DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

2. AUTHORITY: The Committee is authorized by statute, 38 U.S.C. § 7315, and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

3. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee advises the Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology. The Committee's areas of interest include but are not limited to: (1) assessing the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities (including facilities designated as Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers) to respond with the most effective and appropriate services possible to the medical, psychological and social needs of older Veterans; and (2) advancing scientific knowledge to meet those needs by enhancing geriatric care for older Veterans through geriatric and gerontology research, the training of health personnel in the provision of health care to older individuals, and the development of improved models of clinical services for older Veterans.

4. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES: The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee shall: (1) conduct an evaluation process (including a site visit not later than 3 years after the date of the establishment of each new Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center) to measure the ability of each such center to achieve its established purposes; (2) assess the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide high quality geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services to eligible older Veterans, taking into consideration the likely demand for such services; (3) assess the current and projected needs of eligible older Veterans for geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services provided by VA, as well as VA's activities and plans to meet such needs; and (4) perform such additional functions as the Secretary or Under Secretary for Health may direct.

The Committee will submit to the Secretary, through the Under Secretary for Health, such reports as it considers appropriate with respect to matters described in (1) through (4) above and, in those reports, shall include the following: descriptions and assessments of the quality of operations of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers; assessments of the extent to which VA is meeting the needs of eligible older Veterans through the operation of the Centers; assessments of and recommendations for correcting any deficiencies in the operations of the Centers; and recommendations for such geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services as may be needed to meet the needs of older Veterans. Whenever the Committee submits a report to the Secretary, the Committee shall at the same time transmit a copy of the report in the same form to the appropriate committees of Congress. Not later than 90 days after receipt of a report under that paragraph, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing any comments and recommendations of the Secretary with respect to the report of the Committee.

5. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the Under Secretary for Health.

6. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE: The Veterans Health Administration is responsible for providing support to the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

7. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: The estimated annual cost for operating the Committee is $100,000 and .5 full-time equivalent staff years. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

8. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER: The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

9. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee will meet at least once annually.

10. DURATION: There is an ongoing and continuing need for the Committee to assist the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities under 38 U.S.C. § 7315.

11. TERMINATION DATE: Authorized by law for an indefinite period, the Committee has no termination date.

12. MEMBERSHIP AND DURATION: By statute, Committee members shall be appointed by the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, and shall include individuals who are not employees of the Federal government and who have demonstrated interest and expertise in research, educational and clinical activities related to aging, and at least one representative of a National Veterans Service Organization. The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, shall invite representatives of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States to participate in the activities of the Committee. The Committee will be composed of approximately twelve (12) members, and the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE).

13. SUBCOMMITTEES: The Committee is authorized to establish subcommittees, with the Designated Federal Officer's (DFO) approval, to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with its mission. The Committee chair shall notify the Secretary and Under Secretary for Health, through the DFO, of the establishment of any subcommittee, including its function, membership and estimated duration. Subcommittees will report back to the Committee.

14. RECORDKEEPING: Records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26 or other approved agency records disposition schedules. Those records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

15. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved: _____ Date: 7/12/10

Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs