VA Center for Women Veterans.
- November 17: Director for VA&R, Katie Purswell, attended and participated in a Women Veteran Task Force roundtable with Chairwoman Brownly on the topic of Deborah Sampson Act update.
- November 18: Deputy Director for Health Policy, Tiffany Ellett, attended a luncheon at the Cato Institute to hear from and meet with Vanderbilt Professor, Kevin Griffith,

concerning his recent article, *Geographic Variation in Appointment Wait Times for US Military Veterans*.

## Veterans Benefits and Claims Services

### Meetings

- November 15: TEAM (Toxic Exposures in the American Military) Coalition monthly meeting; attended by Marty Callaghan, Deputy Director of Benefits and Claims.

### Accreditations

-Applications received from TAL Departments	6
-Certifications submitted by TAL Washington Office	6
-Certifications approved by VA's Office of General Counsel	13

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

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days)	9
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared	232
- Memos generated	4
- Phone inquiries	276
- Internal quality reviews	3
- Individual training	0 hours
- Team training	1 hour
- Hearings	0
- Board dispositions	187
○ Appeals granted	51 (27.3%)
○ Remanded	97 (51.9%)
○ Denied	30 (16.0%)
○ Other	9 (4.8%)

### Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialist

- Compensation & Pension Claims	24
- Other Issues	7
- Contacts	31

### Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims (all types)	28
- Supporting Submissions	108
- Sensitive Claims	5
- Rating Reviews/Audits	51
- Contacts	149

**Katie Purswell**

Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

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End of VA&R weekly update – 11/18/2022