

Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation Meetings

May 31, 2022 & June 1, 2022

11AM-12PM

SUMMARY NOTES

Objective: The objective of the Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation (ACDC/the Committee) is to provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD).

Purpose: The purpose of these meetings is for the Committee to finalize the topics of recommendation for the 2022 Biennial Report due in October 2022.

Transcription Services: Provided by Jamison Professional Services

Staff Present:

- Sian Roussel, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the ACDC
- Claire Starke, Alternate DFO for the ACDC

ACDC Members Present:

- Evelyn Lewis, Chair
- Bradley Hazell
- Joyce Johnson
- Michael Maciosek
- Patt Maney
- Eloisa Taméz
- Frank LoGalbo
- Kimberly Adams
- John Shaver

The committee met virtually via Microsoft Teams on May 31, 2022, and June 1, 2022.

May 31, 2022

Opening Remarks

Ms. Starke called the Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. She then conducted a roll call. Nine (9) members were present. She noted they had a quorum and could continue. Ms. Starke turned the meeting over to Ms. Roussel.

Ms. Roussel welcomed the Committee, VA staff, and guests to the meeting. She reviewed the rules of engagement. She noted that if the members have any questions or concerns to send them to herself or Ms. Starke at the end of the day's session.

She then turned the meeting over to Chair Evelyn Lewis.

Chair Lewis thanked the Committee and public for joining the meeting. She reviewed the Committee's agenda for the meeting, including reviewing the topics and issues suggested for the 2022 biennial report, and shared that the Committee would vote on recommendations 1, 2, and 3.

Committee Recommendations 1-3 Voting

Ms. Roussel described to the listening public that they were then going to vote on whether or not to include the first three recommendations they had previously reviewed. Ms. Starke began the voting using Google Polls. Due to technical difficulties, the voting was taken by verbal roll call.

1.1: 3–5-year review of VASRD body systems. Passed unanimously.

1.2: VASRD program office current and future staffing plans noted in biennial report. Passed unanimously.

1.3: Pulmonary medical conditions related to Gulf War air quality. Recommended to review under VASRD body systems. Passed unanimously.

1.4: Skin disorders and cancers related to Agent Orange exposure and their review. Passed unanimously.

1.5: Re-examine 38 CFR 4.129: Mental Disorders due to Traumatic Stress. Passed unanimously.

2.1: Review the current policy and legislation of IU, related more specifically to age offsets and Social Security. Passed unanimously.

2.2: TDIU - complete the analysis of IU which began in 2017. Passed unanimously.

3.1: Finish migration from eBenefits and MyHealthVet to VA.gov. Passed unanimously.

3.2: Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP) updates and/or added guidance. Passed unanimously.

3.3: Re-establish VAVSO (Claims) Collaboration Board. Passed unanimously.

3.4/3.5: DoD/VA links/Military records to include personnel and military medical records. Passed unanimously.

Final Thoughts and Adjournment

Ms. Roussel reminded Committee members to submit their self-certification for ethics training if they have not already, as well as submitting or making corrections to the ethics form to be submitted to the ethics department. She asked if anybody had questions or comments to the group. Mr. Maney thanked Ms. Roussel and Ms. Starke for how smoothly the meeting went.

Chair Lewis thanked everybody for their time and adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

June 1, 2022

Opening Remarks

Ms. Starke called the Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. She then conducted a roll call. Nine (9) members were present. She noted they met quorum and could continue. Ms. Starke turned the meeting over to Ms. Roussel.

Ms. Roussel welcomed the Committee, VA staff, and guests to the meeting. She reviewed the rules of engagement. She noted that if the members have any questions or concerns to send them to herself or Ms. Starke at the end of today's session.

She then turned the meeting over to Chair Lewis.

Chair Lewis thanked the Committee and public for joining the meeting. She reviewed the Committee's agenda for the meeting, including voting on the remaining three topics for the 2022 Biennial Report.

Committee Recommendations 4-6 Voting

4.1: Allow transitioning service members from military service to submit a claim within 180 days prior to discharge. Mr. Hazell recommended that 4.1 be put on hold to allow the Committee more time to research it fully, due to the way that BDD is currently designed. The Committee voted on Mr. Hazell's recommendation to put it on hold. Passed unanimously.

5.1: Training and Education of Contract Providers. Passed unanimously.

5.2: VA Contracted Medical Examiners. Passed unanimously.

5.3: DBQ Training and Education for all Providers. Passed unanimously.

5.4: Outreach Partnerships. Passed unanimously.

6.1: VA to address lack of equity in access for minority Veterans. Passed unanimously.

6.2: Communication. Passed unanimously.

6.3: Create a section within the VA Center of Excellence tasked with establishing more robust and diversified outreach efforts for Veterans to understand and access the VA compensation system. Passed unanimously.

Final Thoughts and Adjournment for Public Meeting

Ms. Roussel asked the Committee if there was more discussion to be had, or if Chair Lewis wanted to adjourn early. Chair Lewis offered the Committee members an opportunity to add additional comments at that time. There was no further discussion suggested. Chair Lewis adjourned the public meeting at 11:17 a.m.

Elizabeth Alice Roy
Jamison Professional Services
Preparer of the Executive Summary

Sian Roussel, Committee DFO

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Evelyn L. Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

Evelyn L. Lewis
Committee Chair