

**VA ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD OF A HEARING TITLED
“The VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act: One Year Later”**

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

July 17, 2018

Questions From Congressman Walz

QUESTION 1: Please provide a list of all VA employees who are currently on detail outside of the VA. For each employee, please state the following information:

- a. Their VA job description for the most recent role they held at VA prior to being detailed out of the VA,**
- b. Their federal employment pay and grade,**
- c. The date their current detail began, and**
- d. The date their current detail is expected to end.**

VA Response: The information requested is set forth in the table below.

VA Employees on Detail Outside of VA for Fiscal Year 2018					
Employee	Grade	Step	Job Title	Effective Date	End Date
1	15	6	Chief Financial Officer	4/1/2018	9/28/2018
2	14	6	Health Science Officer	1/3/2018	12/31/2018
3	13	4	Program Analyst	1/3/2018	12/31/2018
4	15	4	Supervisory Admin Services Manager	1/3/2018	12/31/2018
5	14	3	Program Analyst	1/3/2018	12/31/2018
6	13	4	Writer-Editor	1/3/2018	12/31/2018
7	15	10	Director	1/3/2018	12/31/2018

QUESTION 2: Please provide a detailed list of every employee who has departed the Office of the Secretary, including the offices of the Executive Secretary, Protocol Office, the Center for Women Veterans, and the Center for Minority Veterans since March 28, 2018. For each employee, please state the following information:

- e. A detailed description of their role prior to their departure,
- f. Their federal employment pay and grade prior to their departure,
- g. The date of their departure,
- h. The reason for their departure, and
- i. A detailed list of any employment actions, including but not limited to disciplinary actions, that were taken or that the employee was notified of prior to their departure.

VA Response: The information is provided in Attachment 1, Attachment 2, and Attachment 3.

QUESTION 3: Recently, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) has been involved in a number of opioid-related healthcare inspections and criminal investigations. One of the most recent cases involved the Providence, RI VA Medical Center and the indictment of a nurse for opioid diversion and tampering by the U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island. It is my understanding that the OIG was focused on conducting a criminal investigation and did not review administrative practices that may have contributed to the alleged crimes.

Question a: Has the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection (OAWP) decided to consider this case?

VA Response: The Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection (OAWP) does not conduct investigations into procedures performed within the pharmacy operations, such investigations are under the purview of the Office of Medical Inspector (OMI). If there are allegations of senior leader discrepancies or misconduct OAWP might conduct a joint investigation with OMI. OAWP does not have any reported disclosures or referrals from OMI related to Providence, Rhode Island to trigger any such investigation.

Question b: Considering GAO's report last year about ineffective pharmacy and controlled substance oversight, has OAWP decided to look into these practices VA-wide?

VA Response: OAWP does not conduct investigations into procedures performed within the pharmacy operations, such investigations are under the purview of the OMI. If there are allegations of senior leader discrepancies or misconduct, OAWP might conduct a joint investigation with OMI.

QUESTION 4: My office has yet to receive the final investigator reports conducted by either the Office of Medical Inspector or the OAWP. In late Spring, VA informed my staff that these reports were in their final stages.

Question a: Can you explain some of the delays, especially regarding the report from OAWP?

VA Response: OAWP does not have any current or pending investigations in Providence. If there were any criminal allegations, they would be forwarded to VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) for review and investigation. To date, VA OIG has not referred any allegations to OAWP or OMI for administrative investigation.

Question b: Can you provide me with a timeline for their release?

VA Response: OAWP does not have any current or pending investigations in Providence. If there were any criminal allegations they would be investigated by VA OIG. To date, VA OIG has not referred any allegations to OAWP or OMI for administrative investigation.

QUESTION 5: It was also my understanding that OAWP was investigating the former Medical Center Director and the Chief of Staff. Can you provide me an update on their employment status and where they are currently employed?

VA Response: Dr. Suzanne McKenzie was appointed on October 20, 2013, to the medical center director (MCD) position and remains the current MCD. Dr. McKenzie was a person-of-interest in an older case but it was closed with no actions and didn't involve allegations about ineffective pharmacy operations and controlled substance oversight. Dr. Gregory Gillette served as the Chief of Staff from September 2, 2007, to December 31, 2014.

QUESTION 6: During the hearing, VA stated that it is in the process of putting in place a requirement that lenders must provide information early in the refinancing process that clearly state the recoupment period for the fees associated with refinancing. Please provide a detailed description of VA's progress on this, including an estimated timeline for when this requirement will be effective.

VA Response: As noted during the hearing, VA's Loan Guaranty Service (LGY) was in the process of developing policy that would instruct lenders to provide information early in the refinance process that would clearly state the recoupment amount and period for fees and charges associated with refinance transactions.

On February 1, 2018, LGY published Circular 26-18-1, *Policy Guidance for VA Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loans*. Beginning with loans closed on and after April 1, 2018, the policy states lenders should provide the *Veteran's Statement and Lender Certification* (note: lender certification only needed for payment increases of 20 percent or more), as outlined in *VA Lender's Handbook, Chapter 6, section 1d*. Lenders should provide this information to the Veteran with the initial disclosure documents no later than the third business day after receiving the Veteran's application. To verify compliance with the policy, VA implemented system enhancements in May 2018. The automated enhancements capture financial information, specific refinance calculations, and lender certifications.

Public Law 115-174 was signed by the President on May 24, 2018. This law requires lenders to meet a loan seasoning requirement, a net tangible benefit requirement, and a 36-month recoupment period. The VA requirement went into effect May 24, 2018, for new loan applications on or after that date. VA is compiling data to analyze lender compliance with the new legislation. VA continues to analyze the performance of these loans to determine compliance with the law and next actions, to include enhancements to reporting capabilities.

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6	13	4	Writer-Editor	1/3/2018	12/31/2018
7	15	10	Director	1/3/2018	12/31/2018

Attachment #2

Name	NOA Date of Other Actions	NOA Code of Other Actions	NOA Desc of Other Actions
EMP 1	4/15/2018	846	Individual Time Off
EMP 2	1/7/2018	891	Performance-based Pay Inc
EMP 3	1/7/2018	891	Performance-based Pay Inc
EMP 4	1/7/2018	891	Performance-based Pay Inc
EMP 6	1/25/2018	999	Master Record Update
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 7	5/31/2018	999	Master Record Update
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 8	4/28/2018	999	Master Record Update
	1/21/2018	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 9	1/21/2018	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 10	5/13/2018	893	Within-range Increase
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 11	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 12	1/21/2018	882	Chg in SCD
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 13	1/21/2018	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
	7/23/2017	893	Within-range Increase
	2/23/2017	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	1/8/2017	894	General Adjustment
	1/10/2016	894	General Adjustment
	12/22/2015	846	Individual Time Off
	8/9/2015	998	Conversion Row
	1/11/2015	894	General Adjustment
	12/19/2014	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	7/27/2014	893	Within-range Increase
	1/12/2014	894	Gen Market or Structural
	12/18/2013	840	Individual Cash Award RB
EMP 14	5/27/2018	893	Within-range Increase
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 15	7/8/2018	500	Conv to Career Appt
	4/15/2018	500	Conv to Career Appt
	2/12/2018	846	Individual Time Off
	2/4/2018	922	Change in Org Cost Center
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 16	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
	12/22/2017	846	Individual Time Off
	2/24/2017	846	Individual Time Off
	1/8/2017	894	General Adjustment
	1/10/2016	894	General Adjustment

	11/20/2015	846	Individual Time Off
	8/23/2015	570	Conv to Exc Appt
	8/9/2015	998	Conversion Row
	1/11/2015	894	General Adjustment
	8/24/2014	590	Conv to Provisional Appt
	1/12/2014	894	Gen Market or Structural
EMP 17	1/21/2018	893	Within-range Increase
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 18	8/4/2018	713	Chg to Lower Grade,
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 19	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 20	2/4/2018	500	Conv to Career Appt
	1/21/2018	590	Conv to Provisional Appt
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 21	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 22	1/21/2018	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 23	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 24	1/7/2018	891	Performance-based Pay Inc
EMP 25	7/18/2018	999	Master Record Update
	5/27/2018	893	Within-range Increase
	1/21/2018	840	Individual Cash Award RB
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 26	1/7/2018	891	Performance-based Pay Inc
EMP 27	7/8/2018	893	Within-range Increase
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
EMP 28	4/9/2018	546	Conv to SES Noncareer
	1/7/2018	894	General Adjustment
	9/17/2017	515	Conv to Appt NTE
	5/21/2017	760	Ext of Appt NTE
	1/20/2017	190	Provisional Appt NTE
EMP 33	2/4/2018	501	Conv to Career-Cond Appt
	2/3/2018	999	Master Record Update
	1/7/2018	190	Provisional Appt NTE

Organization	Employee Name	Position Title	Pay Plan	Grade	Salary	Departure Date	Departure Nature of Action
OFC/DEPUTY SECRETARY	Isaac,Charlyn A	Special Assistant	GS	13	103435.00	6/15/2018	(b) (2)
CENTER FOR MINORITY VETS	Ward,Barbara	Director	ES	00	147030.00	7/27/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Farrisee,Gina Sgro	Executive Director	ES	00	186793.00	7/8/2018	
OFC/DEPUTY SECRETARY	Devine,Daniel C	Executive Director	ES	00	180487.00	7/8/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Shulkin,David J	Secretary Of Va	EX	I	199700.00	3/29/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Caldera,Christian	Special Assistant	GS	13	100203.00	6/24/2018	
CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS	Moseley-Brown,Betty E	Program Managemt Officer	GS	15	164200.00	5/13/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Merchant,Robert C	Supervisory Program Specialist	GS	15	148267.00	4/15/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Jessup,Jennifer Louise	Staff Assistant	GS	15	161746.00	7/8/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Mckinney,Marcus A	Program Support Assistant	GS	07	47504.00	5/26/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Whitfield,Sheila D	Staff Assistant	GS	13	119597.00	8/3/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Ledford,Edward C	Public Affairs Specialist	GS	15	148267.00	4/1/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Bevins-Udicious,Debi L	Program Managemt Officer	GS	15	164200.00	6/24/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Nguyen,Nhi A	Deputy Exec Secretary	GS	14	141328.00	8/5/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Washington,Conrad	Program Specialist	GS	13	96970.00	6/10/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Gill,Allen J	Public Affairs Specialist	GS	15	161746.00	4/1/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Mitchell,Brian P	Public Affairs Specialist	GS	15	161746.00	4/1/2018	
OFCDEPUTY SECRETARY	Jordan,Melissa L	Deputy Exec Secretary	GS	14	122230.00	6/24/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Jordan,Melissa L	Lead Executive Writer	GS	15	134789.00	8/4/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Matuszczak,Lisa M	Government Information Special	GS	14	133689.00	3/31/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Conley,Leah L	Management Analyst	GS	12	81548.00	7/22/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Coleman,Janet J	Program Specialist	GS	14	129869.00	4/30/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Pham,Katherine A	Staff Assistant	GS	13	116365.00	6/10/2018	
OFCDEPUTY SECRETARY	Hamilton,Chekita T	Public Affairs Specialist	GS	15	157253.00	4/1/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Bock,Tonia Y	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	ES	00	179192.20	8/10/2018	
OFCDEPUTY SECRETARY	Erwin,Mark T	Hlth Sys Spec /Sa/Dir/	GS	14	118410.00	4/15/2018	
CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS	Williams,Kayla M	Director	ES	00	154635.00	7/13/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Munnelly,Thomas R	Correspondence Analyst	GS	11	70304.00	6/24/2018	
OFC/DEPUTY SECRETARY	Connell,Lawrence B	Chief Of Staff	ES	00	165300.00	7/22/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Leinenkugel,Thomas Jacob	Senior White House Advisor	ES	00	179700.00	7/27/2018	
OFC/DEPUTY SECRETARY	Selnick,Darin Scott	Senior Advisor	ES	00	165000.00	3/31/2018	
OFC/DEPUTY SECRETARY	Bowman,Thomas Gray	Deputy Secretary Of Va	EX	II	179700.00	6/15/2018	
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	Tepper,Michael Todd	Senior Advisor	ES	00	172100.00	4/16/2018	
CENTER FOR WOMEN VETERANS	Corazza,Danielle Marie	Program Specialist	GS	13	106668.00	7/10/2018	