Procedures for Preparing and Processing Advisory Committee Correspondence and Packages

(Revised September 2019)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. General</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Controlled Correspondence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL AND TRACKING</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Advisory Committee Packages</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a. Committee Charter</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b. Subcommittee Establishment</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3c. Committee Membership</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d. Advisory Committee Reports</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3e. Committee Reports, Recommendations, and VA Responses</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Concurrences</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4a. Charter Package</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4b. Charter Chart</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4c. Subcommittee Establishment Package</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4d. Subcommittee Establishment Chart</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4e. Membership Package</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4f. Membership Chart</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4g. Reports and Recommendations Package</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4h. Reports and Recommendations Chart</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4i. Federal Register Notices</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPENDICES (and Samples)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix A – Sample Action Plan</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix B – Committee Report / Recommendations Flow Chart</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C – SMART Recommendations Template</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix D – Sample Charter Documents</td>
<td>21-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix E – Sample Membership Documents</td>
<td>42-56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. GENERAL

This document describes the Advisory Committee Management Office’s (ACMO) streamlined procedures and standards for correspondence for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Federal advisory committees requiring the signature of the Secretary (SECVA), Deputy Secretary (DEPSECVA), or other officials in the SECVA Office. ACMO serves as the coordinating office for the Department’s Federal advisory committees and is responsible for ensuring continuity in management practices and compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92-463) with respect to advisory committee establishment, operations, ethics and duration. Also, ACMO is VA’s principal point of contact on advisory committee matters with the General Services Administration, and the Library of Congress.

2. CONTROLLED CORRESPONDENCE

a. To ensure timely responses and follow-ups, all VA Federal advisory committee correspondence requiring SECVA-level review and approval is electronically controlled and tracked in the VA Correspondence Tracking System. Avoid using additional separate tracking systems; multiple tracking systems create additional data entry burden, require additional employee time and effort, and detract from the accuracy and completeness of data in VA’s official Departmentwide tracking system.

b. ACMO tracks correspondence requiring review, approval, or reply from the SECVA and DEPSECVA to the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs, Library of Congress, and other committees and agencies with high-level interest in advisory committees.

c. Correspondence includes committee charters (establishment, renewal, reestablishment, amendment or termination), committee membership (nominations, appointments, reappointments, and terminations), Federal Register notices (meetings or membership solicitations), committee minutes, reports, and recommendations.

d. Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials will designate a program office and individual within their respective organization, who will serve as a Designated Federal Officer, or Committee Manager, responsible for managing an advisory committee that aligns with the program responsibilities and other ACMO correspondence assigned to their organization.

e. The VA Federal advisory committee staff support and program officials will use the VA Correspondence Tracking System to initiate, monitor and close advisory committee correspondence received or generated in their offices to ensure that it is
processed in accordance with the quality and timeliness standards specified in this guidance.

f. General Formatting of Documents. The following format applies to ALL documents:
   - Font - 12 point Arial;
   - Spacing - two spaces after punctuation at the end of sentences and colons; and between addressee state and zip code
   - Margins - 1 inch all around;
   - Paragraphs – indented (5 spaces or 1 tab); single spaced; single space between each;
   - Abbreviations and acronyms – Spell out all abbreviations and acronyms the first time they are used in your documents; if abbreviation is not used later in the document, do not introduce.
   - Outline levels should be consistent throughout the document; and
   - Headings and subheadings should have consistent formatting.

g. Addressing Congressional Correspondence. Use Correct Addresses and Salutations:
   - The Honorable ______
     U.S. House of Representative
     Washington, DC  20515
     o Dear Congressman ______:
     o Dear Congresswoman ______:
     o Dear Mr. Chairman ______:
     o Dear Madam Chair ______:
   - The Honorable ______
     United States Senate
     Washington, DC  20510
     o Dear Senator ______:
     o Dear Mr. Chairman ______:
     o Dear Madam Chair ______:

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL AND TRACKING

3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE PACKAGES

ACMO receives, reviews, concurs and tracks all advisory committee packages completed by the program office for the SECVA or DEPSECVA through the VA Correspondence Tracking System. For each committee package, the original and final documents are routed to ACMO for final review and ensure accuracy of package assembly. Prior to electronically assigning the package to ACMO (00AC), the program offices must ensure all changes, edits, or corrections have been made and all required offices have concurred such as Veterans Health Administration (10), Veterans Benefits Administration (20), or National Cemetery Administration (40), etc. ACMO will review the package to determine whether all required concurrences are received, edits are completed, and all essential committee documents are uploaded to the VA
Correspondence Tracking System. After ACMOs review, if all requirements have been met, ACMO will make an electronic assignment to the Office of General Counsel (02) and the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs (009) for review and obtain their formal concurrence, as appropriate. Once they concur, ACMO will concur on the respective committee package and make an electronic assignment in the VA Correspondence Tracking System to the Office of the Executive Secretariat (001B) (EXECSEC). ACMO will deliver the final package to EXECSEC for final review and signature.

3a. **Committee Charter:** All proposed charters for the establishment, renewal or amendment should be submitted in draft form through the VA Correspondence Tracking System for consultation and review by ACMO prior to submitting a final charter package for formal concurrence or approval. Charter content requirements will vary for discretionary, statutory, and Presidential committees. For more information about these committee types, please review the section on Charter Committee Package in the ACMO Guide (Revised July 2019).

The charter renewal process must start at least 90 days in advance of the charter’s termination date to give ample time for program and staff offices to review and concur.

**Note:** For discretionary advisory committees, if the charter is not renewed *timely* by its 2-year date, GSA requires the charter to be reestablished, *potentially* causing a longer wait time for the Committee to resume activities and meetings. If reestablishment does occur, the supporting documents and letters should include the “reestablished” language. See Federal Register Notices below for making public announcement of the establishment of a discretionary committee.

Also, during the chartering process, advisory committees are required to provide a description of their plan to attain a fairly balance membership; and update its plan, as applicable.

To submit a charter package, see Section 4 of this document for Concurrences. Samples are shown at Appendix D – Sample Charter Documents.

3b. **Subcommittee Establishment:** With the DFO’s approval, a VA advisory committee is authorized to establish subcommittees to perform specific projects or assignments consistent with the Committee’s charter approved and signed by the SECVA. Subcommittees may not work independently of the chartered Committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the full Committee for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees do not have authority to make decision on behalf of the parent Committee nor can they report directly to the SECVA.

3c. **Committee Membership:** Individuals are nominated, selected, and appointed to a VA Federal advisory committee based upon their qualifications, skills, experience, and ability to contribute to the accomplishment of the Committee’s objectives. The statute or charter that establishes the committee often includes specific requirements for committee membership such as prior military experience or expertise in a particular subject area. FACA requires that committee membership be “fairly balanced in terms of points of views represented and the functions to be performed.” As a result, committee
members generally have personal and professional experiences that match the program responsibilities of their sponsoring agencies and the specific scope of the Committee on which they serve. In balancing committee membership, VA also assures representation of diverse and sometimes opposing viewpoints, to provide a foundation for developing advice and recommendations that are fair and comprehensive that represents the demographics of the constituency it was formed to serve.

A nomination package includes a memo to the Secretary, brief biographical description of nominees and members; and a decision page. Reference to a nominee or member must include the member’s full name (first, middle, and last), credentials (e.g., M.D., Ph.D., etc.), term of service, and whether they serve as member or chair of the committee. Reference to a nominee and member must be consistent throughout the package.

Note: When capturing the nominee or members’ credentials or degrees, only periods are to be used for M.D. or Ph.D. degrees. All other credentials or degrees do not require a period, such as EdD or MPA.

The package should be prepared and sent to the SECVA 90 days in advance of the expiration of membership terms.

A certificate of appointment, along with an appointment letter, is included in when appointing a new committee member. The DFO sends a request for a certificate of appointment to ACMO including the nominee’s full name, credentials, term of service and whether they serve as a member of chair.

A certificate of appreciation is prepared, along with a termination or thank you letter, for committee members when they complete their service on a VA Federal advisory committee or leave for other reasons. This certificate is generated by ACMO and included in the membership package requiring the SECVA’s signature.

Members who are reappointed, do not receive a certificate since their reappointment is a continuation of their original appointment.

Additionally, a National Agency Check with Inquiries or background investigation may be required for recommended new committee members. The administration or program office is responsible for initiating this process.

To submit a membership package, see the Concurrence section (page 9) of this document. Samples are shown at Appendix E – Sample Membership Documents.

3d. **Advisory Committee Reports:** Specific reports are required on advisory committees for the SECVA, the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs, or the General Services Administration’s (GSA) Committee Management Secretariat. The reports convey committee information, which provides advice and recommendations to the SECVA on a wide variety of programs that deliver benefits and services to our Nation’s Veterans. Other internal VA reports are required for management purposes on the assessment and projection of advisory committee activities.
**Annual Comprehensive Review (ACR):** As required by section 7(b) of FACA, GSA’s Committee Management Secretariat must conduct an ACR of all activities and responsibilities of each Federal advisory committee based on each fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). All information gathered on an advisory committee is entered on the GSA’s FACA database at [https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/FACAPublicPage](https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/FACAPublicPage).

Throughout the year, the DFO begins preparing the individual committee’s report by entering data on committee meetings including actual costs for the fiscal year and estimating costs for the next fiscal year; meeting dates; updating committee member information and the activities and accomplishments of the committee.

Upon the DFO’s submission and verification of the ACR, ACMO staff performs a review of the report for completeness and accuracy. ACMO staff will provide feedback or comments, as needed. When ACMO completes its final review, the individual report will be verified as complete to GSA. Once the Department has completed all advisory committee reports, GSA will review the reports and may consult with ACMO to make final. Once GSA has finalized all departments’ advisory committee reports, they will submit a report to Congress and the information will be available to the public.

**VA Annual Assessment of Committee Activities (Performance Review):** An Annual Assessment of Committee Activities is submitted on each VA Federal Advisory Committee for the current calendar year (January through December) and is due to ACMO by December 1. A template is provided in the ACMO Guide (Revised September 2019).

The assessment must be signed by the program office leadership and Committee Chair after consultation with the DFO. When all required signatures are received, the assessment is sent to ACMO electronically via email. The following items are included:

- Overall summary of the committee;
- Committee’s effectiveness and contributions to achieving VA priorities;
- Usefulness of communications between the program office and the committee;
- Described the quality of advisory committee recommendations;
- Any advisory committee products, such as recommendations or a report;
- Actions taken to implement advisory committee recommendations; and
- Program office assessment of the advisory committee’s work.

**Annual Operations Plan:** An Annual Operations Plan is submitted annually for each advisory committee’s next year projected activities (January to December) to ACMO by December 1 each calendar year. A template is provided in the ACMO Guide (Revised September 2019).

The Annual Operations Plan must be signed by the DFO and the advisory committee’s Chair after consultation with the respective program officials. Once all required signatures are received, the Plan is sent to ACMO electronically via email. The following items are included:
• Specific areas of committee interest for the upcoming year;
• Committee objectives and expected committee activities, such as briefings and site visits;
• Approximate date(s) of any expected recommendations, reports, official communications or other deliverables; and
• Information indicating which quarter of the year for any proposed engagement with the SECVA, DEPSECVA or Chief of Staff.

3e. **Committee Reports, Recommendations, and VA Responses**: VA Federal advisory committees must provide its report or recommendations to the SECVA not later than the date identified in its statute or charter. The committee report contains an assessment of the committee’s review of specific VA programs, activities, and policies designed to accomplish its purpose.

**Recommendations and VA Responses**: During committee meetings, Committee members’ deliberation action is captured in either a committee’s report and/or recommendations to the SECVA. These recommendations can: 1) result in significant improvements in service or reductions in cost to the Veterans; or 2) provide an important additional perspective or viewpoint affecting VA operations and its service requirements to Veterans. See Appendix C – SMART Recommendations – Template. Using this template, the committee can develop more impactful recommendations which can eliminate ambiguity and redundancy.

**Unvetted Reports or Recommendations**: An unvetted report or recommendations is the original report or recommendations submitted by the committee to the VA Administration or Program Office supporting the VA advisory committee. The unvetted report or recommendations excludes VA responses. Unvetted reports are required to be uploaded to GSA FACA Database, as part of current year ACR Report, and routed to the SECVA as an FYI and a courtesy to the Committee Chair. The steps routing the unvetted report as follows:

1. After the VA Administration or Program Office (or DFO) receives the unvetted report, they should send it directly to ACMO via email at vaadvisorycmte@va.gov or interoffice mail at ACMO (00AC).
2. ACMO reviews and uploads the unvetted report or recommendations to the GSA FACA Database;
3. ACMO creates a VIEWS case folder;
4. ACMO uploads the unvetted report and required documents (including a memo to SECVA signed by the CMO);
5. ACMO assembles the package; and
6. ACMO routes the unvetted report or recommendations to ExecSec for final review and obtain SECVA’s initials on the VA Form 0907 to verify review and acknowledge receipt of the report or recommendations.

**Vetted Report or Recommendations**: A vetted report or recommendations is the original report or recommendations submitted by the Committee to the SECVA. The vetted report or recommendations will include VA responses to the Committee’s recommendations.
The supporting administration or program office is responsible for disseminating the advisory committee's report or recommendations to the appropriate VA Administration or program office via assignment in the VA Correspondence Tracking System, coordinating input from those offices, and synthesizing input into the SECVA's official response within 120 days of a committee meeting. Any administration or program office that is asked by the supporting office to respond to an advisory committee recommendation is responsible for providing the supporting office with timely responses to the report recommendations and, when appropriate, with action plans in the required format for implementation of the recommendation(s). ACMO is responsible for tracking all responses to advisory committee reports and recommendations for EXECSEC. The appropriate administration or program office responds to reports and recommendations using the following responses:

- Concur: VA agrees with the recommendation and will implement.
- Concur-in-principle: VA agrees with the recommendation in concept but is unable to implement.
- Non-concur: VA does not agree with the recommendation and will not implement.

All responses will include a brief explanation of the reason for the response. A concurrence will include a detailed action plan for implementation. A sample action plan is shown in Appendix A. Additionally, any response that is a non-concur or concur-in-principle will include a detailed explanation of the inability to implement.

Note: Work processes must be efficient so that time is built in for each level of review and to facilitate prompt concurrences. Deadlines are established with sufficient time to meet expectations for delivery to external parties and to allow the Committee to receive and deliberate VA responses at its next committee meeting. The EXECSEC Staff does not coordinate with the administration and/or program office vetting process. See Committee Report and Recommendation flow chart in Appendix B.

4. CONCURRENCES

A concurrence is an office’s acceptance of a product, as written. It is not a review or editing process. A Concurrence and Summary Sheet, VA Form 4265) is used by the administration or program office to obtain concurrences on correspondence prepared for the signature of the SECVA or DEPSECVA.

4a. Charter Package: The action office (administration or program office) finalizes the charter package after all changes, edits, or corrections have been made and concurrences received from the program office and/or any other offices which are required to provide comment or concurrence (i.e. OPIA (002), OCLA (009), OGC (02), etc.). ACMO tracks the concurrence process in the Correspondence Tracking System and does not take any final action on the final package until the appropriate offices concur or non-concur.

The action office makes an electronic assignment to ACMO in the VA Correspondence Tracking System, and routes the hard copy package to the ACMO staff via interoffice mail or delivery. Upon receipt of the electronic assignment and/or hard copy package,
ACMO conducts its initial review of the content, ensures all concurrences are received, and determines if all required documents are included in the package. ACMO edits or provides feedback to the program office, if necessary. If no changes are required, ACMO initiates a consultation with GSA to ensure the charter meets all legal and regulatory requirements. Subsequently, ACMO makes an electronic assignment to OGC and OCLA for review and formal concurrence.

After OGC and OCLA provides their formal concurrence, ACMO uploads their formal concurrence and makes an assignment to EXECSEC.

4b. All documents included in the original package should be tabbed or labeled as shown in the chart below (in ascending priority order – top page to bottom page):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter Establishment, Renewal or Amendment Chart:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Left Side of Folder</strong></td>
<td><strong>Right Side of Folder</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 4265 – Concurrence(s) (i.e. 10, 20, 40, 002, 00AC)</td>
<td>Memorandum to Secretary (00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments provided during concurrence(s)</td>
<td>DRAFT – Established, Renewed or Amended Charter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Immediately placed/filed under the respective administration or program office concurrence sheet)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A copy of Committee’s most recent Annual Operating Plan</td>
<td>Filing Letters to House and Senate of Veterans’ Affairs Committee (include Secretary’s signature block) but these are not required to be on letterhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A copy of Committee’s most recent Annual Assessment of Activities</td>
<td>Filing Letter to Library of Congress (include Committee Management Officer’s signature block) to be provided to ACMO on VA letterhead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Charter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If statutory, copy of the committee’s statute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Membership Balance Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 0907 – Strategic Communication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4c. **Subcommittee Establishment Package:** The subcommittee establishment package serves as information to the SECVA that the Committee is executing this option. The action office finalizes the subcommittee establishment package after all changes, edits, or corrections have been made by the program office and/or any other offices which are required to provide comment or concurrence (i.e. VHA Executive Correspondence (10B1), VBA Executive Correspondence(20D), and NCA Executive Correspondence (40), etc.). **The action office must obtain all required or applicable concurrences prior to forwarding the charter package to ACMO.** ACMO tracks the concurrence process in the VA Correspondence Tracking System. ACMO does not
take any final action on the final package until the appropriate offices concur or non-concur.

The action office makes an electronic assignment to ACMO in the VA VA Correspondence Tracking System, and handcarries the hard copy package to EXECSEC. EXECSEC staff conducts a final review and makes any necessary edits to content or document format, if needed. Additionally, EXECSEC obtains the SECVA’s approval or initials on VA Form 0907. After the SECVA initials the VA Form 0907, EXECSEC routes the hard copy package back to the action office.

4d. All documents included in the original or hard copy package should be tabbed or labeled as shown in the chart below (in ascending priority order – top page to bottom page):

**Subcommittee Establishment Chart:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Side of Folder</th>
<th>Right Side of Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 4265 – Concurrence(s) (i.e. 10, 20, 40, 002, 00AC)</td>
<td>Memorandum to Secretary (00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments provided during Concurrence(s) (Immediately placed/filed under the respective administration or program office concurrence sheet)</td>
<td>Subcommittee Membership Balance Plan (different from the Parent Committee’s Membership Balance Plan) <strong>Cannot mirror or duplicate language</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Charter</td>
<td>VA Form 0907 – Strategic Communication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4e. **Membership Package:** The action office (administration or program office) finalizes the nomination of membership package after all changes, edits, or corrections have been made by the action office and/or any other offices which are required to provide comment or concurrence. The action office must obtain all concurrences prior to forwarding the nomination membership package to ACMO. Note: OGC is not required to review and/or concur on a nomination membership package.

ACMO tracks the concurrence process in the VA Correspondence Tracking System. ACMO does not take any final action on the final package until the appropriate offices concur or non-concur. Next, the action office makes an electronic assignment to ACMO in the VA Correspondence Tracking System, and routes the hard copy pack to ACMO via interoffice mail or delivery. Upon receipt of the electronic assignment and/or the hard copy package, ACMO conducts its final review of the content, ensures all concurrences are received, and determines if all required documents are included in the package. ACMO edits or provides feedback to the program office, if needed. If no changes are required, ACMO uploads its formal concurrence and makes an assignment to the EXECSEC. and handcarries the final package to EXECSEC.

EXECSEC staff conducts a final review and makes any necessary edits to the content or document format, if required, and obtains the SECVA’s approval. When approved by the SECVA, EXECSEC dispatches the signed letters of appointment, reappointment
and/or termination, along with the signed certificates of appreciation to the committee member. EXECSEC will route the hard copy package back to the action office. However, the signed certificates of appointments will get routed to ACMO.

4f. All documents included in the original package should be tabbed or labeled as shown in the chart below (in ascending priority order – top page to bottom page):
### Membership Nomination, Appointment, Reappointment or Termination Chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Side of Folder</th>
<th>Right Side of Folder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 4265 – Concurrence(s) (i.e. 10, 20, 40, 00AC)</td>
<td>Memorandum to Secretary (00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments provided during concurrence(s) (Immediately placed/filed under the respective administration or program office concurrence sheet)</td>
<td>Biographies of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Charter</td>
<td>Decision Document (include Secretary’s signature block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If statutory, copy of committee’s statute.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Membership Balance Plan</td>
<td>Re-Appointment Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Profile Sheet</td>
<td>New Appointment Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Media Services prepares/prints the Certificate of Appointment for new members with Secretary signature only)</td>
<td>(ACMO prepares/prints the Certificate of Appreciation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 0907 – Strategic Communication</td>
<td>Termination or Thank You Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ACMO prepares/prints the Certificate of Appreciation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Selection Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
<td>Attachments for new appointees:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.  Ethics (most recent version)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.  Current Charter (signed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4g. Reports and Recommendations and VA Responses Package: All documents included in the original or hard copy package should be tabbed or labeled as shown in the chart below (in ascending priority order – top page to bottom page):
4h. **Reports and Recommendation(s) Chart:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Left Side of Folder</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 4265 – Concurrence(s) (i.e. 10, 20, 40, 00AC)</td>
<td>Memorandum to Secretary or Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments provided during Concurrence(s) (Immediately placed/filed under the respective administration or program office concurrence sheet)</td>
<td>DRAFT – Response to Report or Recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Charter</td>
<td>Filing Letters to House and Senate of Veterans’ Affairs Committee (include SECVA’s signature block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VA Form 0907 – Strategic Communication</td>
<td>Filing Letter to Library of Congress (include Committee Management Officer’s signature block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of Chair letter and committee report or recommendations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4i. **Federal Register Notices:** There are several types of Federal Register notices such as, Notice of Intent or Charter Renewal, Notice of Meeting (NOM), and Notice of Solicitation for Appointment. ACMO focuses primarily on

**Notice of Intent or Charter Renewal:** A notice of intent or charter renewal is an announcement to make the public aware of VA establishing, reestablishing, or renewing its Committees’ charter. The notices provide specific details, such as the name of the advisory committee, summary of the Committee, the establishment, reestablishment or charter renewal date, and VA Committee Management Officer’s contact data.

ACMO prepares and submits the notice of intent or charter renewal to the *Federal Register* electronically.

**Notice of Meeting:** A NOM is an announcement to make the public aware of an upcoming Federal advisory committee meeting. The NOM is required to provide specific details, such as advisory committee name, time, date, place, and purpose of the meeting. Also included is the summary of the agenda and/or topics to be discussed, date and time for public comment period, and a statement of whether the meeting is open to the public or closed; and if closed, the reasons why, citing the specific exemptions (see ACMO Guide revised September 2019) and the contact information of the committee’s DFO or other official to obtain additional information about the meeting.

The FACA regulation (41 CFR § 102-3.105(a) requires that a NOM is published in the *Federal Register* at least 15 calendar days prior to an advisory committee meeting. However, VA’s OGC recommends VA Federal advisory committee staff prepare committee meeting notices at least 30 days (or more) in advance to ensure that the notice requirement can be met. ACMO should receive the approved NOM (through
program office concurrence) at least 30 days prior to the committee meeting via the VA Correspondence Tracking System. After ACMO electronically submits the NOM to the Federal Register, it may take the Federal Register up to four days to publish or due to extenuating circumstances sometimes longer.

Under exceptional circumstances, less than 15-day notice may be given. However, failure to sufficiently plan far in advance, does not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Open Meeting Requirements: The Federal advisory committee meetings are required to be open and accessible to the public, except in limited, specified circumstances. If your advisory committee is open to the public, the administration or program office makes an assignment in the VA Correspondence Tracking System through normal concurrence signature level. The editable NOM is uploaded to the VA Correspondence Tracking System in a Word format. An assignment to OGC (024) is not required.

Closed Meeting Requirements: FACA regulations recognize that at times it is necessary to close (or partially close) a meeting to public participation. An advisory committee may be closed in accordance with the exemptions for closure contained in the Government Sunshine Act 5 USC 552b(c). Common exemptions cited to legally close Federal Advisory Committee meetings include:

- Discussions of classified information;
- Reviews of proprietary data submitted in support of Federal grant applications;
- Deliberations involving considerations of personal privacy.

Partially Closed Meeting: For example, if the advisory committee meeting is scheduled to tour a VA Medical Center, the advisory committee meeting is closed to the public during this time to protect patient privacy.

If the advisory committee meeting is closed or partially closed, the action office must obtain all concurrences (within their program office) prior to forwarding the closed or partially closed NOM package to ACMO. When all required signatures are captured, the action office makes an electronic assignment to ACMO in the VA Correspondence Tracking System. ACMO conducts its initial review of the content, ensures all concurrences are received, and determines if all required documents (such as the NOM, draft agenda, and VA Form 4265) are included in the package. ACMO edits or provides feedback to the program office, if necessary. If no changes are required, ACMO makes an electronic assignment to OGC (024).

Once OGC concurs, ACMO submits the final NOM to the Federal Register electronically. Once the Federal Register publishes the NOM, ACMO provides a courtesy copy to the respective committee’s DFO.

Notice of Solicitation for Appointment: A notice of solicitation for appointment (solicitation) is an announcement to make the public aware of an upcoming or vacancy on a specific VA Federal advisory committee meeting. The solicitation provides specific details, such as the name of the advisory committee, summary of the Committee, due
date to submit resume, DFO contact data, supplementary information, and the nomination requirements.

To submit a notice of solicitation for appointment, the DFO or action office prepares the solicitation. You are not required to upload the solicitation to the VA Correspondence Tracking System. Afterward the solicitation is finalized, email the document directly to the Committee’s assigned ACMO Program Specialist for action. ACMO reviews and submits the final solicitation to the Federal Register electronically. Once the Federal Register publishes the solicitation, ACMO provides a courtesy copy to the respective committee’s DFO.
APPENDIX A - SAMPLE ACTION PLAN

[Enter Committee’s Name]
[Enter Title as Recommendations or Responses to Recommendations]
[Enter Date of Recommendations or Responses to Recommendations]

Recommendation 1: The Committee recommends that VA standardize volunteer identification badges as flash badges at all VA medical centers (unless the volunteer requires the badge for computer access or access to a restricted area).

VA Response: Concur. There are only three types of Personal Identification Verification (PIV) credentials: PIV Badge; Non-PIV Badge; and Flash Badge. Volunteers are considered Without Compensation (WOC) Employees and are a critical component of VA’s supplemental services in the delivery of health care. Volunteers are required to undergo on-boarding processes to obtain a PIV credential in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12, VA Directive 0710, and VA Directive 0735.

Recommendation 2: The Council notes that the nation’s academic health centers and health professional schools have been an integral and indispensable component of VA’s health care system for 70 years, providing a significant fraction of VA’s clinical workforce as well as ready access to expertise that would be unavailable in the absence of this innovative public-private partnership. Therefore, it is entirely logical that academic affiliates retain this role in VA’s new health care system. Accordingly, the Council strongly endorses the inclusion of academic affiliates as members of VA’s Core Network under the new Veterans Choice Program.

VA Response: Concur. VA recognizes the important role that academic health centers and health professional schools have played in VA’s health care system. Secretary McDonald has extensively emphasized the importance of this unique partnership throughout his tenure at VA. Therefore, the New Veterans Choice Program (VCP) described in the Plan to Consolidate Programs of Department of Veterans Affairs to Improve Access to Care includes academic affiliates as members of the VA Core Network.

NOTE: Generally, responses are annotated as VA Response: Concur/Concur-in-Principle/Non-Concur
## Actions to implement:

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<th>Steps to Implement Recommendation</th>
<th>Lead Office</th>
<th>Other Offices</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Contact Person (DFO)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation 1: The Committee notes that the…</td>
<td>Office of Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>VBA, NCA, OALC</td>
<td>VHA will collaborate with…</td>
<td>On-going FY 2018</td>
<td>Currently meeting to outline the process</td>
<td>Jane M. Doe, Office of VA, (202) 555-XXXX</td>
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**APPENDIX B - Committee Report / Recommendations Flow Chart (concurrent process)**

**VA Advisory Committee releases Report and/or Recommendations to VA**

**Vetting Report/Recommendations**

**Unvetted or Clean Report/Recommendations**

---

**VA Administration/Program Office Supporting the Advisory Committee**

1. Receives the Unvetted/Clean *excludes VA Responses* Report/Recommendations
2. Enters it in Correspondence Tracking System
3. Make appropriate assignments to VA entities required to prepare VA Response
4. Roll up all VA Responses received, prepare final Report/Recommendations Package (including required supporting documents)
5. After the VA Administration or Program Office receive all required concurrences submit final HARD COPY package to ACMO (00AC)

---

**ACMO (00AC)**

1. Reviews final Hard Copy package, provide feedback, if any.
2. Makes appropriate assignments to OGC and OCLA for review/concurrence
3. After OGC and OCLA concurs, ensures accuracy and quality of package assembly.
4. Obtain / upload ACMO concurrence
5. Make assignment to EXECSEC
6. Hand carry package to EXECSEC

---

**ACMO**

1. Reviews and uploads the unvetted report/recommendations to the GSA FACA Database; and
2. Uploads/routes the unvetted report/recommendations to the SECVA as a FYI and also a courtesy acknowledgement to the Committee Chair.

---

**Executive Secretariat (001B)**

**Secretary (00)**

**House/Senate Library of Congress**
Appendix C – Smart Recommendations - Template

Example Smart Recommendations – Template

Using the SMART recommendations template may help improve results. The template clarifies exactly what is expected and the measures used to determine if the recommendation is successfully implemented and end-state achieved.

The template uses the acronym S.M.A.R.T. meaning:

Specific (and strategic): Linked to department’s mission, position summary, strategic plan or committee charter. Answers the question—Who? and What?

Measurable: Can the success toward accomplishing the recommendation be measured. Answers the question—How?

Actionable: Can the recommendation be achieved through reasonable action and reasonable invest of resources.

Realistic (results oriented): Is the recommendations within scope or can it be aligned with current mission tasks, projects or initiatives…does it focus in one defined area; does the recommendation include a desirable result or endstate.

Time framed: Does the recommendations have a clearly defined time-frame; a target or deadline.

Examples:

A poor SMART recommendation: VA should improve employee communicating skills. Does not identify a specific measurement, time frame, nor identify why the improvement is needed or how it will be used.

A better SMART recommendation: The Department should work to rapidly deploy outreach multipliers/enablers like expanding the number of full trained public affairs officers and deploying them more frequently, allotting more individual employee public engagement skills training hours to maximize one-on-one Veteran knowledge provider opportunities, dedicating more VA senior leaders to conduct public outreach/issues interviews (TV, radio, print), and expand the functionality of enterprise Web pages to better reach and inform stakeholder audiences. VA should complete this recommendation by January 2018 and annually publish the results by March of each year between 2016-2018.
EXAMPLE SMART RECOMMENDATIONS – TEMPLATE

Specific – WHO? WHAT?

Measurement/Assessment – HOW?

Actionable – REASONABLE?

Realistic – DESIRED RESULT?

Timed – WHEN?
## APPENDIX D – SAMPLE CHARTER DOCUMENTS

### Charter Establishment, Renewal or Amendment Package(s):

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<td>Memorandum to Secretary (00)</td>
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<td>Comments provided during Concurrence(s) (Immediately placed/filed under the respective administration or program office concurrence sheet)</td>
<td>DRAFT – Established, Renewed or Amended Charter</td>
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<tr>
<td>A copy of Committee’s most recent Annual Operating Plan</td>
<td>Filing Letters to House and Senate of Veterans’ Affairs Committee (include Secretary’s signature block) but these are not required to be on letterhead</td>
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<tr>
<td>A copy of Committee’s most recent Annual Assessment of Activities</td>
<td>Filing Letter to Library of Congress (include Committee Management Officer’s signature block) to be provided to ACMO on VA letterhead</td>
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<td>Current Charter</td>
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<td>If statutory, a copy of the committee’s statute.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Membership Balance Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Form 0907 – Strategic Communication</td>
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### List of Required Charter Documents:

- Charter initial, renew, or re-establish
- Membership Balance Plan initial or revised
- Committee’s initial or most recent Annual Operating Plan (See Appendix D1)
- Committee’s most recent Annual Assessment of Activities, required if charter is renewed or re-established
- Letters to the House and Senate of Veterans’ Affairs Committee (See Appendix D2)
- Letter to Library of Congress (See Appendix D3)
- VA Form 4265, Concurrence and Summary Sheet (assignments to 02, 002, 009, and 00AC) (See Appendix D4)
- VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication (See Appendix D5)
- Current charter, and if statutory, copy of the committee’s statute.

*Reminder: Please use the most currently dated VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication or VA Form 4265, Summary and Concurrence. To ensure you do, please visit the VA Forms at [https://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/](https://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/)*
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS’ FAMILY, CAREGIVER, AND SURVIVOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL OPERATIONS PLAN

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2020

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee (the Committee) was established under the authority of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, through the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office. The advice will be related to Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors across all generations, relationships, and Veteran status; the use of VA care and benefits services by Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors, and possible expansion of such care and benefits services; Veterans’ family, caregiver, and survivor experiences, and VA policies, regulations, and administrative requirements related to the transition of Service members from the Department of Defense to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors; and factors that influence access to, quality of, and accountability for services and benefits for Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors. The Committee will report to the Secretary, through the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office. Members are selected from among various sectors and organizations, including but not limited to Veteran-focused organizations; military history and academic communities; Veteran Service Organizations; Military Service Organizations; the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA); non-profit, private, and corporate partners; the Federal executive branch; research experts; service providers; Veterans’ family members, caregivers, survivors; and leaders of key stakeholder associations and organizations.

The Committee will be comprised of not more than 20 committee members, who will be appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Members will be comprised of a cross-section of stakeholders that support Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors. The estimated annual costs associated with supporting the Committee are at $535,000 to include costs for travel and meetings and 2.5 full-time equivalent staff.

Expected 2020 Committee Activities:
- Advice on how VA can assist and represent Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors, including recommendations regarding expanding services and benefits to Veterans’ family members, caregivers, and survivors who are not currently served by VA, and related policy, administrative, legislative, and/or regulatory actions;
• Advice on incorporating lessons learned from current, and previous, successful family research and outreach efforts that measure the impact of provided care and benefits services on Veterans’ family, caregivers, and/or survivors;
• Advice on collaborating with family support programs within VA and engaging with other VA and non-VA advisory committees focused on specific demographics of Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors;
• Advice on working with interagency, intergovernmental, private/non-profit, community, and faith-based organizations to identify and address gaps in services;
• Advice on utilizing journey mapping or other means to depict the experience life cycle of families, caregivers, and survivors of Veterans to create a more holistic understanding of important life cycle events and their impacts, and to ensure accountability;
• Advice on Veterans’ family, caregiver, and survivor experiences, and VA policies, regulations, and administrative requirements related to the transition of Service members from the Department of Defense to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors;
• Advice on integrating Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors into key VA initiatives such as access to care, suicide prevention, and homelessness; and
• Provide such reports as the Committee deems necessary, but not less than one report per year to the Secretary, through the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office to describe the Committee’s activities, deliberations, and findings, which may include but are not limited to: 1) identification of current challenges and recommendations for remediation related to access to care and benefits services of Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors; 2) identification of current best practices in care and benefits delivery to Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors, and the impact of such best practices.

Elements of the Plan:
• The Committee will have at least one meeting in 2020.
• The Committee may authorize subcommittees to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with its mission.

Submitted:

_________________________________________  ____________________
James Rogerson Doe                        Date
Chair, Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee

_________________________________________  ____________________
Jane Kennedy Doe                          Date
Designated Federal Officer
The Honorable David P. Roe, M.D.
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congressman Roe:

I am pleased to announce the establishment of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee (Committee), which will provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, through the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office, related to:

- Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors across all generations, relationships, and Veteran status;
- The use of VA care and benefits services by Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors;
- Veterans’ family, caregiver, and survivor experiences and VA policies, regulations, and administrative requirements related to the transition of Servicemembers from the Department of Defense to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans' families, caregivers, and survivors; and
- Factors that influence access to, quality of, and accountability for services and benefits for Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors.

For your information and compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, I have enclosed a copy of the charter for the Committee. The charter provides additional information on the duties and responsibilities of Committee members.

Similar letters have been sent to the leaders of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

Enclosure
The Honorable Mark Takano  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20515  

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Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie  

Enclosure
The Honorable Johnny Isakson  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510  

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Robert L. Wilkie

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Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

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• Veterans’ family, caregiver, and survivor experiences and VA policies, regulations, and administrative requirements related to the transition of Servicemembers from the Department of Defense to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors; and
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Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

Enclosure
The Honorable David P. Roe, M.D.
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congressman Roe:

   Enclosed is a copy of the renewed charter for the Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, title 5 United States Code, appendix 2.

   A similar letter has been sent to other leaders of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

Enclosure
Charter Renewal

(Letters to House and Senate)

The Honorable Mark Takano
Chairman
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed is a copy of the renewed charter for the Veterans’ Family, Cargiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, title 5 United States Code, appendix 2.

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Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC  20510

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Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20510

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    A similar letter has been sent to other leaders of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans’ Affairs.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

Enclosure
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Washington DC 20420

May 19, 2020

Miraoslav Lazarevich
Federal Advisory Committee Desk
Library of Congress
Anglo-American Acquisition
Government Documents Section, Room LM-B42
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Mr. Lazarevich:

Enclosed are eight copies of the new charter for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee, which is forwarded in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Moragne
Advisory Committee Management Officer

Enclosures
May 19, 2020

Miraoslav Lazarevich
Federal Advisory Committee Desk
Library of Congress
Anglo-American Acquisition
Government Documents Section, Room LM-B42
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC  20540

Dear Mr. Lazarevich:

Enclosed are eight copies of the renewed charter for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee, which is forwarded in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey A. Moragne
Advisory Committee Management Officer

Enclosures
## CONCURRENCE AND SUMMARY SHEET

**SUBJECT:**
Establishment Charter for the Veterans’, Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee

**NAME OF ADDRESSEE (For Correspondence Only):**

**REMARKS:**

**TO BE COMPLETED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (0016):**

**NAME OF REVIEWER:**

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<th>TITLE OR ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT</th>
<th>MAIL ROUTING SYMBOL</th>
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**NAME OF AUTHORIZED SIGNER:**

**SIGNATURE OF INITIATING KEY OFFICIAL OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER:**

**DATE:**

08/30/2019
APPENDIX D4 – SAMPLE CHARTER DOCUMENTS Charter Establishment
(VA Form 4265, Concurrence and Summary Sheet, page 2)

CONCURRENCE AND SUMMARY SHEET
(Concluded)

PURPOSE: To establish the Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee under authority of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

DISCUSSION: The Committee provides advice to the Secretary, through the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office, advice related to Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors across all generations, relationships, and Veteran status.

The activities of the Committee include, but are not limited to:

* Advice on how VA can assist and represent Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors, including recommendations regarding expanding services and benefits to Veterans’ family members, caregivers, and survivors who are not currently served by VA, and related policy, administrative, legislative, and/or regulatory actions;
* Advice on incorporating lessons learned from current, and previous, successful family research and outreach efforts that measure the impact of provided care and benefits services on Veterans’ family, caregivers, and/or survivors;
* Advice on collaborating with family support programs within VA and engaging with other VA and non-VA advisory committees focused on specific demographics of Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors;
* Advice on working with interagency, intergovernmental, private/non-profit, community, and faith-based organizations to identify and address gaps in services;
* Advice on depicting the experience life cycle of families, caregivers, and survivors of Veterans to create a more holistic understanding, and to ensure accountability;
* Advice on Veterans’ family, caregiver, and survivor experiences, and VA policies, regulations, and administrative requirements related to the transition of Servicemembers from the Department of Defense to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors into key VA initiatives such as access to care, suicide prevention, and homelessness; and
* Provide such reports as the Committee deems necessary, but not less than one report per year, to the Secretary, through the Chief Veterans Experience Officer, Veterans Experience Office to describe the Committee’s activities, deliberations, and findings, which may include but are not limited to 1) identification of current best practices in care and benefits delivery to Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors, and the impact of such best practices; and 2) identification of current challenges and recommendations for remediation related to access to care and benefits services of Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors.

IMPLICATIONS: The SECV will sign the charter establishment; and the it will get filed with the House and Senate on Veterans’ Affairs and the Library of Congress.

NAME OF CONTACT

Jason Thomas

SIGNATURE OF INITIATING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ADMINISTRATION HEAD OR KEY STAFF OFFICE OFFICIAL

VEO-30 (202) 574-6090 Chief Veterans Experience Officer 08/30/2019
APPENDIX D4 – SAMPLE CHARTER DOCUMENTS Charter Renewal
(VA Form 4265, Concurrence and Summary Sheet, page 1)

![Concurrence and Summary Sheet Image]

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Name of Authorized Signer: Debra Jacobs Doe
Signature of Initiating Key Official or Authorized Signer: [Signature]
Date: 09/06/2019
**CONCURRENCE AND SUMMARY SHEET**

**PURPOSE:** The Advisory Committee on Sample Benefits of Veterans (Committee) was established on October 15, 2017. The current charter is set to expire on October 5, 2019.

**DISCUSSION:** The Committee advises the Secretary on matters affecting the Veterans initiatives and benefits transformation, related to rebuilding trust with Veterans and stakeholders, improving service delivery with a focus on Veterans benefits outcomes, and setting the course for longer-term excellence and reform.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that charters be renewed every two years and copies filed with the standing committees of the House and Senate having the relevant legislative jurisdiction of that Department. Changes in the renew charter are primary administrative.

**IMPLICATIONS:** The Secretary will sign the proposed charter; and the charter will get filed with the House and Senate on Veterans Affairs and the Library of Congress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF CONTACT</th>
<th>SIGNATURE OF INITIATING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ADMINISTRATION HEAD OR KEY STAFF OFFICE OFFICIAL</th>
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<td>Theresa Jackson Altight</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VBA-022</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(202) 555-1111</td>
<td>Benefits Officer</td>
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APPENDIX D4 – SAMPLE CHARTER DOCUMENTS Charter Amendment  
(VA Form 4265, Concurrence and Summary Sheet, page 1)
**Charter Amendment**

**CONCURRENCE AND SUMMARY SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PURPOSE:</th>
<th>To amend the current Advisory Committee on Medical Benefits (Committee) to increase membership from &quot;no more than 12&quot; members to &quot;up to 20&quot; members.</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION:</td>
<td>The Committee is a Federally-chartered advisory committee, established pursuant to title 38 United States Code section 1111. It primarily provides advice and consultation to the Secretary and Under Secretary for Health on various matters relating to care and treatment and other matters pertinent to the Veterans Health Administration. By statute, the Committee membership shall include a disabled Veterans, members of the medical, dental, podiatric, optometric, and allied health professions, and other individuals considered by the Under Secretary for Health to have experience pertinent to the mission of the Veterans Health Administration.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPLICATIONS:</td>
<td>The approved increase in membership of the Advisory Committee on Medical Benefits will expand the scope of Subject Matter Experts and provide a fairly balanced membership.</td>
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<td>Medical Health Director</td>
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APPENDIX D5 – SAMPLE CHARTER DOCUMENTS Charter Establishment
(VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication)

**SUMMARY AND APPROVAL SHEET**

**NAME OF ORIGINATOR**
Steven Madden (202) 461-0000

**NAME OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STAFF**

**SUBJECT**
Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee Charter Establishment Package

**ROUTING**

**INITIALS**

**DATE**

**REMARKS**

- EXEC SEC
- SENIOR ADVISOR
- DEP SEC
- ODVA
- DEP SEC VA
- SEC VA

**CONCURRENCES**
Davis (VEO) 8/30/19; Johnson (OCIA) 9/3/19; Viveiros (OPIA) 9/11/19; Hogan (OGC) 9/18/19; Moragne (ACMO) 9/20/19

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Purpose - Discussion - Recommendation**

**PURPOSE:** This charter establishes the Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee (Committee) under the authority of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Committee is being established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 United States Codes, Appendix 2.

**DISCUSSION:** Charter establishment of the Veterans’ Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee to provide advice to the Secretary related to Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors across all generations, relationships, and Veteran status; the use of VA care and services by Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors, and possible expansion of such care and benefits services; Veterans’ family, caregiver, and survivor experiences, and VA policies, regulations, and administrative requirements related to transition of Servicemembers from the Department of Defense to enrollment in VA that impact Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors; and factors that influence access to, quality of, and accountability for services and benefits for Veterans’ families, caregivers, and survivors.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Secretary approves the Committee charter establishment package.
APPENDIX D5 – SAMPLE CHARTER DOCUMENTS *Charter Renewal*
(VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication)

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**SUMMARY AND APPROVAL SHEET**

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<th>DATE</th>
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<td>Debra Jacobs Doe</td>
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**NAME OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STAFF**

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**CONCURRENCE**

Lawrence (VBA) 8/30/19, Johnson (OCLA) 9/3/19, Viveiros (CPIA) 9/11/19, Hogan (OGC) 9/18/19, Moragne (ACMO) 9/20/19

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Purpose - Discussion - Recommendation**

PURPOSE: The Advisory Committee on Sample Veterans Benefits of Veterans (Committee) was established on October 15, 2017. The current charter is set to expire on October 15, 2019.

DISCUSSION: The Committee advises the Secretary on matters affecting the Veterans initiatives and benefits transformation, related to building trust with Veterans and stakeholders, improving service delivery with a focus on Veterans benefits outcomes, and setting the course for longer-term excellence and reform.

The Committee has held six meetings (December 2017, March 2018, July 2018, November 2018, March 2019, and July 2019). A meeting is currently scheduled for November 19 and November 20, 2019.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires that charters be renewed every two years and copies filed with the standing committees of the House and Senate having the relevant legislative jurisdiction of that Department. The current charter expires on October 15, 2019. Changes in the renewed charter are primarily administrative.

RECOMMENDATION: The Secretary approves the proposed charter renewal and signs the transmittal letters to the House and Senate on Veterans’ Affairs Committees.
APPENDIX E – SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS

Membership Nomination, Appointment, Reappointment or Termination Package(s):

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<tr>
<td>VA Form 4265 – Concurrence(s) (i.e. 10, 20, 40, 00AC)</td>
<td>Memorandum to SECVA (00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comments provided during Concurrence(s) (Immediately placed/filed under the respective administration or program office concurrence sheet)</td>
<td>Biographies of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Charter</td>
<td>Decision Document (include Secretary’s signature block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If statutory, copy of committee’s statute</td>
<td>Re-Appointment Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Membership Balance Plan</td>
<td>New Appointment Letter(s) (Media Service prepares/prints the Certificate of Appointment for new members with Secretary signature only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Profile Sheet</td>
<td>Termination or Thank You Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
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<tr>
<td>VA Form 0907 – Strategic Communication</td>
<td>Non-Selection Letter(s) (if applicable)</td>
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Possible attachments (new appointees):
1. Ethics (most recent version)
2. Current Charter (signed)

List of Required Nomination or Membership Documents:
- Memo to Secretary (from Administration or Program Office Official) (See Appendix E1)
- Biographies of Members (See Appendix E2)
- Decision Document (See Appendix E3)
- Reappointment Letter, if applicable (See Appendix E4)
- Appointment Letter, if applicable (See Appendix E5)
- Termination or Thank You Letter, if applicable (See Appendix E6)
- Non-Selection Letter, if applicable (See Appendix E7)
- Copy of current Charter
- Copy of current Membership Balance Plan
- Membership Profile Sheet, required if charter is renewed or re-established (See Appendix E8)
• VA Form 4265, Concurrence and Summary Sheet (assignments to 00AC) (See Appendix E9)
• VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication (See Appendix E10)

Reminder: Please use the most currently dated VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication or VA Form 4265, Summary and Concurrence. To ensure you do, please visit the VA Forms at https://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/
Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date:

From: Under Secretary for Benefits (20)

Subj: Recommended Reappointments/Appointments to the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VIEWS #XXXXXXX)

To: Secretary (00)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide recommendations and request approval for four reappointments, six new appointments, and seven terminations to the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (the Committee). The remaining two members shall continue as members under their current appointments.

2. The Committee is authorized under title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1111, and is charged with providing advice to the Secretary on the administration of existing VA medical benefit programs, recommending needed changes to payment benefit programs and services, and assisting in long-range planning and development.

3. With respect to membership, § 1111 provides that the Committee shall be composed of persons who are eminent in their respective fields of education, labor, and management and of representatives of institutions and establishments furnishing education to eligible Veterans or persons enrolled under chapter 30, 32, 33, or 35 of this title and chapter 1606 of title 10.

4. I recommend Janice Doe, Lynn Doe, Joan P. Doe, and Alexander Doe be reappointed for a term of 2 years. Additionally, I recommend Jane Doe serve as Chairperson. These are active participants who have demonstrated a high level of interest and expertise in education. Their reappointment will provide continuity and assist in the transition of new members.

5. I recommend that the terms of Michael Doe, Carolyn Doe, Dakduk M. Doe, G. Dorothy Doe, K. Megan Doe, Minnie Mouse-Doe, and Clara K. Doe be allowed to expire without reappointment. These individuals have either retired, resigned, or moved to new positions. This provides the opportunity to appoint new members.
6. I recommend appointing six new members to the Committee for a term of 2 years. They are Tanya Down, Dawn Down, Steve Down, Zaida Down, D. Wayne Down, and Annie W. Down. Their appointments would enhance the Committee’s level of expertise and diversity in accordance with the Committee’s Membership Balance Plan.

7. Section 1111 will expire December 31, 2014, but Congress has generally extended the Committee and we expect the same to happen this year.

8. Attached are brief biographical summaries, a decision paper, and letters of reappointment, appointment, and termination for your approval and signature. Also included are the appointment and appreciation certificates.

9. Should you need further information, please have a member of your staff contact Ms. Gentry Boyd- Doe, Senior Advisor and Director, Medical Service Benefits Program at (202) 461-0000.

Helen Doe-Shirer

Attachments
Recommended for Reappointment for a term through June 2018:

Elisandro (Alex) T. Riojas  
Hispanic

Mr. Riojas has served 13 years in the United States Navy Reserve as a Combat Photographer. He has served two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is currently the founder, editor and publisher of “The Orange County (OC) Sentinel” magazine and owner of Alex Riojas Productions. The OC Sentinel disseminates information on benefits, resources and events relevant to Veterans, active duty military members, their families, civic leaders and the community at large.

Mr. Riojas has over 14 years of professional experience as a mortgage office and real estate agent. He currently serves on the board of the Orange County Home Ownership Prevention Collaborative; with an emphasis on helping Veterans preserve their homes.

In addition, Mr. Riojas currently serves as the Commander of the American GI Forum’s Rudy Escalante Chapter. He has played an active role in several Veteran events in his community to include: serving as the Public Affairs Officer for the Inaugural Orange County Homeless Veterans Stand Down; organizing committee-member for the Moving Wall’s visit to Garden Grove, California; and facilitated a Veterans Conference at Santa Ana College. Mr. Riojas resides in California.

Recommended for Re-appointment as Committee Chair for a term through June 2016:

Patricia Williams-Niles, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Retired)  
African American

In 2003, Ms. Williams-Niles retired as Lt. Colonel, having completed 26 years of active duty and reserve military service. Indicative of her compassionate and empathetic nature, Lt. Colonel Williams-Niles’s retirement has not been one of inactivity as demonstrated by her committed involvement on behalf of Veterans. She is affiliated with many community organizations, serves on numerous committees and volunteers countless hours. Her passionate outreach and services extends throughout the United States and assists Veterans in various capacities.

Lt. Colonel Williams-Niles’s loyalty, ability to multi-task and dedication to the well-being of fellow Veterans has not gone unnoted. She has been the recipient of prestigious awards at the National, State, and local levels, acknowledging her contributions.
APPENDIX E2 – SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS (Biographies of Members)

Lt. Colonel Williams-Niles holds an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Nursing (New York City Community College), a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Brownweller College, New York City), and a Masters in Public Administration in Health Service Management (Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California).

She is married to George Kelley, a Korean War Veteran, who is actively serving in the community. Lt. Colonel Williams-Niles has one son, Kyler, who resides in Denver, Colorado with his wife, Marines, and the “gems” of her life, her grandchildren --- Jai, Jaelyn, Jaeren, and Jacob. When Lt. Colonel Williams-Niles takes time out to enjoy leisure and relaxation, her interests include traveling, reading and attending cultural events. She currently resides in California.

Recommended for New Appointments for a term through June 2016:

Marvin American Horseman, Jr.
Native American

Mr. American Horseman is a Laguna Tribal Member who belongs to the Road Runner, Little Parrot, and Turkey Clans. He serves as the Tribal Veterans Service Officer for the Pueblo of Laguna and the Co-Chair of the All Indian Pueblo Council Veterans Committee.

Mr. American Horseman entered the United States Navy in 1993, and served four years as an Aviation Electronics Technician, Aviation Warfare Specialist 2nd Class Petty Officer. He specialized in the F-14 Tomcat Avionic and Radar Weapons Systems. Mr. American Horseman served multiple tours to the Persian Gulf with Fighter Squadron Eleven (VF-11) on board the USS Independence, USS Carl Vinson, and the USS John C. Stennis. He later entered the Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Unit and went to college at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2001, Mr. American Horseman graduated with his Bachelors of Science in Communication, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He later attended Flight Training at Naval Air Station Pensacola and Aviation Maintenance Officer School at Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Florida. He served with Marine Air Wing Group 13 at Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona. Mr. American Horseman was elected and served as the 2nd Lt Governor for the Pueblo of Laguna in 2009-2010. He served as a member of the Pueblo’s Energy Core Team for PNM, Continental Divide Electric Cooperative, and New Mexico Gas Company.

Mr. American Horseman also served as the Ex-Officio to the Laguna Development Corporation, the Mid-Region Council of Government–Metropolitan Transportation Board, the New Mexico State–Tribal Collaboration and Communication Work Group for a Safer New Mexico, and was a member of the All Indian Pueblo Council. Mr. American Horseman resides in New Mexico.
APPENDIX E3 – SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS (Decision Document)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
GULF WAR VETERANS’ ILLNESSES

Recommend appointment (or reappointment) as Chair for a term through (i.e. January 2018):

Jane Doe, EdD, President/Director, ABC Approved / Disapproved

Recommend reappointment for a term through (i.e. January 2018):

Janice Doe, President/VA Education Approved / Disapproved

Recommend appointment as a new member for a term through (i.e. January 2019):

Tanya Down, Associate Director, Veterans Programs, American Council on Education Approved / Disapproved

Dawn Down, Chief Voluntary Education Personnel and Readiness Military and Family Policy: ABC Approved / Disapproved

Recommend allowing term to expire:

Michael Doe, Associate Director, Washington Metropolitan Area Approved / Disapproved

Elizabeth Taylor Doe, Executive Director, Revlon Veterans Corps Approved / Disapproved

________________________________________   _______________
Robert L. Wilkie                                   Date
Secretary
Jane Doe  
9144 Lexington Market Place  
Fairfax, VA  22222  

Dear Ms. Doe:  

Thank you for your willingness to continue to serve as a member of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.  

As you are aware, the Committee advises the Secretary with respect to VA medical benefit programs and services, recommends needed services, and assists in long-range planning and development.  

I am pleased to reappoint you for another term of two years. I note that the statutory authority for the Committee expires on December 31, 2020. We anticipate that Congress will extend the authority as it has done in years prior. I am also happy to appoint you as Chair of the Committee. The Medical Benefits Program will provide staff assistance to the Committee and will be in touch with you regarding the next meeting.  

Again, please accept my deepest appreciation for your current and future contributions to this very important Committee.  

Sincerely,  

Robert L. Wilkie
Tanya Down, Ph.D.
One Dupont Circle, SE, Suite 3333
Washington, DC  20000

Dear Dr. Down:

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Medical Benefits (the Committee). It is my pleasure to appoint you for a term through January 2019.

The Committee is authorized under title 38 United Stated Code § 1111 to provide advice to the Secretary on the administration of medical benefits and training programs.

Enclosed are the Committee’s charter and the ethics rules for employees who are Special Government Employee (SGE). The charter provides basic information on the Committee’s purpose and responsibilities, and information regarding reimbursement for travel/expenses. Please note that this a non-compensated appointment as an SGE; as an SGE, you will be subject to ethics rules for Government employees. Also, you will receive an in-person training from a VA ethics advisor during your first committee meeting. Please review the enclosed materials at your earliest convenience.

Please confirm your acceptance of this appointment by contacting Ms. Paris Hilton, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 461-0000, or by e-mail at Paris.Hilton@va.gov. Her mailing address is Department of Veterans Affairs (XXXX), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC  20420.

I look forward to working with you and the Committee.

Sincerely,

Robert L.Wilkie

Enclosures
Michael Doe, M.D.
1107 East Train Station Circle
Tacoma, WA 44444

Dear Dr. Doe:

Thank you for your services as a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Medical Benefits. Your outstanding service as a Committee member made significant contribution in enhancing our programs for Veterans who are at risk of losing current medical benefits. The reports filed by the Committee have been helpful to VA in managing and improving the delivery of medical and education benefits to Veterans.

Your membership term on the Committee is expiring. I have decided to initiate some changes in the membership composition for the Committee in order to introduce new membership and to provide service opportunities for as many qualified candidates as possible. For this reason, I have decided not to reappoint you to another term of service. Please understand that this decision does not reflect on the quality of your service.

On behalf of VA and the countless Veterans who have benefited from your service on the Committee, please accept the enclosed certificate as a token of my appreciation for your service and commitment to excellence.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

Enclosure
Paige Doe
23 Disney Market Place
New Orleans, LA  70116

Dear Ms. Doe:

Thank you for your interest in serving as a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Advisory Committee on Medical Benefits. The Committee is authorized under title 38 United States Code § 1111 to provide advice to the Secretary on the administration of medical benefits and training programs. With this noble mandate, membership continues to be very competitive. At this time, you were not selected for the 2019 committee membership cycle. VA makes every effort to ensure that the membership of the Advisory Committee on Medical Benefits is fairly balanced, in terms of points of view represented.

Please consider resubmitting a nomination package for the next cycle, which will be announced in the upcoming months, as several membership vacancies occur each year. Again, I appreciate your willingness to serve our Nation’s Veterans.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie
# APPENDIX E8 – SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS (Membership Profile Sheet)

## Committee Members

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APPENDIX E9 – SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS
(VA Form 4265, Summary and Concurrence Sheet, Page 1)

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NAME OF AUTHORIZED SIGNER: Eugene Wellington Doe
SIGNATURE OF INITIATING KEY OFFICIAL OR AUTHORIZED SIGNER: 08/26/2019
**PURPOSE:** To recommend the appointment of four new members, the reappointment of two members, signatures on thank you letters for three members who terms expired or resigned, and signature for letters of regret for non-selected nominees.

**DISCUSSION:** Four nominees are recommended for new appointment for one two-year term through October 31, 2019: Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Kirk Doe (Maryland Air National Guard, Retired); Lieutenant Colonel Kate Johnson McDonald (USN, Retired); Colonel Karen Taylor Hubbard (USAF, Retired); and Colonel Melinda Doe-Yarbrough (USA, Retired). Two current members are recommended for reappointment for one three-term through October 31, 2022: Command Master Chief Octavia Hamilton Spencer (USN, Retired) and Major Jacqueline Hershel (Massachusetts National Guard, Active).

**IMPLICATIONS:** These members will enhance the Committee’s level of expertise, as it relates to the medical and educational benefits for Veterans, and will enhance diversity, with regards to branch of service, wartime service, and geographical representation.

---

**NAME OF CONTACT**
Brenda R. Faas Everly

**SIGNATURE OF INITIATING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ADMINISTRATION HEAD OR KEY STAFF OFFICE OFFICIAL**

**SYMBOL**
10B

**EXTENSION**
(202) 555-0000

**TITLE**
Medical Health Director

**DATE**
08/26/2019
**APPENDIX E10 – SAMPLE MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS**  
*(VA Form 0907, Strategic Communication)*

---

**SUMMARY AND APPROVAL SHEET**  

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**NAME OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STAFF**  

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**CONCURRENCE**  

Stone (VHA) 8/27/19; Moragne (ACMO) 9/20/19  

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  

**PURPOSE:** To recommend the appointment of four new members, the reappointment of two members, and obtain signatures on thank you letters for three members whose terms expired and for one member who resigned.

**DISCUSSION:** The new appointments of Mary Kate Asher, Katherine McFitch Doe, Colonel Nelson Doe Rodgers, and Lieutenant Colonel Herman Banjo are recommended one two-year term through October 31, 2019. The two reappointments, Jennifer Caleb Doe and Gruden Brees, is recommended to a one three-term through October 31, 2022. By statute, membership must ensure adequate representation of minority groups.

**NOTE:** If approved, the Committee membership will be reflected in the demographic data below.

**DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:** 12 committee members (Males: 5; Females: 7)  
African American: 2 (16%), Native American: 3 (25%), Hispanic: 3 (25%), Pacific Islander: 1 (8%).  
Branches of military service represented: Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Secretary approves the recommendations included in this membership package.