

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Federal Advisory Committee
National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2022

Attendance: See Appendix A

Welcome and Announcements

Ms. Emory called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM. She briefed on the virtual meeting procedures and provided an overview of the upcoming in-person March 2023 NAAC meeting in Orlando, FL.

Welcome and Introduction of New Members

Dr. James Hildreth, NAAC Chair, welcomed the NAAC members, VA staff, and members of the public. He introduced new NAAC members Timothy J. Kowalski, DO, D.FACN, Vice Provost for Professional and Public Relations, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Loretta Christensen, MD, MBA, MSJ, FACS (Ex-Officio) Chief Medical Officer, Indian Health Services. Dr. Hildreth also announced Mr. Brandecker's retirement and thanked him for his years of VA service and participation in the NAAC.

Annual Advisory Committee Management Office Briefing

Jeff Moragne, Director, VA Advisory Committee Management Office (ACMO), provided annual Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) training to the members. He presented on ACMO's role managing VA's 27 federal advisory committees and FACA, which defines the purview and processes of federal committees and councils such as the NAAC. Mr. Moragne discussed the importance of transparency, accountability and best practices of committee management and conduct.

PACT Act, Section 704 – Sole Source Leasing from Academic Affiliates

Alfred Montoya, MHA, FACHE, VHA-CM, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support Services, VHA, provided an overview of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act with a specific focus on Section 704 that authorizes sole source leasing of space by VA with a qualified academic affiliate. The 700 series of sections in the PACT Act deal with leasing and include various authorities including raising threshold for capital projects to \$3.1M without needing congressional approval. Mr. Montoya discussed potential benefits of PACT Act as it expands 38 USC 8103 with

explicit authority to allow VA to lease space from approved academic affiliate entities without competition. He provided an overview of the requirements and acquisition processes, including responsibilities of the VA and the affiliate. All sole source leases, which can be renovation of existing affiliate owned or controlled buildings or new construction of the same, must be based on VA need. VA need may include clinic, research, or specialty care space. VA must identify the need, complete capital investment planning, and conduct market research. Mr. Montoya noted that various authorities in the 700 series can be combined providing opportunities to secure space in new ways.

Dr. German inquired about the estimated lease implementation timeline. Mr. Montoya said he does not yet have a process timeline, but that the authorities under 704 were meant to speed up the leasing process and the process will continue to be streamlined with use. Dr. German added that it will be important to have a competitive processing timeline to ensure the VA does not miss opportunities in competition with the private sector.

Dr. Kowalski noted rural areas as being potential opportunities to use these authorities since several VA affiliates have campuses in rural areas where many Veterans live. Dr. Bowman added that rural areas are commonly underserved, and Veterans are more likely than many others to live in rural areas after they retire.

Dr. Hildreth asked if there is a database of facility needs across the country. Mr. Montoya said there is not, but that this is an example of why it is important for facilities to have strong relationships with their affiliates.

Facility Health Professions Education Office Analysis

John Byrne, DO, Director, Medical and Dental Education, OAA, provided a presentation on the need to standardize staffing models and positions for VA medical facility Health Professions Education (HPE) offices. He discussed the wide variety of duties held by the HPE office including upcoming engagement with Cerner for the new electronic health record. He discussed turnover rates (30%) of DEOs, noting these factors combined to lend urgency to the project. The multi-phased project is being done in collaboration with several other offices, including VA Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC).

The project included an HPE Office staffing survey to assess the current state. VA Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) Center for Evaluation and Implementation Resources (CEIR) reviewed the survey before distribution, providing feedback for improvement. Approximately 90% of DEOs responded to the survey. Dr. Byrne explained the data gained from the survey and how it is being utilized. The project now has an approved organizational chart, which was developed based on the staffing model and serves as a foundation for setting the staffing benchmarks currently being developed as part of the project.

Dr. Kowalski asked if there will be an update with possible recommendations during the March NAAC meeting. Dr. Byrne confirmed an update will be provided and noted the importance of support from the NAAC.

Dr. German asked about the flexibility of FTE recommendations given that responsibilities of DEOs vary greatly from small to large facilities. Dr. Byrne stated size and complexity of facilities is factored into staffing methodologies, also noted that adding FTE may also be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Hildreth asked what metrics were used to determine if there was adequate staffing and if a comparison was done to other academic institutions that have large numbers of students. Dr. Byrne said that area was somewhat subjective, and the project looked at facilities across all complexity levels and made a judgment based on what was known about that facility's ability to meet the set standards. Dr. Byrne said a comparison was not done between VA and academic affiliates because the responsibilities of the DEO in the VA are very different from a DIO, the affiliate equivalent, but that additional data would be helpful.

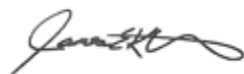
Public Comments

No public comments or questions.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Hildreth congratulated Mr. Brandecker on his upcoming retirement and thanked members for their participation in the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 PM.

Prepared By: Larissa Emory, Designated Federal Officer, NAAC



Certified By: James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD, Chairman, NAAC

Appendix A: Attendance Records

Council members present:

Susan Bakewell-Sachs, PhD, CRNP, Vice President (Nursing Affairs) and Dean, School of Nursing, Oregon Health and Science University; Marjorie A. Bowman, MD, MPA (Ex-Officio), Chief Academic Affiliations Officer, Office of Academic Affiliations; John A. Brandecker, MBA, MPH (Ex-Officio), Network Director, VA Sierra Pacific Network, VISN 21; Loretta Christensen, MD, MBA, MSJ, FACS (Ex-Officio) Chief Medical Officer, Indian Health Services; Eric Elster, MD, FACS, FRCSEng (Hon.), CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.), Dean, School of Medicine, Professor of Surgery, Uniformed Services University (Ex-Officio); Arthur Evans, Jr., PhD, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President, American Psychological Association; Deborah German, MD, Vice President for Health Affairs, Founding Dean, University of Central Florida College of Medicine; James E. K. Hildreth (Chair), PhD, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Department of Internal Medicine, Meharry Medical College; Maga Jackson-Triche, MD, MSHS, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Health Executive Advisor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), University of California San Francisco; Paul Jung, MD, MPH, FACPM (Ex-Officio), Captain, United States Public Health Service (USPHS), Director, Division of Medicine and Dentistry, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); Meredith Wallace Kazer, PhD, CNL, APRN, A/GNP-BC, FAAN, Dean and Professor, Fairfield University School of Nursing; Timothy J. Kowalski, DO, D.FACN, Vice Provost for Professional and Public Relations, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine; Christopher Robinson, MS, MBA, CPO, ATC, FAAOP(D), Clinical Resource Director, The National Commission on Orthotic & Prosthetic Education, Assistant Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Northwestern University's Prosthetics Orthotics Center; Anthony M. Stazzone, MD, MBA, FACP (Ex-Officio), Network Chief Medical Officer, VA MidSouth Healthcare Network, VISN 9; and Alison J. Whelan, MD, Chief Medical Education Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC).

Council members unable to attend:

David D. Henderson, MD, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Associate Dean, Multicultural and Community Affairs, Connecticut School of Medicine; Christopher J. Loyke, DO, FACOFP, Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Lincoln Memorial University–DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM); Thomas P. O'Toole, MD, Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Quality and Field Operations, VA; Kelly R. Ragucci, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS, Vice President, Professional Development, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP); Elena V. Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Hispanic Health Association.

VHA Staff attending (all are OAA staff unless specified otherwise):

John Byrne, DO, Director, Medical and Dental Education; Larissa A. Emory, PMP, CBP, MS, Management and Program Analyst (Designated Federal Officer for the NAAC); Larkin Harris, Business Operations Manager; Jeannie Howard, Management Analyst; Ramona E. Joyce, Executive Officer; Tonya Lobbestael, Public Affairs Officer (Alternate Designated Federal Officer for the NAAC); Nellie Mitchell, MS, RHIA, Program Analyst; Erin Patel, PsyD, ABPP, Executive Director, Health Professions Education.

Presenters:

Jeff Moragne, Director, Advisory Committee Management Office, VA; Alfred A. Montoya Jr., MHA, FACHE, VHA-CM, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support Services, VHA.

Members of the Public attending:

Jacqueline Fonseca, VACO; Dan Johnson.