DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans will provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the provision of benefits and services to homeless Veterans.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: The Committee is authorized by statute, 38 U.S.C. § 2066, to operate through December 30, 2011, unless extended.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

E. AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: Support for the Committee is provided by the Office of Homeless Veterans Programs, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. The Director of the Office of Homeless Veterans Programs is assigned the responsibilities of Designated Federal Officer for the Committee.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: In providing advice to the Secretary and making recommendations on improved services for homeless Veterans, the Committee may review reports and studies related to homelessness among Veterans, and may engage the services of governmental experts or contract for the services of non-governmental consultants, who may conduct analyses, prepare reports and background papers or prepare other materials for consideration by the Committee. The Committee may also evaluate particular aspects of the programs and services of VA or other entities that provide health care, benefits, education, training and housing for homeless Veterans.

The Committee is directed to pay particular attention to the effectiveness of VA's homeless Veterans policies and organizational structures; coordination of all relevant VA services; VA's participation in the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; and VA funding for specialized homeless programs. The Committee also focuses on VA's coordination with the homeless initiatives of other Federal, State, and local agencies; VA's liaison with homeless programs managed by private organizations; and VA's efforts to share essential information with those agencies and organizations.

Not later than March 31 of each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report with recommendations on the programs and activities designed to assist homeless Veterans. The report shall also include an assessment of the needs of homeless Veterans, a review of relevant programs, and a summary of the Committee's activities.

The Committee shall consist of not more than 15 members with expertise in mental illness, substance use, housing alternatives and vocational rehabilitation. Membership should also include those qualified to speak on behalf of community service providers, Veterans service organizations, advocates of homeless Veterans and other homeless individuals, previously homeless Veterans, and state Veterans affairs officials.

Ex officio members will include the following or their representative: Secretary of Labor, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Executive Director of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Under Secretary for Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits. At least one member shall be a Veteran who has actively participated in a comprehensive homeless services program. The Secretary may appoint members for terms of service not to exceed three years and may reappoint any member for additional terms of service. Several members may be Regular Government Employees, but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees.

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: The estimated annual cost for operating the Committee is $190,000 and .75 staff year. Members shall serve without pay. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee is expected to meet approximately two times annually. 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.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: Authorized through December 30, 2011, unless otherwise extended.

J. DATE CHARTER FILED:

Approved: Eric K. Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date: 27 Mar 2009