Dear Colli, Jacqueline,

Thank you for your request!

Your submission has been received and is currently being reviewed. A Media Services Technician will reach out to you shortly.

Ticket Number: P101072FY21
Event Name: Office Call w/Dr.
Event Start Date: 10/07/2020
Event End Date: undefined
Photographer Start Date: 10/07/2020
Photographer End Date: undefined

Thanks,

The Media Services Team
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>2:30 – 3:00 pm</td>
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All — we have a taker for Tuesday from 10-10:30. Prep materials to follow.

FYI — Secretary wanted to do this while he was in Montana, but we couldn’t fit it in. Show starts at 10:06. Interview would start at 10:10 and last 10 minutes.

v/r
Interview with Aaron Flint – Montana Talks Radio
Billings, MT – Radio Host


TALKING POINTS Montana VA officials have pointed out that recruiting in less populated areas can be difficult for any medical system. Mental health staffing has been a long-term issue at the Montana HCS / Fort Harrison VAMC, which also is not uncommon in more rural areas. Montana HCS’ overall trust scores are at a historic high. The HCS serves more than 47,000 enrolled Veterans across Montana—an area roughly 147,000 square miles in size. One third of HCS employees are Veterans. The Missoula Clinic will relocate from the current 20,000 sqft facility to a new 60,000 sqft space, expected to open November 2021. Montana HCS is piloting the iFrontier program to connect with rural veterans who are in a behavioral health crisis. On July 31 the Montana HCS held a grand opening for the new expanded Clinic in Great Falls.

RADIO CALL INFO
Station: Montana
Talks Radio
Broadcast: Daily
Reporter: Aaron Flint
Date: October 6, 2020
Time: Live, 10:10-10:20
Phone: (6) lack up)Air Date: TBD
Phone -

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS
Interview:
*Positive, Negative, Neutral or Unknown
Reporter is interested in the following topics:
VA update on COVID-19 response
Reaching rural Veterans &
telehealth
Reporter specific topics TBD

NOTE: Flint interviewed Secretary Wilkie 28 May 2019
Colstrip and Billings Landing a Visit by Trump's Energy Secretary – 1 October 2020

President Trump's Secretary of Energy is coming to Montana later this week. According to the Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette and Senator Steve Daines' (R-MT) office, Colstrip and Billings will both serve as host to the member of President Trump's cabinet. Senator Daines says he wanted to bring the secretary to Montana "to meet directly with Montanans to discuss the importance of Montana energy jobs."

Podcast: Missoula City Council Conservatives on MT Talks – 1 October 2020

Jesse Ramos and Sandy Vasecka of the Missoula City Council visited with Aaron on property taxes, regulations on business and the liberal agenda in the Council.

Podcast: David Smith, MT Contractors Assn – 1 October 2020

David Smith of the Montana Contractors Association discussed the problematic impact of marijuana legalization on the workplace.

Podcast: GianCarlo Canaparo on the Dirty Attacks on Judge Barrett – 29 September 2020

The proverbial knives are already out for Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett. GianCarlo Canaparo of the Heritage Foundation spoke with Aaron about the low attacks on the federal judge, including using her two adopted children from Haiti.
<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:45 – 8:15 am</td>
<td>Daily Sync Mtg</td>
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<td>9:00 – 10:00 am</td>
<td>Bi-Weekly w/ Under Secretaries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>** Dr. Lieberman will attend for VHA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>** Dr. Lawrence will attend for VBA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>** Ron Walters will attend for NCA</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:10 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>Phone Interview w/ Aaron Flint Radio Show (Montana)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:00 am</td>
<td>Bi-Weekly w/ Under Secretaries</td>
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<td>10:00 – 10:30 am</td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>a. Alaska Federation of Native’s 54th Annual Convention</td>
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<td>b. VEO CX Mini Summit</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Scheduling &amp; Travel Coordination Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ MT Governor Bullock</td>
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<td>1:30 – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>OMB Deputy Director Mike Rigas</td>
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<td>2:15 – 2:45 pm</td>
<td>Sitterly &amp; Tucker to sit in</td>
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<td>3:00 – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>VHA COVID19 Update Mtg</td>
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<td>3:30 – 5:00 pm</td>
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**Notes:**
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- 1-872-701-0185
- Code: 68#
Phone Call with [Redacted]
When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

Meeting number (access code): 199 410 2878
Meeting password: [REDACTED]

Ok great, thanks. It will be virtual, IT Ops Services recommended using WebEx as our platform because the audience size could be as large as 60 depending on the level of participation from the other military branch services. However, we have reserved VACO 230 for any of the speakers who would like to deliver their briefs with Sonny Montgomery as their backdrop. I will be in Sonny Montgomery with Cathy Haverstock on November 20 for anyone who decides to go with that option.

Good afternoon

I wanted to touch base on the Secretary’s participation in the Air Force Legislative Fellows VA briefing scheduled for November 20. The Secretary had mentioned you may already have a hold on the Secretary’s calendar at around 10AM on November 20. Last year we scheduled the Secretary for 30mins, followed by the DepSec for 30mins. If that timing is still workable, we would schedule the Secretary for 10AM and the DepSec for 10:30AM. I believe they both went over their time last year. As you probably know, they both participated in the AF fellowship during their military service and they know the program and its benefits well. Please let me know if this timing works.

v/r

FW: Deputy Secretary to Host AY21 AF Legislative Fellow Class
Ladies,

Just giving you a heads up that in OCLA is coordinating this, like they did last year. They are looking at the two dates below. I’ll make sure Saki gets with you as soon as he has details.

Ms. Haverstock,

Ms. Powers would like to host a virtual professional development seminar with the AF Legislative Fellows similar to what OCLA coordinated last year. Is there someone in OCLA who can take the lead with this? They would like to do this November 20 @ 10am or December 18 @ 10am. I’ll be happy to make the connection with the correct OCLA staff.

Thank you,

Executive Assistant
Office of the Deputy Secretary
Department of Veterans Affairs

For scheduling, read ahead submissions, general questions, please email:

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker. — Helen Keller

Hi Ms. Haverstock,
Thank you again for scheduling the meet and greet between w/Ms. Powers and me. It was indeed a pleasure to get to know her in a more personal setting. During our meeting, Ms. Powers agreed to host a virtual professional development seminar with our Air Force Legislative Fellowship Class. She discussed possibly having the department heads of VHA, VBA, NCA and OCLA present information along side her. I don’t recall if she also wanted Secretary Wilkie to participate, but we’d be honored to have him speak to our class!

I’d like to make a virtual introduction to three members from our Professional Development Committee; Major and Major and Ms. They arrange professional development events for our group and are a great team of professionals! is the Committee Lead; she or one of the other members will contact you to sync our class calendar with Ms. Powers, et al, calendars to determine the best future date for the seminar. Thanking you in advance for your attention to this message. Standing-by ma’am, to address any questions/concerns you may have.

Enjoy the weekend!

United States Air Force Legislative Fellow
Secretary's Center for Strategic Partnerships
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
http://www.va.gov/scsp
Cell:  
VA Email: @va.gov
USAF Email: @us.af.mil
Good afternoon,

I wanted to make sure you all have the WEBEX link for this brief. I'll include it below, if you want me to send it another way please let me know.

-- Do not delete or change any of the following text. --

When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.

Meeting number (access code):

Meeting password:

Join meeting

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)
+14043971596,## USA Toll Number

Join by phone
14043971596 USA Toll Number
Global call-in numbers | Toll-free calling restrictions

Join from a video system or application
Dial @veteransaffairs.webex.com
You can also dial 207.182.190.20 and enter your meeting number.

If you are a host, click here to view host information.

Need help? Go to http://help.webex.com
Ok great, thanks. It will be virtual, IT Ops Services recommended using WebEx as our platform because the audience size could be as large as 60 depending on the level of participation from the other military branch services. However, we have reserved VACO 230 for any of the speakers who would like to deliver their briefs with Sonny Montgomery as their backdrop. I will be in Sonny Montgomery with Cathy Haverstock on November 20 for anyone who decides to go with that option.

YES — SecVA has agreed to speak at this at 10:00am on 20 November. Will this be virtual? If so, what platform?

Good afternoon
I wanted to touch base on the Secretary’s participation in the Air Force Legislative Fellows VA briefing scheduled for November 20. had mentioned you may already have a hold on the Secretary’s calendar at around 10AM on November 20. Last year we scheduled the Secretary for 30mins, followed by the DepSec for 30mins. If that timing is still workable, we would schedule the Secretary for 10AM and the DepSec for 10:30AM. I believe they both went over their time last year. As you probably know, they both participated in the AF fellowship during their military service and they know the program and its benefits well. Please let me know if this timing works.
From: [b)(6] EOP/OVP
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[b)(6) Subject: White House Coronavirus Task Force Conference Call

All,

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Conference Call** at 2:30pm tomorrow, October 3rd. Call-in instructions to follow.

Thank you,

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
More to follow, vr [b](b)
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Page 032 of 245

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ERT/Arrive at Denver airport Marriott
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To: RLW
Subject: Gate Transition/Boarding
From: RLW
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To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Call w(6)
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 5 Oct 2020 15:54:37 +0000
To: RLW
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United 6198 DCA-IAH 0630-0855 3 hr 25 min
Layover at Houston (IAH): 1 hr 25 min
United Airlines 1895 IAH-PHX 1020-1109 2 hr 49 min

Total travel time: 7 hr 39 min
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 5 Oct 2020 17:24:27 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 2:05pm Wheels Up to Dulles Airport

United 461 DEN-IAD 1405-1922 (3 hr 17 m)
EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Monday, October 19, 2020
11:00AM Call

October 19, 2020, 11:00AM
OM POC: Jon Rychalski (b)(6)
Driver: Proactive Biweekly Updates
Subject: COVID 19 Response
Participants: Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, Lisa Molyneux, HAC MilConVA
Majority Clerk VA: SECVA, Jon Rychalski

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:
☐ Decisional ☐ Informational ☐ Pre-Event
☐ Remarks ☒ Other ☐ Courtesy Call

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:
Teleconferences with Member to discuss the Department’s response to COVID-19. The last call with Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz was on October 5.

COVID19 Obligations:
• $7.601 billion obligated for COVID19 response through October 13.
• As of October 15, there were 3,534 active COVID-19 cases in VA.
• VA has tested 799,252 unique patients.

OEHRM Go-Live at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC
• We are excited that the first full implementation of the new Cerner electronic health record software will take place this coming weekend. The staff at the Mann-Grandstaff VAMC and the 4 community-based outpatient clinics associated with the medical center are expected to start using the new system on Saturday, October 24.
• This milestone is the result of 27 months of planning, collaboration, and steadfast work by our EHRM team, Cerner, and leaders and staff across VA and our partners within DoD. We also appreciate your support in providing the necessary funding to pursue this transformation.
• We will provide your staff with written updates throughout the Go-Live period and will provide a post go-live briefing in November.

Attachments:
• Weekly COVID-19 obligations
Early COVID-19 response efforts may not have used the COVID-19 specific accounting codes. Adjustments are ongoing, and changes will continue to be reflected in future reports. Additionally, weekly reporting may vary from the first monthly SF-133 due to the date of reporting.

### Coronavirus Supplementals Appropriations, Obligations, and Paid Expenditures

Data as of October 13, 2020

(Amounts in Thousands)

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<td>1,780,301</td>
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<td>Veterans Benefits Administration</td>
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<td>13,000</td>
<td>6,743</td>
<td>5,714</td>
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<td>57,121</td>
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<td>Office of Inspector General</td>
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<td>16,109</td>
<td>6,444</td>
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<td>VA Total, CARES Act, P.L. 116-136</td>
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<td>7,456,072</td>
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<td><strong>Families First Coronavirus Response Act, P.L. 116-127</strong></td>
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<td>Medical Services</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<td>21,227</td>
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<td>Medical Community Care</td>
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<td>30,000</td>
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<td>VA Total, Families First Act, P.L. 116-127</td>
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<td><strong>Coronavirus Response Reimbursables</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Services</td>
<td>21,258</td>
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<td>Medical Support and Compliance</td>
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<td>Medical Facilities</td>
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<td>VA Total, Coronavirus Response Reimbursables</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total, All Funds</strong></td>
<td>19,629,500</td>
<td>19,629,500</td>
<td>7,601,489</td>
<td>5,630,667</td>
</tr>
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### Additional Information on Obligations:

**End-Of-Fiscal-Year Activities:**

There has been an increase in the number of expenditure transfers between VA accounts associated with COVID-19 spending. These are multi-step transactions that can occur over a period of time. These transactions are contributing to the negative amounts in some accounts for obligations and expenditures. This report is a snapshot at a specific point in time. The negative amounts will be evaluated and reconciled if needed as part of the normal accounting process.

**Families First Funding:**

The Final OGC clarified that Families First funding should be used specifically for testing costs. VA is in the process of adjusting obligations to conform with that decision. Adjustments for the Medical Services have been completed to reflect obligations for testing supplies purchased in bulk. Families First funding is fully obligated for Medical Services. Adjustments are in the process for Community Care to reflect obligations for medical bills for COVID-19 related tests.

**Department of Veterans Affairs:**

- VA has obligated $7,601 million for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $7,601 million from September 29th.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $3,540 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,061 million in equipment was obligated.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $3,540 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,061 million in equipment was obligated.
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- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $3,540 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,061 million in equipment was obligated.

**Veterans Health Administration:**

As noted above, accounting adjustments will transfer previous obligation against base funding to the COVID-19 supplemental funding.

**Obligations of note include:**

- VA has obligated $6,402 million for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $5,402 million from September 29th.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $2,175 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,352 million in equipment was obligated.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $6,655 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,352 million in equipment was obligated.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $7,074 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,352 million in equipment was obligated.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $7,074 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $1,352 million in equipment was obligated.

**Veterans Benefits Administration:**

- VA has obligated $9,402 million for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $1,402 million from September 29th.
- Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated $4,002 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th.

**CARES Act Specifics:**

- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act, $2,11 million has been obligated on supplies and equipment through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $204 million in equipment was obligated.
- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act for Medical Services, $2,155 million has been obligated on supplies and equipment through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $204 million in equipment was obligated.
- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act, VHA has obligated $91,392 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel, and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.

**Veterans Benefits Administration:**

- Of the supplemental funding VHA received via the CARES Act, VHA has obligated $91,392 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel, and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.

**Office of Information Technology:**

- OIT has obligated $1,751 million for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $200 million from September 29th.
- Regardless of funding source, OIT has obligated $303,179 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th.
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 13:08:48 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 16:50:58 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to NPC
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 16:51:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/95132343655?pwd=L1grS3RiYIVZNjZQcDI3Zi9pVWM3dz09
Meeting ID: 951 3234 3655
Passcode: [b](6)
Page 111 of 245

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>SECVA Suite</td>
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<td>9:30 – 10:00 am</td>
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<td>SECVA Suite</td>
<td>Tab 1</td>
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<td>Tab 2</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ Dave McIntyre ** Dr. Lieberman &amp; Brooks will sit in ** he will call us</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 – 11:45 am</td>
<td>Office Call w/ Dr. (b)(6)</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4:37 pm</td>
<td>Wheels Up</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
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From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 18:08:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT Dulles
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 18:09:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 5:58pm Wheels Up to Tampa
Run of Show

0945 ish arrive at National Press Club 529 14th Street NW 13th floor Washington, D.C.
Met by

Press Club requests masks be worn except when speakers are making remarks and all entering the club will have their temperature taken.

NPC asks if anyone in the Secretary of VA party have been recently exposed to people who have COVID due to news of Secretary Ben Carson and WH COS Mark Meadows.

Proceed to Ballroom.

1000 am -Introduced by Mr. Michael Freedman, President, National Press Club

Secretary Wilkie remarks From podium 15-20 minutes followed by Q&A while seated until 1100 am.

30-50 people will be in the audience from the American Legion, VFW, Army Museum and other Press Club members and reporters.

Event will be live streamed and carried on CSPAN. Other media cameras are also expected but exact networks and media are all TBD depending on other news happening tomorrow.

1105 -Depart Press Club.

Please call with any questions.

My cell
The Secretary has accepted the invitation below and will address the group at 10:00am on November 10. Remarks required. Thank you.

Jackie
Finally, for info, the National Press Club, in partnership with the American Legion, arrange an excellent World War II 75th anniversary discussion. I arranged to have leaders from the Truman Presidential Library and President Truman's grandson join us virtually and we concluded the event with the playing of Taps.
https://www.press.org/events/national-press-club-american-legion-post-20-commemorate-75th-anniversary-japans-official?fbclid=IwAR3vI3GAsD2Inya0pMkOaDwAbEeqGGPmm0xpQmHqU1UQKz708L05Ei3X3ETo

In my US Tennis Association role I was able to get the US Open to continue the tradition of holding the LT Joe Hunt Military Appreciation Day again this year despite the limitations of COVID 19. General Milley kindly agreed to join with Navy Lt Joe Hunt’s grandnephew and namesake to record a video that was broadcast and gained wide attention on social media.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I08iDecQusZ4Z2HIUWBNIZknVho6e7/view?fbclid=IwAR3rNRJ7xkJp88UUm-chLYncGeTFNd2GcRUnNi7ndXqoUD_0smacptjhrpfS

Finally, my family and I visited with Secretary England at his cabin near Gettysburg and he seems to be well. As you know his beloved wife Dotty died unexpectedly on May 11 and it has left a huge hole.

Please let me know if I can help you and VA advance your vital mission and if its helpful to you I hope you will join us at the National Press Club in the coming weeks.

With respect,

(b)(6)
Captain USN (Ret)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)@comcast.net
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 6 Oct 2020 16:11:43 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - National Press Club Event
Attachments: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Re: National Press Club invitation to Secretary of Veterans Affairs
can we set this date/time? Recommend 11:00.

James

Get Outlook for iOS

Get Outlook for iOS

Secretary Hutton,

The National Press Club ball room is available on November 10 for Secretary Wilkie to speak if that date still works.

Is there a best time for him?

Perhaps 1000-1100, 1100-1200 or 1300-1400.

We would have the Secretary speak in person with guests from media, Veteran’s groups and Press Club members along with your staff and any guests the Secretary wishes in the ball room and seated approximately based on the guidance at that time.

Please let me know if this works and call me with any questions.

VR,

Captain USN (Ret)

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2020, at 5:20 PM, Hutton, James @va.gov> wrote:
Thank You.

Will check dates.

Would the Secretary wish to speak at the Press Club or do this virtual from VA?

Thx

Captain USN (Ret)

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 30, 2020, at 4:13 PM, Hutton, James <James.Hutton@va.gov> wrote:

Would one of the following dates work?

November 5, 9 or 10 work.
Time?

James

James Hutton
Assistant Secretary
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420
Office:
Email: @va.gov
Twitter: @jehutton
VA on Facebook . Twitter . YouTube . Flickr . Blog

From: (b)(6) @comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 11:09 AM
To: (b)(6) @va.gov>; Scott, Traci
Cc: (b)(6) @va.gov>; Purpuro, Lawrence J. @va.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] National Press Club invitation to Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Dear Secretary Wilkie,

I hope this note finds you and your family and VA Team well.

It was great to have you speak at the Press Club the last few years and in February just before COVID struck the world.

Thank you for all that you are doing for America’s Veterans and families.

Your annual “State of Veterans” address at the National Press Club have become a highlight of the Club’s calendar and it if it helps advance your mission and goals the leadership at NPC would like to invite you to speak again this year, either in person, or virtually, in the coming weeks. You could discuss the State of Veterans Affairs and the success of the many initiatives that you have begun and also touch on COVID and how VA is working to address this additional challenge.

The President of the National Press Club, Michael Freedman, would handle the Questions and Answers following your opening remarks.
Michael’s bio: https://www.press.org/presidents-page

The program would normally last one hour and the Press Club team can work with your staff to find a mutually convenient date and time.
Your staff can contact me with any questions at [b][6] and I hope you will have time to address the National Press Club soon.

National Press Club
529 14th Street
13th Floor
Washington, DC 20045
202-662-7500
www.press.org

Finally, for info, the National Press Club, in partnership with the American Legion, arrange an excellent World War II 75th anniversary discussion. I arranged to have leaders from the Truman Presidential Library and President Truman’s grandson join us virtually and we concluded the event with the playing of Taps. https://www.press.org/events/national-press-club-american-legion-post-20-commemorate-75th-anniversary-japans-official?fbclid=IwAR3v13GAsD2Inya0pMkOaDwAbEqGGPmm0xpQmHqU1UQKz708L05Ei3X3ETo

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https://drive.google.com/file/d/11O8iDecQuusZ4Z2HlUWWBNlZkncVho6e7/view?fbclid=IwAR3rNRJ7xkJp88UUm-chLYnGeTFNd2GeRUNi7ndXsqoUD_0smacptjhrpfs

Finally, my family and I visited with Secretary England at his cabin near Gettysburg and he seems to be well. As you know his beloved wife Dotty died unexpectedly on May 11 and it has left a huge hole.

Please let me know if I can help you and VA advance your vital mission and if its helpful to you I hope you will join us at the National Press Club in the coming weeks.

With respect,

[b][6]
Captain USN (Ret)
[b][6]
[b][6]@comcast.net
En Route to VACO
From: RLW
To: RLW
Subject: ERT / Arr Dulles IAD
From: RLW
To: RLW
Subject: ERT / Arr Phoenix Sky Harbor
From: RLW
To: RLW
Subject: Wheels Up to Salt Lake City Internat’l Airport

Delta 3820 TUS-SLC 1650-1944 (1 hr 54 m)
Southwest 1953 PHX-SLC 2005-2235 (1hr 30m)
From: RLW
To: RLW
Subject: Wheels Up to Denver Internat'l Airport

Delta 1596 SLC-DEN 1750-1913 (1 hr 23 m)
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 7 Oct 2020 15:44:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/Surgeon GEN. Dr. Jerome Adams - he will call us
Good morning,

I would like to request a meeting with Secretary Wilkie on behalf of Dr. (b)(6) Executive Director of the National Center for Organization Development (NCOD/106C). The purpose of the meeting is to present information on the 2020 All Employee Survey (AES). This briefing is provided to the Secretary prior to the public release of the data, which is currently planned for 12/8/2020. We would like to brief the Secretary on either 12/7/2020 or 12/8/2020.

As travel is restricted, would a virtual presentation using MS Teams be okay? (b)(6) is also willing to travel to DC if preferred. We are recommending that Under Secretaries for each administration as well as the ASHRA/OSP be invited to this presentation to encourage a robust, Department-wide review and discussion of the high-level national results. Each of these individuals also will be offered an administration-specific presentation as has been our usual practice. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Purpose: Brief Secretary Wilkie on the 2020 AES
Length: 30 minutes to present, 15 minutes for questions (45 minutes total)
Invites: (b)(6) (NCOD’s Deputy Director), and the following at the Secretary’s discretion: VA Chief of Staff, Deputy Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness, the VHA EIC, the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, and the Under Secretary for Benefits.
Meeting options: Monday (12/7/2020) or Tuesday (12/8/2020)

Thank you,

Brandon

--

(b)(6) MHSA
Executive Assistant
VHA National Center for Organization Development
(b)(6) (office) (b)(6) (mobile) | 513-247-4699 (facsimile)
NCOD Intranet Page
Dr. Lieberman & Dr. MacDonald will represent VHA
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 7 Oct 2020 17:18:07 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: VHA Briefing re: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (1-800-767-1750 / code (b)(6))

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY

VHA Briefing
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Friday, October 23, 2020
10:30a.m.
Teleconference

POINT OF CONTACT:
Congressional Relations Officer, VA-OCLA,
Ov@va.gov

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEETING:

☐ Decisional   X  Informational   ☐ Pre-Event
☐ Remarks     ☐ Other         ☐ Courtesy Call

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:
Informational briefing to the Secretary by VHA on overall progress implementing a national solution for access to State and regional prescription drug monitoring programs highlighting the several outlier states the department has not been able to bring onboard, and highlight VHA/OCLA outreach and engagement strategy with those states to ensure program success.

SECVA ROLE:
Listen to overall VA challenges with outlier states, brainstorm ideas for augmenting the current outreach and engagement strategy and identify where/how he can help bring outliers onboard.

ATTENDEES:
Dr. Lieberman, Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health
Dr. Dr. Matthews, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services/CMO
Dr. MacDonald, Chief Consultant to the Deputy Undersecretary for Health
Ginger Parker, Special Advisor, OEI

OBJECTIVE:
1. Inform the Secretary that there are several outliers the Department has not been bring onboard.
2. Outline the VHA/OCLA outreach and engagement strategy to reach outliers and ensure overall program success.
3. Provide Secretary talking points for each outlier state and explain how where/how his involvement can be most effective.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
1. VA is implementing a national solution for access to State and regional prescription drug monitoring programs per the MISSION Act. In accordance with Section 1703B of the MISSION Act, VA intends to execute a phased deployment of the PDMP solution starting in late November. The deployment will likely extend into spring of 2021 to allow the remaining states to get on board.

2. The automated and integrated PDMP solution will help VA monitor the prescription and dispensation of drugs containing controlled substances (CS) to mitigate the risks of potentially harmful drug interactions and overdose, as well as to prevent high-risk prescribing. The PDMP solution will help increase VA’s current rate of checking PDMP databases for new high-risk prescriptions, such as opioids, from approximately 60% to the 98% rate required for patient safety. Full access to every State’s PDMP database will reduce the potential of Veterans receiving duplicate CS prescriptions, thereby reducing rates of suicide and saving lives.

3. VA is partnering with Appriss Health, the leading provider of PDMPs for States, to build a quick search functionality that will allow authorized users to rapidly access a Veteran’s comprehensive CS medication history during their medical appointment. To support our shared commitment to the health and well-being of our Veterans, VA requested that VA providers and licensed delegates be allowed access to state PDMP system through a connection with Appriss Health.

4. Most states are able and willing to comply, however, there are several outlier states—New York, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Hawaii, Florida, Alaska, Missouri and Utah.

5. VHA and OCLA continues their outreach and engagement strategy to ensure program success.

LOGISTICS: Briefing will happen via teleconference. The Secretary’s scheduler has sent calendar invites to attendees.

ATTACHMENTS:
1. PDMP Talking Points
2. Outlier Talking Points by State
3. VHA Letter to States PDMP Directors
VA’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) Initiative

Talking Points

1. **Summary of Regulation and Benefits:** Due to the Congressional mandate incorporated in Public Law 115-182, the Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is actively pursuing rulemaking to implement 38 U.S. Code § 1730B, access to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) across state and regional levels. Section 1730B states that licensed VA health care providers or delegates must be considered an authorized recipient or user for the purpose of querying and receiving data from the national network of State-based PDMPs or from any individual State or regional PDMP. Further, § 1730B(a)(3) mandates that no State shall deny or revoke the license, registration, or certification of these licensed providers or delegates on the basis that they queried or received data, or attempted to query or receive data, from the national network of State-based prescription drug monitoring programs, or any individual State or regional prescription drug monitoring program, under this section.

   The nation-wide access to PDMP databases provided in Section 1730B will help VA monitor the prescription and dispensation of drugs containing controlled substances (CS) to mitigate the risks of potentially harmful drug interactions and overdose, as well as to prevent high-risk prescribing. VA’s current process requires providers to manually access PDMP databases only in the state where they practice. Improved access will enable VA providers and delegates to check patient CS prescription history across state lines. This will allow VA providers to better understand patient medication history, thereby strengthening VA prescribing practices and improving Veteran health outcomes.

2. **Life-Saving Impact of VA’s PDMP Solution Implementation:** VA’s new automated and integrated solution will offer VA providers and delegates a new PDMP button in each Veteran’s medical record. This quick search functionality will allow authorized users to quickly access a Veteran’s comprehensive CS medication history during a Veteran’s medical appointment. Replacing the current onerous manual process which required providers and delegates to exit a patient’s electronic health record and then separately log into a state PDMP website will help increase VA’s current rate of checking PDMP databases for new high-risk prescriptions, such as opioids, from approximately 60% to the 98% rate required for patient safety. This solution supports medical, pharmacy, and public health professionals by identifying high risk CS prescribing practices and enabling them to mitigate the risk of intentional or unintentional overdose. Studies have shown that Veterans who receive CS prescriptions from both VA providers and community providers have a higher suicide rate. VA can help prevent Veterans from receiving duplicate CS prescriptions if they have full access to every state’s PDMP database, thereby reducing rates of suicide and saving lives.
3. **Timeline of Implementation**: VA plans to deploy an automated solution on November 2, 2020 that supports VA’s team-based care model by allowing VA licensed providers and delegates to query PDMP databases from any participating state or region. In preparation for this milestone, VA notified state and regional PDMPs of the integrated solution and associated rulemaking through multiple industry presentations over the past two years. In addition, VA recently sent a letter to all state PDMP Directors informing them of the federal supremacy authority granted by Congress which allows VA full access to every state’s PDMP database. Some states have not yet chosen to recognize the authority granted to VA by Congress.

4. **State Spotlights**: Most states are able and willing to comply with VA’s Congressionally approved mandate. However, for the outliers, the Department continues outreach and engagement to ensure program success. The states that remain outstanding include:

   - **North Carolina**: The NC PDMP Director insists VA sign NC’s data use agreement that contains many security and privacy provisions which VA OGC has indicated the federal government cannot agree to. On a recent call with NC PDMP officials and VA OGC, NC stated they do not agree with VA OGC’s interpretation that the MISSION Act legislation requires every state grant all VA clinicians access to their PDMP data.

   - **New York**: New York’s current interpretation of the state statute governing PDMP efforts implies that data may not be de-encrypted at any point or accessible by a third party. VA’s subject matter experts have reviewed the issue with legal counsel and do not believe the statute is a barrier to PDMP implementation. VA is eager to resolve this; however, New York has been largely unresponsive to attempts to coordinate on the issue.

   - **Nebraska**: Nebraska does not currently participate in the widely used PMP InterConnect that facilitates the transfer of PDMP data across state lines. VA continues to promote the value and importance of the PMP InterConnect program in our ongoing engagement with state leaders. VA believes it is critical for Nebraska to prioritize identifying the necessary resources for participation in this vital program. Nebraska has been unresponsive to requests they join VA’s national solution.

   - **Vermont**: Vermont statute does not currently allow VA access to their PDMP databases. VA is working with state leadership to address outstanding questions about Veterans Health Administration (VHA) access controls, policies, and processes in order to clarify goals, highlight the importance of PDMP integration to Veterans’ well-being, and identify next steps in resolving any remaining conflicts with existing state statute.
State PDMP Talking Points

Alaska

**Agency Oversight:** Alaska Board of Pharmacy

**Issue:** Legislative – There is confusion related to how the existing statute supports VA access. Prescribers and pharmacists working with Tribal Health Organizations or the Indian Health Service (IHS), Veterans Administration (VA), military, or other federal employer may register with the PDMP under the authority of AS 17.30.200(f). Federal providers are not obligated to register by AS 08; however, internal directives issued by both the IHS and VA indicate that registration with the State’s PDMP is binding upon its employees. The registration and renewal fees do not apply to these federal providers.

**Status:** The PDMP agency has communicated with their legal counsel that the Mission Act rules supersede these state rules, but their legal is still advising not to approve.

**Next Steps:** Suggest VA engage the Governor’s office.

**Contact:**

Executive Administrator, Alaska Board of Pharmacy PDMP
Direct phone: (b)(6)
PDMP phone: (b)(6)
PDMP email: (b)(6) @alaska.gov

California

**Agency Oversight:** California Department of Justice

**Issue:** Legislative – The Appriss Health PMP Gateway API is connected directly to CA CURES. Appriss can facilitate VA integrations for prescribers and pharmacists only (no delegates per CA law). VA users currently only receive CA CURES PDMP information.

**Status:** CA DOJ recently promulgated a regulation which provided the California DOJ authority to share PDMP data with other states. Once CA DOJ executes the PMP InterConnect MOU and completes the testing of their connection to PMP InterConnect, they will be able to share PDMP information with other states. Connection expected to go live after November.

**Next Steps:** Appriss has a call with the California team on 10/28 and will advise VA on next steps.

**Contact:**

Attorney General’s Office, California Department of Justice
Phone: (b)(6)
Florida

**Agency Oversight:** Florida Department of Health. PDMP branded as E-FORCSE® (Electronic-Florida Online Reporting of Controlled Substances Evaluation)

**Issue:** Legislative – Section 893.055(4)(b), Florida Statute authorizes an employee of the VA who has the authority to prescribe or dispense controlled substances to have access to information in the program’s system, upon verification of employment. Florida requested confirmation that only VA employees will have access to VistA.

**Statute:**

```
(b) An employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of Defense, or the Indian Health Service who provides health care services pursuant to such employment and who has the authority to prescribe or dispense controlled substances shall have access to the information in the program’s system upon verification of such employment.
```  

**Status:** Appriss has engaged [b](6) Deputy Secretary for Operations, FL DOH, for follow-up guidance with VA [b](6) advised she met with AG for opinion and received favorable response to approve.

**Next Steps:** VA and Appriss are meeting with [b](6) on 10/26 to re-emphasize that only employees have access to VistA, Approval is expected by 10/30.

**Contact:**

[b](6) Deputy Secretary for Operations, FL DOH
Email [b](6)@flhealth.gov

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Hawaii

**Agency Oversight:** Narcotics Enforcement Division

**Issue:** Legislative – Hawaii requires all providers to be registered with their PDMP, the Controlled Substance Registry (CSR). They have legislation drafted to allow VA providers to register without being a part of the CSR, however the legislation has been delayed due to COVID-19.

Currently, only Hawaii CSR holders can access the PDMP and VA providers are not CSR holders. Hawaii wants all VA PDMP users to create a PDMP account before approving a connection to VA’s national solution. The PDMP Administrator needs to request the legislature exempt for VA providers.

**Status:** While the PDMP Administrator has committed to Appriss that they are working toward approval, their progress has been very slow.
Next Steps: VHA is engaging VA OGC to coordinate outreach to the AG’s office to explain the federal supremacy authority granted to VA by the MISSION Act legislation. VA also needs to engage congressional delegation to contact Governor’s office to instruct the PDMP Administrator to complete the remaining steps necessary to secure an exemption for VA from the CSR registration requirements.

Contact:

Administrator, Department of Public Safety  
Email: @hawaii.gov

Special Agent/PDMP Coordinator, Narcotics Enforcement Division  
Email: @hawaii.gov

Illinois

Agency Oversight: Department of Human Services (Dept. of Health)

Issue: Political – Illinois legislation only allows direct connections to their PDMP. Although, Illinois is connected to PMP InterConnect, they reference the legislation as the reason they cannot approve VA’s national solution. Illinois utilizes a competing third party solution (LogiCoy) to facilitate PDMP integrations.

Status: Illinois PDMP contacts have provided the following response to Appriss’ request for VA approval: “After review by technical experts at the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology and legal review of the Illinois statute/Public Act, the Illinois PMP determined that 3rd party integration of PDMP data for an electronic health record system does not currently meet the requirements of the Illinois statute and accompanying administrative rules.”

Next Steps: Suggest direct outreach to Governor’s office to set up briefing with Dr. and state representation.

Contact:

Clinical Director, Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program  
Email: @illinois.gov

Illinois State Department of Human Services  
Email: @illinois.gov
Kentucky

**Agency Oversight:** Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (Office of the Inspector General)

**Issue:** Political – Protocol required for PDMP integration results in long and complex process to achieve approval from State PDMP, Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting (KASPER). The PDMP is led by [b](6)KASPER Integration Project Manager. Kentucky’s PDMP has a long and changing list of requirements such as (list is not all-inclusive):

- State specific MOU
- VA attendance at a webinar to review the options for integrations in Kentucky
- Kentucky specific training sessions for end users and IT
- Complex testing and validation process
- SSN passed as a patient trait on the query. Currently VA is not passing that information, this would not likely be a field that VA would allow to be passed.

**Status** has been unresponsive to Appriss and VA outreach.

**Next Steps:** Suggest VA work with Governor’s office. If unsuccessful, the approval for VA could extend into late 2021.

**Contact:**

[b](6)

Program Manager, Cabinet for Health & Family Services  
Email[b](6)@ky.gov

[b](6)

Program Manager, Cabinet for Health & Family Services  
Email[b](6)@ky.gov

New Hampshire

**Agency Oversight:** New Hampshire Office of Professional Licensure & Certification

**Issue:** Legislative – New Hampshire Current legislation does not allow integrated access to PDMP.

**Status:** Legislation pending to authorize integration expected to pass in November.

**Next Steps:** State will likely support VA once legislation is in place.

**Contact:**

[b](6)

M.A., CPM  
Program Manager Prescription Drug Monitoring Program  
Phone[b](6)
New York

**Agency Oversight:** NY I-STOP PDMP

**Issue:** Political – New York has consistently referenced legislation as the primary reason for not allowing PDMP integration, however, they have also been difficult to engage and do not appear to be motivated to modify the legislation. They have no integrations in place today.

**Status:** Both Appriss and VA have engaged legal reviews of the specific Public Laws in New York that govern their PDMP called I-STOP. Appriss’ review did not find barriers contained in any of the Public Laws below:


**Next Steps:** After multiple conversations with the New York PDMP contacts, the best course of action is to escalate to the Governor’s office. Dr. is briefing Rep Brindisi 10/23 and Rep Rice 11/10 to move this issue forward.

**Contact:**

Josh Vinciguerra  
Director, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement  
Email: [health.ny.gov](mailto:health.ny.gov)

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North Carolina – IOC Site

**Agency Oversight:** North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services

**Issue:** North Carolina wants VA to sign their standard terms and conditions agreement. VA OGC declined and explained to North Carolina DHHS, that negotiating agreements with each individual state ran counter to the intent of the MISSION Act legislation. indicated that North Carolina does not interpret the MISSION Act legislation as granting VA federal supremacy and indicated that Congress did not understand the state-based structure of PDMPs when it drafted the legislation.

**Next Steps:** Outreach to Governor’s office required.

**Contact:**

Assistant General Counsel, NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Phone:
Missouri

Agency Oversight:

Issue: Legislative – Missouri does not have a state sponsored PDMP. There is a PDMP program sponsored by St. Louis County. St. Louis County Ordinance No. 26,352 establishes and authorizes the operation of a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program by Saint Louis County Department of Public Health. The program allows other Missouri counties to participate as well so today; about 85% of the counties in Missouri are participating. The St. Louis County PDMP leadership in Missouri will not consider PDMP integration and it is unclear why.

Next Steps: Appriss to reach out regarding connection.

Contact:

MPH
Substance Use Program Manager
Division of Health Promotion and Public Health Research
Saint Louis County Department of Public Health
Phone:
Email: @stlouisco.com

MD County Executive, St. Louis Co.
Email: @stlouisco.com

Utah

Agency Oversight: Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing, Utah Department of Commerce

Issue: Political – Initial discussions with Utah regarding VA were positive and the state was supportive. They are now of the opinion that they need an MOU between the Utah and VA. Utah has historically been resistant to allowing PDMP integration via PMP Gateway, Appriss has worked to address technical questions. Utah recently approved PDMP integration via RxCheck and the PDMP Director, Ron Larsen, is supportive of the alternative RxCheck hub (similar to KY).

Status: Appriss has interacted with [Assistant Attorney General], but it is unclear if is motivated to move integration forward. Suggest Appriss be included in discussions with the PDMP Director, because he is likely to bring up other technical PDMP requirements specific to Utah. Appriss does not believe there are any remaining technical issues.

Next Steps: VA to follow up with letter on PDMP solution signed by Dr. Stone and identify next steps to approval.

Contact:

Assistant Attorney General
Wisconsin

Agency Oversight: Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board (Professional Licensing Agency)

Issue: Political – Primary concerns that Wisconsin communicated include:

- Request state specific MOU with VA and Appriss
- Concerned with discrete data being delivered to VA (Appriss has assured them it is not)
- Appriss has addressed various concerns about data storage but has not been able to resolve it
- Concern that there was a statute or law that required their data be delivered in a certain format report (different from Appriss’ report).

Wisconsin has implemented a state specific EHR integration protocol that delivers PDMP data to EHR systems in Wisconsin. Unlike most states, Wisconsin will not approve PMP Gateway as a mechanism to deliver PDMP integration to healthcare organizations in Wisconsin even though a number of organizations have urged the state to approve access in the past. VA and Appriss had several discussions with the Chairperson, (b)(6) Appriss has satisfied all additional information requests from Wisconsin. No response from Wisconsin to several Appriss follow-ups for decision.

Next Steps: (b)(6) conducting outreach to follow up.

Contact:

Controlled Substances Board Chair
Email: (b)(6)@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Executive Director Policy Development
Email: (b)(6)@wisconsin.gov
Dear State PDMP Director:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a national solution for access to State and regional prescription drug monitoring programs, as mandated by Congress in Public Law 115-182, the Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018. In accordance with Section 1703B of the MISSION Act, VA intends to deploy the PDMP solution on November 2, 2020, which will allow VA providers and licensed delegates to access PDMP data across state lines.

The automated and integrated PDMP solution will help VA monitor the prescription and dispensation of drugs containing controlled substances (CS) to mitigate the risks of potentially harmful drug interactions and overdose, as well as to prevent high-risk prescribing. This will replace the current manual process which requires providers and delegates to exit a patient’s electronic health record and then separately log into a state PDMP website. The PDMP solution will help increase VA’s current rate of checking PDMP databases for new high-risk prescriptions, such as opioids, from approximately 60% to the 98% rate required for patient safety. Full access to every State’s PDMP database will reduce the potential of Veterans receiving duplicate CS prescriptions, thereby reducing rates of suicide and saving lives.

VA is partnering with Appriss Health, the leading provider of PDMPs for States, to build a quick search functionality that will allow authorized users to rapidly access a Veteran’s comprehensive CS medication history during their medical appointment. This solution will better support medical, pharmacy, and public health professionals in identifying high risk prescribing practices and mitigating the risk of intentional or unintentional overdose. To support our shared commitment to the health and well-being of our Veterans, we respectfully request that VA providers and licensed delegates be allowed access to your state PDMP system through a connection with Appriss Health.

We are happy to discuss the PDMP solution and connection request further with you or your member boards, upon request. Please submit any requests for additional information via email at VAPrescripDrugMonPrg@va.gov. VA appreciates your ongoing cooperation and collaboration on this matter which will better serve America’s Veterans.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Stone, M.D.
Executive in Charge
From: EOP/OVP
Sent: Wed, 7 Oct 2020 17:36:12 +0000
To: EOP/OVP; EOP/OVP

Subject: White House Coronavirus Task Force Call

All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Call at 4:00pm tomorrow, October 8th. Call-in instructions to follow.

Thank you,

[Redacted]

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
All,

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Call** at 4:00pm tomorrow, October 8th. Agenda attached.

Please call the HHS SOC at [REDACTED] to be connected to the call.

Thank you,
Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(5)
of the Freedom of Information
All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Call at 4:00pm tomorrow, October 8th. Agenda attached.

Please call the HHS SOC at (b)(6) to be connected to the call.
Thank you,

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
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of the Freedom of Information
Good afternoon,

The purpose of this meeting is to present the 2020 All Employee Survey (AES) results to the Secretary. Dr. Maureen Marks and Mr. [redacted] will present via MS Teams. Those joining in-person can meet in the Omar Bradley Conference Room. Please feel free to invite others as appropriate, and we look forward to sharing the results.

Very Respectfully,

[redacted]

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 872-701-0185 United States, Chicago (Toll)

Conference ID: [redacted] #
From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 8 Oct 2020 14:13:33 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Scheduling & Travel Coordination Meeting
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 19:18:25 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Gate Transition / Boarding
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 19:21:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT / Arr Salt Lake Marriott Downtown at City Creek

RON
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 19:54:24 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Naturalization Ceremony
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will naturalize 20 applicants at a special ceremony on October 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM.

LOGISTICS

DATE / TIME: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 9:00 AM
LOCATION: U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Washington Field Office
2675 Prosperity Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
PARKING: We will reserve parking in back of the building (Please see attached document)

POINTS OF CONTACT

Washington Field Office
(b)(6) Field Office Director
(b)(6) Section Chief
USCIS Public Affairs Officer
(b)(6)

ATTENDEES

CEREMONY PRINCIPALS
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services - Washington Field Office
(b)(6) Field Office Director
(b)(6) Section Chief
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Ceremony principals are seated.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Robert Wilkie</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:02</td>
<td>Welcome, Call of Countries and Presentation of Candidates for Naturalization</td>
</tr>
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<td>Section Chief</td>
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<td>Ms. welcomes the candidates, calls the countries and presents the candidates for naturalization to Ms.</td>
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<td>9:03-9:05</td>
<td>Administration of the Oath of Citizenship</td>
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<td>Field Office Director</td>
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<td>Ms. administers the Oath of Allegiance and introduces Secretary Wilkie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:06-9:11</td>
<td>Keynote Remarks</td>
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<td>Robert Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>Secretary Wilkie delivers the Keynote Remarks and then returns to his seat.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:12-9:15</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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<td>Section Chief</td>
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<td>Ms. gives closing remarks and directs certificate distribution.</td>
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Robert Wilkie, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Robert Wilkie was nominated by President Trump to serve as the tenth Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on July 23, 2018 and sworn in on July 30, 2018. Mr. Wilkie previously served as the acting Secretary of VA from March 28 to May 29, 2018.

Before confirmation as VA Secretary, Mr. Wilkie served Secretary James Mattis as his Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness—the principal advisor to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Total Force Management as it relates to readiness, National Guard and Reserve component affairs, health affairs, training, and personnel requirements and management, including equal opportunity, morale, welfare, recreation, and the quality of life for military families.

The son of an Army artillery commander, Mr. Wilkie spent his youth at Fort Bragg. Today, he is a colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve assigned to the Office of the Chief of Staff. Before joining the Air Force, he served in the United States Navy Reserve with the Joint Forces Intelligence Command, Naval Special Warfare Group Two, and the Office of Naval Intelligence. Mr. Wilkie has more than 20 years of federal service at the national and international levels. During the George W. Bush Administration, Mr. Wilkie served both Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates as Assistant Secretary of Defense from 2005–2009, and he was the youngest senior leader in the Department. Mr. Wilkie was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice. He also has extensive experience in the United States Congress, including recent service as Senior Advisor to Senator Thom Tillis and service as Counsel and Advisor on International Security Affairs to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Trent Lott. Mr. Wilkie shepherded the Senate confirmation process for James Mattis, Robert Gates, and Admiral Mike Mullen (CJCS), and he was responsible for the preparation of General David Petraeus and ambassador Ryan Crocker for their multiple appearances before the Congress in defense of the Iraqi Surge. Mr. Wilkie was Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HILL, one of the world’s largest engineering and program management firms, where for five years he held program management and advisory assignments as diverse as the London 2012 Summer Olympics and the reform and reorganization of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense Supply and Logistics System (DE&S). Mr. Wilkie holds an Honors degree from Wake Forest University, a Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law in New Orleans, a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University, and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. A graduate of the College of Naval Command and Staff, Air Command and Staff College, the United States Army War College, and the Joint Forces Staff College, Mr. Wilkie has published articles in the Naval War College Review, Parameters, Armed Forces Journal International, Air and Space Power Journal, and Proceedings. He holds personal and unit decorations, as well as the Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest non-career civilian award of the Department.
**Washington District/Field Office**

**Logistics Planning Document**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOGISTICS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DATE</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, October 20, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **LOCATION** | Washington District Office  
2675 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031  
Employee entrance is located in the back of the building on Halstead Lane II. (See photo) |
| **TRANSPORTATION** | Dunn Loring/Merrifield Metro – Orange Line  
2700 Gallows Rd, Vienna, VA 22180  
**Driving Directions:**  
From Route 50 driving east (towards Washington, D.C.), turn left onto Prosperity Avenue.  
From Route 50 driving west (towards Fairfax), turn right onto Prosperity Avenue.  
From Interstate 66, take exit 62 for Nutley Street/VA-243 South.  
-Turn left onto Prosperity Avenue.  
**Parking:**  
-From Prosperity Avenue make a left or right onto Halstead Lane II, at the end of the street make a right.  
-Orange cones are positioned at the entrance of the parking lot.  
-Proceed through the orange cones and park in one of the spaces in the small lot adjacent to the Employee entrance. (See photo)  
You will have a reserved parking in one of those spaces and you should proceed to the employee entrance (pictured above). |
| **b)(6)** | will greet Mr. Wilkie at the employee entrance. |
Those of you who just took the Oath of Allegiance now hold the most important title one can acquire in this country – that of an American citizen.

That was the belief of the general who delivered this nation’s independence – President George Washington.

After he was elected our first president in 1789, Washington began his inaugural remarks in New York by addressing his “fellow citizens” in the House and Senate. This was the prize Americans won in the Revolutionary War – not domination over others, but the membership in a beautiful new nation that believes all men are created
equal, and derives its power from the people it governs.

Washington resigned after two terms, and in doing so made sure he would remain a citizen, and not become a king.

And in his last will and testament, Washington made it clear that he cherished his citizenship above all else. In that final message to his family, he identified himself as “George Washington of Mount Vernon – a citizen of the United States, and lately, President of the same.”

Now, every one here who raised their hands and swore allegiance to America have the same title that George Washington valued so highly.

With that citizenship comes privileges, including the right to vote and make decisions in your community.
Citizenship also comes with obligations, including defending this nation when required by law.

That is a serious and significant promise. But you are in good company.

Washington himself was a warrior who fought for eight years to secure America’s independence. And he taught us this: America’s citizens must always stand ready to fight for liberty and freedom.

Americans always have stood, and the department I lead is dedicated to caring for those who wear the uniform and defend the ideas that are so precious to us.

I want to tell you about one of them. The greatest American soldier of World War I was Alvin York, who captured 132 enemy combatants almost
singlehandedly. He returned to America as a hero.

As the years passed and World War II looked more and more likely, many Americans opposed the idea of fighting again in Europe, after being told that World War I was the “war to end all wars.”

But Alvin York reminded America why it needed to return to the battlefield:

“Liberty and freedom and democracy are so very precious that you do not fight to win them once and then stop,” he said.

“Liberty and freedom and democracy are prizes awarded only to those peoples who fight to win them and then keep fighting eternally to hold them.”
You have now joined this nation of men and women who know the value of freedom and will fight for it. And you join us as equals.

In his farewell address to the nation, President Washington said that those born in America – and those born elsewhere who become citizens – both have much to contribute.

“Citizens by birth or choice,” he said, will work together to promote and defend this nation.

Today you have become citizens of America by choice, and as a citizen by birth, I will say that I believe you have made an excellent choice.

Congratulations on this important day, and welcome, American citizens.

# # #
Remarks at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services’ Baltimore Field Office
September 30, 2020

Thank you, Director. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this high honor. I’m going tell you a story from 1894.

A young girl from Castle Morrow, Sicily, stepped off of a boat in the Port of New Orleans. At that time New Orleans was the busiest port in the United States, even busier than New York City. She only spoke Italian. She had with her her mother. Her father had passed away from violence back in Sicily, and she entered a world not speaking the language of the new land that she had entered, but because her mother instilled in her the values of freedom in this new country, she created a family that began a business that still exists in the City of New Orleans today. You can go there and her name is on the bakery, Gambino’s Bakery.

That little girl was my great-grandmother. I had the great privilege of knowing her for the first twenty years of my life. And she reminded me why people from all over this planet work, strive, sacrifice to come to this land, to achieve the title that you all now have – citizen.

And it’s an interesting title because it was first remarked on by the greatest of all Americans, George Washington. When he stood to take the oath of office as our first president, he addressed the assemblage, “My fellow citizens.” He said that word citizen is the prize that your fellow Americans fought for during out late war.
Now General Washington did something that was unheard of in the world at that time. He had served eight years as president, as the chief executive of this new land. In other places he would have been considered a king, but he took a dramatic step. He took a step back and he relinquished his title as president and he said, “I return to have the most important word than anyone can imagine.” And that word is citizen.

Everyone who has raised a hand here today now joins that legion, the legion of American citizens. Now a couple of times in our history, presidents as diverse as Thomas Jefferson and Harry Truman, people you have studied about, actually added a new word to citizen. When Thomas Jefferson left the White House in 1808 he said, “I now relinquish the title of President of the United States and accept the title of sovereign.” Harry Truman in 1953 said the same thing. He said, “I go home to Independence Missouri not as the President of the United States, but as the sovereign of my own future. A sovereign citizen of this republic.”

I will tell you, just like my great-grandmother, Josefina Gambino, you are twice the citizen. You have decided to put everything that you knew behind yourselves to come to this land and swear allegiance to a new flag and a new oath and, by the way, as you know from your studies, that National Anthem that you heard was composed about 10 miles from where we are sitting today, outside of Ft. McHenry.

As the people of the United States the citizen soldiers of the United States like our specialists from Cameroon, fought off the ships of the greatest empire the world had ever known, when everyone on the planet from Napoleon down, said that there was no way that these people could prevail. But
because they valued and revered the title of citizen, they stood, they stood at that post as tens of thousands of shells rained in on them. The British retreated, and the flag that you have sworn allegiance to was still standing, after hours and hours of bombardment.

So, I want to leave you with a quote from another citizen soldier, a fellow named Alvin York. Alvin York was a very humble man. He grew up in the mountains of east Tennessee. He didn’t have much of an education. He believed in his faith and he believed in his country. And when he was called upon to serve, he became the most famous American soldier of World War I. In one action against a vastly superior German force, Sergeant York captured 132 German soldiers. He single-handedly killed 15.

Why did he do it? Because he believed in something bigger than himself. Something that you all have sworn to today.

And he said, when he was asked later what he felt like after receiving our nation’s highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, he said, “Liberty and freedom and democracy are so very precious that you do not fight to win them once, and then stop. Liberty and freedom and democracy are prizes awarded only to those people who fight to win them and then keep fighting eternally to hold them.”

General Washington said if you’re citizens by birth or citizens by choice, you are first and last an American. And I will reiterate to you what I said earlier. Because of everything that you have done to be here today, you already twice the citizen. You are the living embodiment of what those Revolutionary War soldiers fought for well over 200 years ago, and what those soldiers at that little
Ft. McHenry did when they stood up against the might, the great empire. You are part of that legacy now, and it is my very great honor to call you for the first time as Thomas Jefferson said, and as Harry Truman said, sovereign citizens of this great republic.

So God bless you and your families and everything you do and will do for this country. Thank you all for the honor allowing me to share just a few thoughts. Thank you all very much.

# # #
Thank you, Director. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for this high honor. I’m going tell you a story from 1894.

A young girl from Castelmola, Sicily, stepped off of a boat in the Port of New Orleans. At that time New Orleans was the busiest port in the United States, even busier than New York City. She only spoke Italian. She had her mother with her. Her father had passed away from violence back in Sicily, and she entered a world not speaking the language of the new land that she had entered, but because her mother instilled in her the values of freedom in this new country, she created a family that began a business that still
exists in the City of New Orleans today. You can go there and her name is on the bakery, Gambino’s Bakery.

That little girl was my great-grandmother. I had the great privilege of knowing her for the first twenty years of my life. And she reminded me why people from all over this planet work, strive, sacrifice to come to this land, to achieve the title that you all now have – citizen.

And it’s an interesting title because it was first remarked on by the greatest of all Americans, George Washington. When he stood to take the oath of office as our first president, he addressed the assemblage, “My fellow citizens.” He said that word citizen is the prize that your fellow Americans fought for during out late war.
Now General Washington did something that was unheard of in the world at that time. He had served eight years as president, as the chief executive of this new land. In other places he would have been considered a king, but he took a dramatic step. He took a step back and he relinquished his title as president and he said, “I return to have the most important word than anyone can imagine.” And that word is citizen.

Everyone who has raised a hand here today now joins that legion, the legion of American citizens. Now a couple of times in our history, presidents as diverse as Thomas Jefferson and Harry Truman, people you have studied about, actually added a new word to citizen. When Thomas Jefferson left the White House in 1808 he said, “I now relinquish the title of President of the United States and accept the title of sovereign.” Harry
Truman in 1953 said the same thing. He said, “I go home to Independence Missouri not as the President of the United States, but as the sovereign of my own future. A sovereign citizen of this republic.”

I will tell you, just like my great-grandmother, Josefina Gambino, you are twice the citizen. You have decided to put everything that you knew behind yourselves to come to this land and swear allegiance to a new flag.

As the people of the United States the citizen soldiers of the United States like our specialists from Cameroon, fought off the ships of the greatest empire the world had ever known, when everyone on the planet from Napoleon down, said that there was no way that these people could prevail. But because they valued and revered the title of citizen, they stood, they stood
at that post as tens of thousands of shells rained in on them. The British retreated, and the flag that you have sworn allegiance to was still standing, after hours and hours of bombardment.

So, I want to leave you with a quote from another citizen soldier, a fellow named Alvin York. Alvin York was a very humble man. He grew up in the mountains of east Tennessee. He didn’t have much of an education. He believed in his faith and he believed in his country. And when he was called upon to serve, he became the most famous American soldier of World War I. In one action against a vastly superior German force, Sergeant York captured 132 German soldiers. He single-handedly killed 15.
Why did he do it? Because he believed in something bigger than himself. Something that you all have sworn to today.

And he said, when he was asked later what he felt like after receiving our nation’s highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor, he said, “Liberty and freedom and democracy are so very precious that you do not fight to win them once, and then stop. Liberty and freedom and democracy are prizes awarded only to those people who fight to win them and then keep fighting eternally to hold them.”

General Washington said if you’re citizens by birth or citizens by choice, you are first and last an American. And I will reiterate to you what I said earlier. Because of everything that you have done to be here today, you already twice the citizen. You are the living embodiment of what
those Revolutionary War soldiers fought for well over 200 years ago, and what those soldiers at that little Ft. McHenry did when they stood up against the might, the great empire. You are part of that legacy now, and it is my very great honor to call you for the first time as Thomas Jefferson said, and as Harry Truman said, sovereign citizens of this great republic.

So God bless you and your families and everything you do and will do for this country. Thank you all for the honor allowing me to share just a few thoughts. Thank you all very much.

###
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 9 Oct 2020 19:58:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to VACO
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:20:21 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Leadership briefing/coin recog/tour
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:24:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at SLC HCS/COVID screening
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:25:22 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media prep/avail
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:26:32 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Jordan VA Clinic
ERT/Arrive at Jordan VA Clinic (b)(6)
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:31:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Denver Airport Marriott
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:32:00 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Rocky Mountain Regional VAMC
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:33:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Lunch/Executive time
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 13 Oct 2020 20:34:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Gate transition/boarding
From: RLW
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to Residence
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 16:01:07 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - White House Garden Tour
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 18:58:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Layover in ATL airport
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 18:59:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 11:13am Wheels up from ATL to Panama City, FL
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 19:00:44 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 10:23am Wheels up from Tallahassee, FL to CLT
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 19:03:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 1:05pm Wheels up from CLT to Columbia, SC
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 19:04:14 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: 2:35pm Wheels up from Columbia, SC to IAD
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 14 Oct 2020 19:16:54 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to DCA
Subject: White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting at 10:30am on Friday, October 16th in the White House. Materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>RLW</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Thu, 15 Oct 2020 14:29:56 +0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>RLW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>En Route to Residence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hello [b](b)(6) and [b](b)(6)

As an update to an earlier email (10/2/2020), the Office of Inspector General would like to proceed with requesting a meeting with the Secretary on Friday, November 6, 2020, if he is available. The purpose is to present to him the results of VA’s financial statement audit as of that date. The financial statement audit report is tentatively scheduled to be issued by November 15th.

Would the Secretary be available on November 6 for this meeting?

[b](b)(6)

VA OIG, Director, CFS Financial Division

[b](b)(6)
From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 15 Oct 2020 16:13:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: [b][b] re: Veterans Day
Withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information
From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 15 Oct 2020 16:25:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: SECVA Zoom Interview w/ KFOX (El Paso FOX / Las Cruces, NM CBS)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 - 8:15 am</td>
<td>Daily Sync Mtg</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>ERT DC VAMC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>ERT VACO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 - 10:30 am</td>
<td>re: Veterans Day</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:30 am</td>
<td>Bi-Weekly Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman-Schultz</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>** She will call us</td>
<td>Tab 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am-12:15 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:20 - 12:40 pm</td>
<td>ERT Studio Space: Autoshop in Union Market, 416 Morse St, NE</td>
<td>Included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>** Arrive at 12:40pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 1:30 pm</td>
<td>REMARKS: VA/Dole Foundation Caregiver Event – Supporting Caregivers in Crisis</td>
<td>See Binder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>ERT VACO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 – 3:30 pm</td>
<td>Zoom Interview w/ Tom Abrahams, KTRK, Houston, TX (NBC)</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tab 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45 – 8:15 am</td>
<td>Daily Sync Mtg</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00 am</td>
<td>ERT 2675 Prosperity Avenue, Fairfax, VA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 10:00 am</td>
<td>REMARKS: Naturalization Ceremony</td>
<td>See Binder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:30 am</td>
<td>ERT VACO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10:30 – 11:00 am | a. Video Taping: Native American Memorial Dedication (Nov 11)  
                                 b. Voice Taping: PA-wide Veterans Outreach                                                                 | Broadcast Center, Tab 1 |
| 11:00 – 11:30 am | Phone Call w/ Senator Lee  
                                 ** Senator will call us                                                                                                                                  | SECVA Suite, Tab 2     |
| 11:30 am – Noon | Scheduling & Travel Coordination Meeting                                                                                                               | SECVA Suite            |
| 12:00 – 1:00 pm | Lunch                                                                                                                                                   | SECVA Suite            |
| 1:00 – 1:30 pm | Jim Hoffman, Special Counsel, OGC  
                                 ** COS will sit in                                                                                                                                         | SECVA Suite            |
| 2:00 – 2:30 pm | Phone Call w/ Timothy Davis, The Greatest GENERATIONS Foundation  
                                 ** He will call us  
                                 ** COS will sit in                                                                                                                                         | SECVA Suite, Tab 3     |
| 2:40 – 3:00 pm | Zoom Interview w/ KFOX (El Paso FOX / Las Cruces, NM CBS)                                                                                               | SECVA Suite, Tab 4     |
| 3:00 – 3:30 pm | Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz  
                                 ** She will call us  
                                 ** Topics include EHRM & COVID  
                                 ** Eddie Riley will represent EHRM                                                                                                                         | SECVA Suite, Tab 5     |
| 4:00 – 5:30 pm | WH Coronavirus Task Force  
                                 ** They will call us on (b)(6)                                                                                                                              | SECVA Suite            |
| Congressional Ball #14 | Thursday, December 10 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Every Cabinet Member will receive an invite. |
HOLD: Call w/Sen Lee
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Thank you,
Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
Page 051 of 172

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information
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of the Freedom of Information
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of the Freedom of Information
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information
Withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 16 Oct 2020 15:27:43 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Interview w/ Michael Koolidge Radio Show, Chicago, IL
Attachments: Quad - Michael Koolidge - Michael Koolidge Show.pptx, SecVa Tps.docx, Suicide Prevention Legislation Talkers.docx, VA Transformation Info.docx, TALKING POINTS - Michael Koolidge Show.docx
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(5)
of the Freedom of Information
The Department of Veterans Affairs is unified with its federal partners in leading the medical response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Within days of the first confirmed COVID-19 case, VA began implementing a comprehensive response and operations plan to protect our Veterans, their families and the workforce.

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- The Department of Veterans Affairs is assisting a total of 46 states and territories with their Coronavirus response. It has accepted mission assignments from FEMA in 28 states and territories.
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Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act

- This legislation moves America closer to a goal that all citizens can support: increasing the local resources available to our men and women who answered the call to defend this Nation.
- This law will expand mental health care services at VA facilities and at the same time provide grants to make it easier for Veterans to access non-VA resources in their communities.
- Care in the community is a critical component of our effort to end Veteran suicide.
- About 60 percent of the Veterans who die by suicide aren’t getting care from VA, so it’s vital we do all we can to offer intervention and care to Veterans where they live.
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National Suicide Hotline Designation Act

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President Trump’s Department of Veterans Affairs is Improving Customer Service and Performance

Under President Trump, VA has successfully implemented an unprecedented series of reforms to improve care and benefits for America’s Veterans.

VA is seeing more patients than ever before, more quickly than ever before and studies show VA compares favorably to the private sector for access and quality of care – and in many cases exceeds it.

Because Veterans like what they see, VA is delivering more care than ever before. In fiscal year 2019, VA completed more than 59.9 million internal appointments – a record high and about 1.7 million more than the year before.

To ensure Veterans receive the care they have earned, President Trump opened the White House VA hotline, which helps quickly address their VA-related concerns. The 24/7 service is principally staffed by Veterans and family members and has fielded more than 501,000 calls and emails with an average time to answer of 16 seconds.

President Trump is Building Veterans’ Trust in VA

In the final year of the last administration, Veterans’ overall trust in VA was 60 percent. But that climbed to 69 percent in President Trump’s first year, and now sits at 77 percent. What’s more, Veterans’ trust in VA reached an all-time high in April.

President Trump Gave Veterans Real, Permanent Health Care Choice

President Trump signed the MISSION Act into law in 2018, giving Veterans real, permanent choice over their health care decisions. Now Veterans can see non-VA doctors whenever it’s in their best medical interest. With MISSION, the future of the VA health care system is in the hands of Veterans – exactly where it should be.

More than one year after the rollout of the MISSION Act’s community care provisions, VA had referred more than 2.5 million Veterans to community providers.

MISSION Act created a new urgent care benefit that gives Veterans easy, local access to medical services for things like a sore throat or a sprained ankle. This is a huge step forward in terms of convenience for our patients, as eligible veterans do not need to get prior authorization from VA to visit an urgent care provider in our network.

More than 395,000 urgent care visits have been completed since June 6, 2019, and it’s only getting more popular with Veterans. In August, VA saw more than 7,000 urgent care visits each week, thanks to the 8,100 local urgent care providers that have partnered with VA.

President Trump Made VA Accountable

After years of failing to take steps against employees who didn’t meet VA’s values, everyone agreed that VA needed more tools – and a culture change – to hold itself accountable.

Under President Trump’s leadership, Congress passed the landmark VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, and VA has finally instituted the culture of accountability that Congress, Veterans service organizations and the president have been demanding.

Since President Trump’s inauguration, VA has fired more than 11,300 workers for cause.
President Trump’s VA is Reducing the Use of Harmful Opioids

VA launched an opioid safety initiative in 2013 and became the first hospital system to release its data on opioid prescription rates. That effort was greatly enhanced by President Trump’s 2018 Initiative to Stop Opioids Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand.

Since the President’s initiative, the number of patients receiving opioids fell by 35 percent, and it fell 48 percent since the President took office. In the seven-and-a-half year life of the plan, the number of patients receiving long-term opioid prescriptions among Veterans has fallen by 64 percent.

The most recent appropriations bill signed by President Trump will help VA do more, as it provides $400 million for opioid abuse prevention programs.

President Trump’s VA is Standing Up for Religious Liberty

There’s a long tradition in this country of taking care of our Veterans’ spiritual health as well as their physical health. That’s why VA recently ended an old policy that prevented Veterans from leaving Bibles or other religious tokens on public display tables. These items are not offensive – they tell the story of what kept our Veterans’ hopes alive while they were fighting for our nation.

President Trump’s VA is Building Partnerships to Prevent Veteran Homelessness and Suicide

VA is doing all it can to end Veteran homelessness. In 2018, the total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness decreased 5.4 percent, and in 2019, that number dropped another 2.1 percent. From FY 2018 through July 2020, VA has helped 230,000 Veterans and their families by housing them or preventing them from becoming homeless.

But VA can do much more by working with local governments, companies and other stakeholders. Thanks to these partnerships, we’ve seen 78 communities and three states effectively end Veteran homelessness.

President Trump believes these kinds of partnerships are the same way to fight Veteran suicide. That’s why VA adopted a public-health approach to suicide prevention, which focuses on equipping communities to help Veterans connect with local support and resources.

The public-health approach is central to VA’s first ever National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which was published in 2018, as well as the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) executive order. That roadmap, released in June 2020, is bringing together stakeholders across all levels of government and the private sector to address suicide nationally and provide Veterans with the specific mental health and suicide prevention services they deserve.

President Trump’s VA is Keeping Veterans Safe During COVID-19

VA has tested over 664,000 people for COVID-19 and treated more than 48,000 Veterans nationwide, all while limiting its employee infection rate to below 1 percent, far lower than the rates seen in other health care systems. As of mid-September, more than 89 percent of the Veterans VA treated were recovering from the virus.

While COVID-19 was a serious threat to many non-VA nursing homes across the nation, VA’s early actions to protect its most vulnerable patients resulted in far fewer infections at the 134 VA Community Living Centers (CLCs) it administers. As of mid-September, VA is treating just 5 residents of VA CLCs with the virus.

Since March, 47 states have turned to VA to provide lifesaving care and best practices on how to keep patients safe. More than 3,100 VA staff members deployed across the country to support Veteran and non-Veteran patients in states that needed help, as part of VA’s “Fourth Mission” to support the U.S. health care system during crises.

VA has moved quickly to increase staff members in order to provide seamless care. From March 29 through mid-September, VA hired more than 48,000 employees, including more than 9,000 new Registered Nurses.
KEY MESSAGES AND FACTS
SECRETARY WILKIE’S INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL KOOLIDGE
OCTOBER 23, 2020

- VA medical centers in Northern and Central Illinois fall under the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 12.

- VISN 12 medical facilities have proactively implemented appropriate measures to ensure the safest health care environment for Veterans and employees. These measures include temperature checks and screening at all facilities for Veterans, guests and employees.

- VISN 12 has put careful thought and time into expanding services at its VA medical facilities.
  - VISN 12 Specialty Care face-to-face visits have returned to 75% of pre-Covid-19 levels in a safe manner. The remainder of visits are performed by telephone and video.
  - VISN 12 medical facilities are proudly leveraging their virtual care tools to ensure patients and staff are as safe as possible during this time, honoring current COVID-19 social isolation and distancing guidelines.
  - Primary care and Mental Health continue to have a large proportion of telephone and video to home care, as they are seeing 50-60% of pre-Covid-19 levels face-to-face in clinic. VISN 12 will continue to expand tele-health with the future establishment of the tele-health hub in Chicago.

- VISN 12 medical facilities have used high reliability organization (HRO) principles in expanding services to provide a safe environment for employees and patients using huddles for feedback, lessons learned and best practices.

- As part of VA’s Fourth Mission, VISN 12 is participating with local and regional officials to support State Veterans Homes with health care personnel and infection control consultation.

- As of October 21 in Illinois, there were 3,778 VA COVID-19 Cumulative Cases with 261 active, 106 known deaths and 3,411 convalescent cases at the state’s five VA Medical Centers and Hospitals.
  - Of the 261 active cases:
    - 139 Veteran
    - 23 employees
    - 99 others
  - Of the 972 convalescent cases:
    - 1,601 Veteran
    - 207 employees
    - 4 Veteran-employee
    - 1,599 others
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 16 Oct 2020 18:48:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Phone Interview w/ Tara Granahan Radio Show, WPRO, Providence, RI
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 16 Oct 2020 18:48:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Interview w/ Tara Granahan Radio Show, WPRO, Providence, RI
Attachments: SecVa Tps.docx, Suicide Prevention Legislation Talkers.docx, VA Transformation Info.docx, Quad_WPRO-FM_TaraGranahan_RhodeIsland_October 23_2020.pptx, TalkingPoints-WPRO_Interview-20201023.docx
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To ensure Veterans receive the care they have earned, President Trump opened the White House VA hotline, which helps quickly address their VA-related concerns. The 24/7 service is principally staffed by Veterans and family members and has fielded more than 501,000 calls and emails with an average time to answer of 16 seconds.

President Trump is Building Veterans’ Trust in VA

In the final year of the last administration, Veterans’ overall trust in VA was 60 percent. But that climbed to 69 percent in President Trump’s first year, and now sits at 77 percent. What’s more, Veterans’ trust in VA reached an all-time high in April.

President Trump Gave Veterans Real, Permanent Health Care Choice

President Trump signed the MISSION Act into law in 2018, giving Veterans real, permanent choice over their health care decisions. Now Veterans can see non-VA doctors whenever it’s in their best medical interest. With MISSION, the future of the VA health care system is in the hands of Veterans – exactly where it should be.

More than one year after the rollout of the MISSION Act’s community care provisions, VA had referred more than 2.5 million Veterans to community providers.

MISSION Act created a new urgent care benefit that gives Veterans easy, local access to medical services for things like a sore throat or a sprained ankle. This is a huge step forward in terms of convenience for our patients, as eligible veterans do not need to get prior authorization from VA to visit an urgent care provider in our network.

More than 395,000 urgent care visits have been completed since June 6, 2019, and it’s only getting more popular with Veterans. In August, VA saw more than 7,000 urgent care visits each week, thanks to the 8,100 local urgent care providers that have partnered with VA.

President Trump Made VA Accountable

After years of failing to take steps against employees who didn’t meet VA’s values, everyone agreed that VA needed more tools – and a culture change – to hold itself accountable.

Under President Trump’s leadership, Congress passed the landmark VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, and VA has finally instituted the culture of accountability that Congress, Veterans service organizations and the president have been demanding.

Since President Trump’s inauguration, VA has fired more than 11,300 workers for cause.
President Trump’s VA is Reducing the Use of Harmful Opioids

VA launched an opioid safety initiative in 2013 and became the first hospital system to release its data on opioid prescription rates. That effort was greatly enhanced by President Trump’s 2018 Initiative to Stop Opioids Abuse and Reduce Drug Supply and Demand.

Since the President’s initiative, the number of patients receiving opioids fell by 35 percent, and it fell 48 percent since the President took office. In the seven-and-a-half year life of the plan, the number of patients receiving long-term opioid prescriptions among Veterans has fallen by 64 percent.

The most recent appropriations bill signed by President Trump will help VA do more, as it provides $400 million for opioid abuse prevention programs.

President Trump’s VA is Standing Up for Religious Liberty

There’s a long tradition in this country of taking care of our Veterans’ spiritual health as well as their physical health. That’s why VA recently ended an old policy that prevented Veterans from leaving Bibles or other religious tokens on public display tables. These items are not offensive – they tell the story of what kept our Veterans’ hopes alive while they were fighting for our nation.

President Trump’s VA is Building Partnerships to Prevent Veteran Homelessness and Suicide

VA is doing all it can to end Veteran homelessness. In 2018, the total number of Veterans experiencing homelessness decreased 5.4 percent, and in 2019, that number dropped another 2.1 percent. From FY 2018 through July 2020, VA has helped 230,000 Veterans and their families by housing them or preventing them from becoming homeless.

But VA can do much more by working with local governments, companies and other stakeholders. Thanks to these partnerships, we’ve seen 78 communities and three states effectively end Veteran homelessness.

President Trump believes these kinds of partnerships are the same way to fight Veteran suicide. That’s why VA adopted a public-health approach to suicide prevention, which focuses on equipping communities to help Veterans connect with local support and resources.

The public-health approach is central to VA’s first ever National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which was published in 2018, as well as the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) executive order. That roadmap, released in June 2020, is bringing together stakeholders across all levels of government and the private sector to address suicide nationally and provide Veterans with the specific mental health and suicide prevention services they deserve.

President Trump’s VA is Keeping Veterans Safe During COVID-19

VA has tested over 664,000 people for COVID-19 and treated more than 48,000 Veterans nationwide, all while limiting its employee infection rate to below 1 percent, far lower than the rates seen in other health care systems. As of mid-September, more than 89 percent of the Veterans VA treated were recovering from the virus.

While COVID-19 was a serious threat to many non-VA nursing homes across the nation, VA’s early actions to protect its most vulnerable patients resulted in far fewer infections at the 134 VA Community Living Centers (CLCs) it administers. As of mid-September, VA is treating just 5 residents of VA CLCs with the virus.

Since March, 47 states have turned to VA to provide lifesaving care and best practices on how to keep patients safe. More than 3,100 VA staff members deployed across the country to support Veteran and non-Veteran patients in states that needed help, as part of VA’s “Fourth Mission” to support the U.S. health care system during crises.

VA has moved quickly to increase staff members in order to provide seamless care. From March 29 through mid-September, VA hired more than 48,000 employees, including more than 9,000 new Registered Nurses.
Withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information
Local Talking Points for Secretary Wilkie’s Interview with Tara Granahan, WPRO
Oct. 23, 2020

COVID-19 Data Snapshot – VA Providence HCS:
• Cumulative Positive Cases: 236
• Active Positive Cases: 9
• Cumulative Positive Inpatients: 24
• Current Positive Inpatients: 1
• Recovered: 203
• Known Deaths: 24 (5 inpatient, 19 receiving other care)

Fourth Mission:
• 26 VA Providence employees deployed as part of 41 “Fourth Mission” deployments, 15 deploying twice
• VA Providence staff deployed to four different locations, including providing nursing and other patient care support to group homes in Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Veterans Home in Bristol
• VA Providence also sent support to a sister VA facility in Bedford, Mass.

VA Providence HCS Response to the Coronavirus:
• By April 1, the Providence VA Medical Center had increased capacity from 73 beds to 98 in preparation for an increase in COVID-19 cases, converting a former ICU and an administrative wing to COVID-19 care
• As of June 1, VA Providence saw an increase of roughly 3,000 percent in VA Video Connect appointments, representing more than 8,000 encounters
• In all, the VA Providence Healthcare System saw an increase of over 7,000 percent in VA Video Connect appointments from Fiscal Year 2019 to Fiscal Year 2020, representing more than 28,000 encounters.

VA Providence HCS COVID-19 Current State and Way Forward:
• The VA Providence Healthcare System is now seeing more appointments in person, calling Veterans to prescreen before appointments in most cases
• The Providence VA Medical Center is now allowing limited in-patient visitation, as well
• VA Providence expects to continue expanding in-person services as we are able to do so safely
• VA Providence will continue to use telehealth to make care more accessible during the pandemic and beyond
• Telehealth can be a game-changer for patients with mobility and transportation challenges

General VA Providence HCS Operations:
• In comparison with the commercial sector, Medicare and Medicaid, VA Providence Healthcare System care scores as good or better in most areas
• According to Veteran Signals survey data through August 2020, the VA Providence Healthcare System scored above 90 percent satisfaction in all domains of customer experience, including quality, employee helpfulness, overall satisfaction and trust.

Data as of Oct. 21, 2020, unless otherwise noted.
A community leader in medical education and research, VA Providence conducts internationally recognized research comprising more than 260 projects in such areas as cardiology, genomics, long-term care, mental health, neurology, pulmonary/vascular care, and rehabilitation.

**Suicide Prevention Program:**
- The VA Providence Healthcare System offers mental health services to help with suicide prevention, homelessness, PTSD, substance use and other challenges that may contribute to Veteran suicide.
- Same-day mental health services are available for Veterans who need it, call VA Providence Mental Health Urgent Care at 401-273-7100 ext. 13400, Monday - Friday during normal business hours.
- Veterans in crisis can always visit our Emergency Department, call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**Women Veteran Outreach:**
- The VA Providence Healthcare System serves more than 2,600 enrolled women Veterans.
- Women Veterans in the VA Providence Healthcare System have a choice to be seen in the Women Veterans Clinic, the Primary Care clinic at the medical center, or in one of the community-based outpatient clinics.
- The VA Providence Healthcare System continues to improve care for women Veterans, increasing the number of providers with comprehensive women’s health training.
- With a nine percent growth in women Veteran enrollees, the VA Providence Healthcare System Women’s Clinic was approved to hire a women’s health nurse practitioner, an LPN, and a program manager assistant.
- A VA Spark-Seed-Spread innovation grant, resulting in the Stronger Together Hope Bracelet, aims to help reduce suicide risk among women Veterans, by raising awareness and providing resources.
- About 200 participated in a virtual Suicide Prevention & Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Walk Sept. 29.

**Caregiver Support Program Expansion:**
- The expansion of the Caregiver Support Program started October 1, and we’re very excited.
- Part of the MISSION Act, the expansion is intended to give more family caregivers access to the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, which was previously only available to eligible Veterans injured in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.
- This expansion acknowledges the critical role family caregivers play in caring for Veterans.
- I want to note that those who may not be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers can access numerous other caregiver resources through the Caregiver Support Program.
- If you need more information, the VA Caregiver Support Line is available Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Eastern Time, toll-free at 855-260-3274.

**Rhode Island Veterans Home:**
- The R.I. Veterans Home must pay back $5 million to residents over improper billing dating back to 2013.
- The VA Providence Healthcare System pays per-diem rates for Veterans receiving nursing home level of care at the state-run Rhode Island Veterans Home based on the care they are receiving.
- While the VA Providence Healthcare System does not determine fees charged by the R.I. Veterans Home, there are specific care and services that are required as part of the per diem paid to the home, and Veterans cannot be charged again for these services.
- A VA investigation based on an anonymous complaint found that Veterans were paying out of pocket expenses for services that should have been covered under their care.
- The Rhode Island Veterans Home is responsible for refunding Veterans for any improper billing.

Data as of Oct. 21, 2020, unless otherwise noted.
RON
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From: RLW
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To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz
EXECUTIVE BRIEFING SUMMARY
Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Monday, October 19, 2020
11:00AM Call

October 19, 2020, 11:00AM
OM POC: Jon Rychalski
Driver: Proactive Biweekly Updates
Subject: COVID 19 Response
Participants: Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, Lisa Molyneux, HAC MilConVA
Majority Clerk VA: SECVA, Jon Rychalski

PURPOSE OF EVENT/MEEETING:
☐ Decisional ☐ Informational ☐ Pre-Event
☐ Remarks ☒ Other ☐ Courtesy Call

OVERVIEW OF EVENT:
Teleconferences with Member to discuss the Department’s response to COVID-19.
The last call with Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz was on October 5.

COVID19 Obligations:
- As of October 15, there were 3,534 active COVID-19 cases in VA.
- VA has tested 799,252 unique patients.

OEHRM Go-Live at Mann-Grandstaff VAMC
- We are excited that the first full implementation of the new Cerner electronic
  health record software will take place this coming weekend. The staff at the
  Mann-Grandstaff VAMC and the 4 community-based outpatient clinics
  associated with the medical center are expected to start using the new system
  on Saturday, October 24.
- This milestone is the result of 27 months of planning, collaboration, and
  steadfast work by our EH RM team, Cerner, and leaders and staff across VA
  and our partners within DoD. We also appreciate your support in providing the
  necessary funding to pursue this transformation.
- We will provide your staff with written updates throughout the Go-Live period
  and will provide a post go-live briefing in November.

Attachments:
- Weekly COVID-19 obligations
Information Technology

Early COVID-19 response efforts may not have used the COVID-19 specific accounting codes. Adjustments are ongoing, and changes will continue to be reflected in future reports. Additionally, weekly reporting may vary from the first monthly SF-133 due to the date of reporting.

### Additional Information on Obligations:

#### End-Of-Fiscal-Year Activities:

There has been an increase in the number of expenditure transfers between VA accounts associated with COVID-19 spending. These are multi-step transactions that can occur over a period of time. These transactions are contributing to the negative amounts in some accounts for obligations and expenditures. This report is a snapshot at a specific point in time. The negative amounts will be evaluated and reconciled if needed as part of the normal accounting process.

#### Families First Funding:

The VA OGC clarified that Families First funding should be used specifically for testing costs. VA is in the process of adjusting obligations to conform with that decision. Adjustments for the Medical Services have been completed to reflect obligations for testing supplies purchased in bulk. Families First funding is fully obligated for Medical Services. Adjustments are in the process for Community Care to reflect obligations for medical bills for COVID-19 related tests.

#### Department of Veterans Affairs:

- **VA has obligated** $7,601 million for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $76,189 million from September 29th.
- **Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated** $2,546 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th. During the two weeks prior, $20,204 million in equipment was obligated.
- **Regardless of funding source, VA has obligated** $95.129 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.

#### Veterans Health Administration:

- **Regardless of funding source, VHA has obligated** $951.392 million for employee uniforms and protective clothing to include: cost of uniforms issued to operating personnel and items purchased for use as protection against infection, contamination, or injury to a person.
- **Regardless of funding source, VHA has obligated** $37.475 million for the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, and $18.761 million in per diem grants for care of Veterans in state homes.

### CARES Act Specifics:

- **Regardless of funding source, VHA has obligated** $363.179 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th.
- **Regardless of funding source, VHA has obligated** $9.743 million for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $94.038 million from September 29th.
- **Regardless of funding source, VHA has obligated** $303.791 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th.

#### Office of Information Technology:

- **Regardless of funding source, OIT has obligated** $1.175 billion for COVID-19 response through October 13th. This is an increase of approximately $20,000 million from September 29th.
- **Regardless of funding source, OIT has obligated** $363.179 million on supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 efforts through October 13th.
The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization Go-Live Talking Points, as of October 19, 2020

- Over the last several months, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Cerner have done everything possible to mitigate patient safety concerns.
- Frontline clinicians are trained and ready to use the new electronic health record (EHR) solution.
- The core EHR system is built and ready to deploy at Mann-Grandstaff Medical Center (VAMC), its four community-based outpatient clinics, and West Consolidated Patient Account Center.
  - Deployment strategy based on successful rollout of the Centralized Scheduling Solution (CSS), in Columbus, OH, which honed governance and solidified processes.
  - Conducted testing across functional and technical areas, as well as points of integration, which was substantially more than done during the Department of Defense (DOD) and commercial EHR implementations.
  - The most recent draft Government Accountability Office report recommends that critical and high findings be addressed prior to go-live. All critical test findings are addressed and high findings to be resolved by Wednesday, October 21.
- The 73 interfaces necessary to support the core EHR system are in place.
  - Workaround and mitigation strategies are based on the proven approach from CSS deployment to address issues that may arise during transition activities.
- Data for the 88,000 Veterans were transferred to the new EHR solution, including information on demographics and Problems, Allergies, Medications, Procedures, and Immunizations (PAMPI).
  - Data migration strategy is based on industry standards and lessons learned from DOD, where no historical data was transferred.
- Key stakeholders, including leaders of Mann-Grandstaff VAMC, Veterans Health Administration, Office of Information and Technology, Veterans Benefits Administration agree that VA is ready to go-live.
- Like the successful deployment of CSS, activities to transition to the new EHR solution will begin three days before patients and providers use the new EHR solution.
  - Complying with social distancing standards, there will be over 200 VA and Cerner experts involved to support emerging issues prior to Monday, October 26, across multiple locations, including Spokane, Rosslyn, and Kansas City.
- Active communications with key stakeholders, including Veterans, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and Congress will continue.
  - Communications with Veterans have included town halls, emails, direct mailings, billboards, flyers, posters, website updates and news releases.

Note of Interest: Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz has mentioned that there is a lack of transparency and communications of real-time information between VA and the House Committee on Appropriations.
- OEHRM has provided quarterly briefing updates to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and relays ad-hoc pertinent information as it arises via the Office of Management or via additional briefings. Since April 2020, there has been five briefings.
The Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM) continues to maintain momentum and advance its mission despite uncertainties of COVID-19 and limited access to medical facilities and staff.

On August 21, 2020, OEHRM successfully launched the Go-Live of the Centralized Scheduling Solution (CSS), in the face of a national pandemic.

Capability Set (CS) 1.1 will be deployed in Spokane, Washington on October 24, 2020.

- Most sites in Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) 10 and 20 can be fully supported by CS 1.1 and OEHRM will be deploying at these small and medium facilities until development of CS 2.0 is complete.

Development of CS 2.0 continues and is expected to be complete Spring 2021.

Preserving the schedule is imperative to the success of the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program. We are thankful for stable funding to continue the execution of the schedule.

Directed Cerner to develop a virtual training environment for future deployments to minimize impacts of social distancing requirements.

Reentry Strategy

- VA is leveraging a similar strategy for the deployment in Spokane, WA scheduled for October 24, 2020.
- Social distancing requirements continue to have a major impact as additional trainers and training space are required as the COVID-19 environment persists.
  - Acquired space at the Spokane Convention Center for 10 additional training classes.

Revised Deployment Strategy

- VA will first implement the new solution at small and medium sites within Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 20 and VISN 10 while the remaining configurations required to support more complex sites are completed. Once the full capability set is complete, VA will deploy to the larger and more complex sites in these VISNs to avoid regional fragmentation and further promote the achievement of interoperability objectives. This strategy optimizes resources, provides flexibility, preserves momentum, and supports continued alignment with DOD.
October 24, 2020: CS 1.1 deployment at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Spokane, Washington and West Consolidated Patient Account Center in Las Vegas, Nevada

Spring 2021: CS 2.0 complete

Spring 2021: Full CS deployment at Chalmers P. Wylie Outpatient Clinic in Columbus, OH

Spring 2021: Full CS deployment at Johnathan M. Wainwright VAMC in Walla Walla, WA

**Progress in the Virtual Work Environment**

- The EHR national standard design and build reached **over 99% completion** toward meeting the needs of clinicians who require training for the new system.
  - The solidification of workflows is an ongoing process, and VA is continuously making adjustments throughout implementation; the EHR build will never reach 100%
- OEHRM completed the **interface design, build, connectivity and technical testing**:
  - 8 interfaces for CSS — Columbus.
  - 73 interfaces for EHR — Spokane.
- OEHRM is continuing design, configuration and interface efforts for **additional capabilities**.

**Joint Health Information Exchange**

- The JHIE, launched on April 18, 2020, allows providers in both departments to **interact securely with EHR data for their patients seen by a participating community partner or health system**. Currently, more than 2,000 hospitals, 8,800 pharmacies, 33,000 clinics, 1,100 labs, 800 federally qualified health centers and 300 nursing homes throughout the country have access.
- **CommonWell**, a joint network of more than 15,000 community providers, is expected to join the JHIE later this year.

**Engagements**

- **Congressional Engagements**
  - September 30, 2020: OEHRM, VHA, FEHRM, and Cerner leadership testified before the House Committee on Veterans’ Affair Subcommittee on Technology Modernization at a hearing titled “Examining VA’s Ongoing Efforts in the EHRM Program”.
  - September 21, 2020: OEHRM leadership briefed the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and Veterans’ Affairs (HAC/SAC and HVAC/SVAC) on CSS Columbus post go-live activities and general updates on the EHRM program.
  - August 17, 2020: OEHRM Chief Technology Integration Officer attended a FEHRM leadership briefing before HVAC/SVAC to provide an update on JHIE.
  - August 3, 2020: OEHRM leadership briefed HAC/SAC staff on the program’s **revised deployment plan**, fidelity to Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget execution, and information on the FY 2021 budget request.
- **Speaking Engagements**
  - October 14, 2020: OEHRM leadership will provide program updates as a part of the 2020 Cerner Health Conference.
  - September 17, 2020: OEHRM Executive Director participated in a Veterans Service Organization Town Hall to provide an update on the EHRM effort.
Withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information
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Sent: Mon, 19 Oct 2020 15:00:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD (b)(6)
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 19 Oct 2020 15:00:17 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/[b](6) SECVA calls [b](6)
All,

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** at 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 20\textsuperscript{th} in the White House. Materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,
Subject: White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting

All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting at 4:00pm on Tuesday, October 20th in the White House. Materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
All,

There will be a **White House Coronavirus Task Force Meeting** at 5:00pm on Tuesday, October 20th in the White House. Materials attached.

Thank you,
Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information
Withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 19 Oct 2020 16:34:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ NJ Gov Murphy (SECVA call b)(6)

Governor’s mobile b)(6)
Preference is to call landline at b)(6)
Page 127 of 172

Withheld pursuant to exemption

Refer to Another Agency/Component

of the Freedom of Information
The Trump Administration Is Supporting the People of New Jersey

“We have the best doctors, the best military leaders, and the best logistics professionals anywhere in the world. And we’re orchestrating a massive Federal response unlike anything our country has ever seen.”

— President Donald J. Trump

Overview: Response and recovery efforts are locally executed, State managed, and Federally supported. Successful emergency management requires nationwide cooperation and unity of effort, combining the strength and ingenuity of our citizens and private sector with a sweeping, all-inclusive, and whole-of-government response. The below is a partial overview of Federal assistance provided to the State of New Jersey and the people of New Jersey to combat the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The information is bolstered by hundreds of additional actions by the Federal government to help the people of New Jersey. Implementation of the CARES Act is ongoing and will also bring additional support to New Jersey. President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence have appreciated the strong State-Federal partnership with Governor Phil Murphy.

Supportive Actions by President Donald J. Trump:

- **President Trump Declares a National Emergency**: On March 13, President Trump declared a national emergency concerning COVID-19. The emergency declaration authorized direct Federal assistance, temporary facilities, commodities, equipment, and emergency operation costs for all states, including New Jersey, pursuant to section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

- **New Jersey’s Major Disaster Declaration**: On March 23, Governor Murphy submitted a major disaster declaration request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). On March 25, President Trump approved the request declaring a major disaster in the State of New Jersey and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, local, and tribal recovery efforts in the areas affected by COVID-19. For the first time in our Nation’s history, every State and territory has a presidential disaster declaration at the same time.

- **Historic Economic Relief**: On March 27, President Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act into law. The law provides unprecedented economic relief to American citizens, small businesses, workers, healthcare providers, and State, local, and tribal governments and builds on the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. More here. Additional New Jersey allocation information is found below.

- **National Guard Support**: On March 28, President Trump directed FEMA to fund 100% of the emergency assistance activities provided by New Jersey National Guard personnel in Title 32 duty status, per Governor Murphy’s request.

- **Hospital Ship USNS Comfort**: On March 30, at President Trump’s direction, the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Comfort hospital ship arrived in New York City. With its 1,000 beds and 1,200 staff, 12 operating rooms, a blood bank, a medical lab, a pharmacy, an optometry lab and a CAT scan, the ship relieved strains on local hospital systems in the New York City Metropolitan Area.

**Testing, Resource & Logistics Support**: FEMA is working with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), other Federal agencies, and private sector partners, to produce, allocate, and distribute key resources to New Jersey. Most notably, these include personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and the expedition of critical supplies from overseas to various U.S. locations.

- HHS, the Centers for Disaster Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are providing unprecedented regulatory flexibilities, resources, and guidance to expand the availability of testing and to assist New Jersey and States across the country in scaling testing. Learn more from the CDC here and FDA here. In addition, CARES Act and other supplemental disbursements, alongside FEMA resources, are important avenues for States to scale testing.
- The Federal government is supporting mobile testing efforts to increase testing capacity and availability in New Jersey.

- In support of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, FEMA and HHS are coordinating a whole-of-America approach to source personal protective equipment (PPE), ventilators, and other critical resources for States, Tribes, and Territories. The effort is led by Rear Admiral John Polowczyk of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. For more on the Supply Chain Stabilization Task Force, read more here.

- The Trump Administration is coordinating Project Air Bridge, a coordinated public-private partnership designed to expedite the movement of critical supplies from other countries to the United States. The below table shows recently delivered supplies to New Jersey entities, including Project Air Bridge efforts to bolster private sector supply chains.

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<th>PPE</th>
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<th>April 8 - 14</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>N-95 Masks</td>
<td>166,000</td>
<td>301,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical &amp; Procedural Masks</td>
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<td>1,053,000</td>
<td>1,966,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye &amp; Face Shields</td>
<td>16,100</td>
<td>16,700</td>
<td>32,800</td>
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<td>Isolation &amp; Surgical Gowns</td>
<td>1,646,500</td>
<td>1,093,400</td>
<td>2,739,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical &amp; Exam Gloves</td>
<td>28,308,900</td>
<td>20,681,800</td>
<td>48,990,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In addition to the Project Air Bridge efforts, as of April 14, FEMA delivered 1,050 ventilators, 290,055 N-95 masks, 689,981 surgical masks, 113,935 medical gowns, 3,848 coveralls, 139,144 face shields, and 591,269 gloves from the Strategic National Stockpile to New Jersey.

- Four Federal Medical Stations (FMS) are being utilized to establish temporary medical facilities at three locations in New Jersey – Secaucus, Edison and Atlantic City. 1,020 U.S. Army Medical Task Forces medical personnel are supporting three sites (Edison FMS, Atlantic City, and at Newark University Hospital) to help care for patients in New Jersey.

- As of April 15, FEMA obligated $361.3 M for New Jersey to respond to COVID-19 and will continue to obligate additional dollars per validated State requests.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has worked with the State of New Jersey to increase hospital capacity in New Jersey by 427 beds (as of April 23) in four COVID-19 facilities and 40 beds in one non-COVID-19 facility. The USACE is providing resources and personnel to create alternate care facilities in East Orange (East Orange Hospital – 250 beds), Paramus (two at the New Bridge-Bergen Medical Center – 100 beds and 40 beds; New Bridge Hospital – 40 beds), and Trenton (St. Francis Hospital – 37 beds). More here.

- The Defense Logistics Agency awarded a contract to Battelle Critical Care Decontamination Systems for 60 N95 decontamination system units for the sanitation and reuse of N95 respirators. A system is currently deployed in New Jersey.

- FEMA contracted 525 ambulances and 1,190 emergency personnel from across the country to support New York and New Jersey, supplement State medical transportation and support capabilities. The units include Advanced Life Support and Basic Life Support ambulances, and medical/support personnel necessary to operate.

**Federal Agency Support**: The Trump Administration continues to provide unprecedented resources, guidance, and regulatory flexibilities for State, local and tribal governments to develop and deploy innovative solutions for addressing COVID-19.
- **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**
  
  - As of April 23, through the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act and the CARES Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided over $36.6 M to the State of New Jersey. More [here](#).
  
  - As of April 23, HHS has awarded over $25.2 M in CARES Act funding to 24 health centers across New Jersey to assist in combatting COVID-19. More [here](#).
  
  - Medical providers in New Jersey were allocated more than $919.4 M for the first round of funding from the Provider Relief Fund, with most of that provided Friday, April 10.
  
  - As of April 22, the State of New Jersey has received over $1 B from HHS, through the Provider Relief Fund, CDC State and local funding, HRSA health centers, and other HHS grants.
  
  - On March 20, the State of New Jersey submitted an 1135 Medicaid Waiver request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS). On March 23, CMS approved New Jersey’s waiver request offering new flexibilities to focus resources on combatting the outbreak and providing the best possible care to Medicaid beneficiaries in New Jersey.

- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**
  
  - As a result of the CARES Act, the SBA created four additional loan/funding programs to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19. As of April 16, the SBA issued over $9.5 B in loans to over 33,500 New Jersey small businesses. Nationally, SBA executed more loans in 14 days of the CARES Act implementation than the agency had done in the previous 14 years. More [here](#).
  
  - On March 18, SBA declared an economic disaster in New Jersey at the request of Governor Murphy. The disaster declaration creates access to low interest loans for small businesses across New Jersey. As of April 19, the SBA has approved 24,942 Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) advances of up to $10,000 for New Jersey small businesses impacted by COVID-19; these funds, as authorized by the CARES Act, do not need to be repaid and have totaled more than $105.7 M in the State of New Jersey.

- **U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDT)**
  
  - As of Monday, April 13, Economic Impact Payments authorized by the CARES Act have gone out to 80 million Americans across the country, including New Jersey. These payments are being automatically issued to eligible 2019 or 2018 federal tax return filers who received a refund using direct deposit. More [here](#). Social Security recipients who do not file tax returns will automatically receive economic impact payments. More [here](#).
  
  - Treasury is operationalizing stimulus relief to States, Tribes, and eligible units of local government as authorized under the CARES Act’s Coronavirus Relief Fund. The State of New Jersey, combined with eligible units of local government in the State that apply, will receive over $3.4 B. Governmental entities in the State of New Jersey have already received $2.6 B of this allocation. More [here](#).
  
  - On April 9, the Department of the Treasury and Federal Reserve launched a Main Street Business Lending program and a Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) to support the flow of credit to American workers, businesses, States, counties, and cities in New Jersey and across the Nation impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The MLF will provide up to $500 B in direct financing to states, counties, and cities across the Nation to help ensure they have the funds necessary to provide essential services to citizens and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. More [here](#). MLF term sheet and guidance can be found [here](#).

- **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**
  
  - HUD made over $82.2 M in COVID-19 funding available to New Jersey via CARES Act authorizations. More [here](#).
  
  - On April 1, HUD implemented the CARES Act requirement to provide up to one year of payment forbearance for Federal Housing Administration (FHA) single-family borrowers in New Jersey and across the Nation who are experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. More [here](#).
• On April 10, HUD implemented the CARES Act requirement to provide FHA multifamily borrowers in New Jersey and across the Nation with forbearance for up to three months if they agree not to evict tenants during that period. More here.

- **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)**
  - As a result of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, DOL expanded paid sick, family, and medical leave; the Department has offered flexibilities and emergency administrative capacity expansion grants for unemployment insurance that will help the people of New Jersey.
  - DOL has awarded over $14.7 M in emergency administrative unemployment insurance grants to the State of New Jersey.

- **U.S. Department of Education (DoED)**
  - On March 20, DoED suspended Federal student loan payments and waived interest during the Federal emergency, which could help up to 1.08 M direct loan borrowers in New Jersey.
  - DoED has also provided unprecedented reporting flexibilities to New Jersey to allow the State to best meet the needs of students and teachers during the emergency. More here, here and here.
  - In April, DoED announced allocations under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund of the CARES Act totaling over $323 M to support postsecondary education students and institutions of higher education in New Jersey. More here, here and here.
  - On April 14, DoED announced an allocation in The Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF), authorized by the CARES Act, of over $68.8 M for New Jersey. This is an extraordinarily flexible “emergency block grant” designed to enable governors to decide how best to meet the needs of students, schools (including charter schools and non-public schools), postsecondary institutions, and other education-related organizations. More here.
  - On April 23, DoED made $310.3 M available to New Jersey through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund of the CARES Act to ensure learning continues for all students. More here.

- **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
  - On April 17, Secretary Perdue joined President Trump in announcing the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) to assist farmers, ranchers, and consumers in New Jersey and across the Nation in response to COVID-19. This $19 B relief program will provide $16 B in direct support based on actual losses for agricultural producers and $3 B in purchases of fresh produce, dairy and meat, including producers in New Jersey.
  - USDA has provided numerous flexibilities and resources to the State of New Jersey to ensure children and low income Americans have access to food during the national emergency. More here.

- **U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)**
  - DOT allocated more than $1.7 B in Federal Transit Administration funds to help the New Jersey public transportation systems respond to the challenges of COVID-19. More here.
  - DOT awarded more than $160.8 M from the Federal Aviation Administration to help fund continuing operations and lost revenue for airports in New Jersey. More here.

- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**
  - With the $19.6 B allocated under the CARES Act, the VA is hiring new staff and procuring additional resources to deal with the evolving needs of the pandemic. This includes expanding free or subsidized telehealth services and waiving a requirement that VA State homes maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate in order to receive Federal benefits for times when the Veteran is not in the home. More here.
  - The VA traditionally provides Veterans’ healthcare, benefits and memorial affairs. In times of national crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, VA provides services to the Nation based on requests from states, while being clear that Veterans are our first priority. This is known as VA's Fourth
Mission. VA is assisting with care for non-Veteran patients in New Jersey, including providing access to additional beds at the East Orange VA Medical Center. VA is also providing support to both the Paramus and Menlo Park State Veterans Homes after severe COVID-19 outbreaks.

- The U.S. Department of the Treasury and VA announced that VA benefit recipients in New Jersey and across the Nation will automatically receive $1,200 in Economic Impact Payments provided for under the CARES Act.
- On April 3, the VA announced a number of actions to provide Veterans in New Jersey and across the Nation with financial, benefits and claims help as part of the VA’s COVID-19 response. The financial relief actions include – until further notice – (i) suspending all actions on Veteran debts under the jurisdiction of the Treasury Department and (ii) suspending collection action or extending repayment terms on preexisting VA debts, as the Veteran prefers. More here.

- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
  - The State Department launched an unprecedented global effort to bring home citizens from every corner of the globe and has repatriated thousands of Americans from multiple countries. As of April 17, DOS has coordinated the repatriation of nearly 70,000 Americans, including individuals from New Jersey. More here.

- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
  - DOJ allocated over $17.8 M in funds to New Jersey through the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Program to assist the State and local government response to COVID-19. This includes over $11.8 M in funding to the State and over $6 M to local governments. More here.
Governor Phil Murphy, as he says, “grew up in a family that was middle class on a good day,” the youngest of four children with only one parent who graduated high school. His upbringing – where religion, a strong work ethic, education, and civic awareness were pillars of family life – shaped his values, his priorities, and the leader he is today.

Since taking office, Governor Murphy has focused on building a stronger and fairer New Jersey that works for every family. He has signed legislation putting New Jersey on the path to a $15-an-hour minimum wage, enacted the nation’s strongest equal pay law to combat gender wage discrimination, ensured all workers have access to paid sick days, and expanded the state’s Paid Family Leave provisions.

Governor Murphy has put a new emphasis on restoring the state’s dominance in the innovation economy by reinvesting in workforce development and supporting the growth of innovative and start-up companies.

Under his leadership, New Jersey is also emerging as a leader in combatting climate change through the deployment of offshore-wind energy technologies and banning offshore fossil-fuel exploration and drilling, among other measures to spur growth in the clean and renewable energy sectors.

Governor Murphy has reversed prior years of budget cuts and increased funding for both New Jersey’s top-ranked public schools and NJ TRANSIT. And, he restored state funding for Planned Parenthood and women’s health programs, including family planning services. He has made New Jersey a national leader in tackling gun violence and has expanded protections for the state’s immigrant and LGBTQ communities, among others.

Prior to taking office, Governor Murphy had long been deeply engaged in civic life and philanthropic pursuits. He has led and supported charities to lift up troubled teens and domestic abuse survivors. Nationally, he served proudly as New Jersey’s sole representative on the board of the NAACP, the world’s oldest civil rights organization, and as Finance Chair of the Democratic National Committee. The Governor has also led national and state task forces, respectively, on education and public employee pensions and benefits.

In 2009, he answered President Obama’s call to service and, following his confirmation by the United States Senate, became the U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, where he served until 2013.

Governor Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy live in Monmouth County and are the parents of Josh, Emma, Charlie, and Sam.

A proud public-school product, Governor Murphy holds degrees from Harvard University and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 19 Oct 2020 16:39:03 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: No Scheduling
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<td>To:</td>
<td>RLW</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ Senator Lee</td>
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From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 19 Oct 2020 18:42:04 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD
Key Points
1. Need help with a legislative fix for how we account for community care payments. It authorizes us to account for community care payments when we make the payment (instead of when we authorize the care) similar to how the DoD TRICARE program accounts for community care.
2. Our approps subcommittee Chair and Ranking and staff are familiar with the issue and support the legislative fix. They have the legislative language.
3. Without it, we're going to run short of community care funds in FY21 which will force VA to stop authorizing care in the community for Veterans.
4. Really need Sen Shelby's help to get this language in the next appropriation bill (either the Coronavirus Stimulus or whatever follows the current FY21 continuing resolution).
Cc: Murray, Edward (b)(6)@va.gov; McIlroy, Andrew R. (b)(6)@va.gov

Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

Yep.

(b)(6) - can you work to schedule a call with Sen Shelby?

From: Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:32 PM
To: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov; Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov; Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

Agree with this. If we can get that letter out by tomorrow morning or early afternoon – suggest that Jon and OM folks reach out to Shelby urgently to schedule a call on Wednesday before the Secretary leaves for Florida. I just don’t think this gets solved at this point without being raised up to SECVA level.

Jon – can your folks do that?

From: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:25 PM
To: Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov; Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

My recommendation is SECVA sends his letter to Shelby and follows up with a call to Shelby, just sending paper doesn’t emphasize urgency.

From: Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov; Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

I agree with the approps bill. The thing is, we probably need to communicate to the Hill that we are just about out of runway. If an Ob and Pay legislative fix isn’t in whatever replaces the current CR, we need to revert back to our former practice. And the bill is HUGE. That’s when fireworks will start. But it might also get enough attention that we will get it fixed.

From: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov; Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

I have tried Mnuchin Chief and no reply. Candidly, this Stimulus is so foggy, it’s a real reach to get the language inserted.
Best COA is for OMB to signal to Hill and Hill to put in the next Approps bill. Defer to Jon on how to manage bc it’s an OM tasking.

From: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov; Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

Back to the discussion on WH Leg. Have there been any discussions with them? Brooks...I thought you were going to call Minuchin’s CoS as well???

From: Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:13 PM
To: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov; Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

The thing is....the Hill wants OMB or someone from the administration to just ask for it. Even if they ask to have it in the stimulus and it doesn’t make it then the approps staff can place a marker to include it in the next thing. We just haven’t been able to get anyone to ask yet.

From: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov; Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

That was on a separate issue.....the VBA Regs.

Regarding this issue.... SECVA sent a letter to OMB and Minuchin. Nothing back. I spoke with (b)(6)...also crickets from his end. I have another call with (b)(6) later this week regarding the regs and will ask again but I think it’s way above his pay grade. Is (b)(6) working with WH Leg? Recommend OM and OCLA put together a Hill Strategy....

From: Tucker, Brooks (b)(6)@va.gov
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:08 PM
To: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris) (b)(6)@va.gov; Rychalski, Jon J. (b)(6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: High Priority Language for VA Community Care Payments in COVID Stimulus

Note: I recall DepSec queried Duffy late last week and SECVA may need to call Vought. Is that not worth pushing now or do we still want SECVA to make that call?

From: Tucker, Brooks
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Powers, Pamela (b)(6)@va.gov; Syrek, Christopher D. (Chris)
Where are things with this lately? Know we are going to reach out to Shelby, but did Duffey ever reply?

From: Tucker, Brooks
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 10:43 AM

Good morning. I’m following up on the Acting Deputy Secretary’s behalf to find out if you’re tracking VA’s strong interest in having key language included in the potential stimulus agreement now being negotiated.

Our OM staff drafted the below. It would formally establish and continue a practice we have been following regarding when we pay for medical services. Without this language our methodology will revert to a far more inefficient and costly payment when care is initially authorized and not at the later date when the care has been rendered.

We have been working with Approps staff to get this into the annual Approps legislation, but to avoid further delays and the attendant, very significant fiscal management issues that will ensue without it, we are asking for inclusion in the stimulus package.

**Legislative Text – Appropriation Administrative Provision:**

Sec. XXX. Hereafter, subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall record as an obligation of the United States Government amounts owed for hospital care or medical services furnished at non-Department facilities under title 38, United States Code, or Acts making appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs, on the date on which the Secretary approves: (i) a claim by a health care provider for payment or (ii) a voucher, invoice, or request for payment from a vendor for services rendered under a contract: Provided, That this section shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2018.

Please let me know soonest on this. Our CFO and Deputy CoS are cc.

Brooks D. Tucker
Acting Chief of Staff

Get Outlook for iOS
THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

October 20, 2020

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The President's commitment to Veterans is one of the most important priorities of his Administration. I am writing to personally ask for your support in securing an urgently needed provision in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, or the next appropriate legislative vehicle in the absence of a full year appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at the end of the current continuing resolution.

In FY 2019, in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, VA changed an accounting practice to record obligations for community care at the time of payment to health care providers, rather than when an authorization for care was issued. The recording of obligations at the time of payment is similar to the practice used at the Department of Defense. While this accounting change had no impact on the actual cost and quality of Veteran care, it did produce a one-time budget savings of $1.8 billion in FY 2019. This change was included in the FY 2019 budget request and was reflected in FY 2019 appropriated funding levels enacted by Congress.

A subsequent inquiry by the Government Accountability Office of this accounting practice resulted in an analysis of the practice by the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC). OGC opined that the new practice is inconsistent with current law and that VA required additional authority to continue the practice. VA has developed legislative language required to solve this problem by allowing VA to continue the current practice. We now need to get this language into the next viable legislative vehicle.

I ask for your support of this provision. A failure to adopt this provision will ultimately force VA to resume the prior accounting practice that would needlessly tie up billions of dollars of community care funding that would result in a shortage of these critical funds, and could potentially interrupt VA's ability to authorize community care for Veterans.
The Honorable Richard Shelby

Should you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Ms. Congressional Appropriations Advisor, at (b)(6) or (b)(6)@va.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of our Nation’s Veterans.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Wilkie

cc: Patrick Leahy (Ranking Member)
Healthcare

VHA purchases care from all Indian Health Service operated health care facilities, from both urban Indian health programs located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and many of the tribally operated health care facilities located across the state. Nationally, VA reimbursed a total of $121.8 million to Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health programs (THP) for “Direct Care Services” to Veterans.

- Oklahoma IHS and THP reimbursement year to date for FY20 (as of Aug 2020) is $4,143,053.
- 1,614 Unique Veterans serviced in Oklahoma for FY20.
- The Top 8 IHS and THP facilities receiving reimbursement for FY20:
  - Choctaw Nation Health Care Center @ $1,199,740
  - Health Centers & Hospitals of Cherokee Nation @ $719,822
  - Muscogee (Creek) Nation @ $710,079
  - Claremore Indian Hospital (IHS Facility) @ $312,290
  - Lawton Indian Hospital @ $200,640
  - Northeastern Tribal Health System (NTHS) @ $163,678
  - Chickasaw Nation Division of Health @ $160,364
  - Clinton Indian Health Center @ $149,638

Both the OKC VAHCS and Jack C. Montgomery (or Muskogee VAMC) leadership meet every 6 months with tribal leaders, the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, local IHS and THP leadership along with representatives from the Tulsa and OKC Urban Indian Health Clinics. Discussions are often focused on topics ranging from care coordination, sharing of resources and staff, improving customer service, IT interconnectivity and telehealth.

Tribal HUD-VASH

In 2017, Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers were made available to tribes working to secure for Native American Veterans struggling with homelessness. As of July FY20, 5 tribes in Oklahoma were Tribal HUD-VASH grantees including:
  - Choctaw Nation
  - Cherokee Nation
  - Muscogee (Creek) Nation
  - Osage Nation
  - Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
Cemeteries

NCA funded two tribal cemeteries in Oklahoma:
  o 1 Tribal Veterans Cemetery with Ponca Nation
  o 1 Tribal Veterans Cemetery with Seminole Nation

Benefits

In 2018 and 2019 VBA partnered with tribal nations each year and the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations, with support from the State of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and Veteran Service Organizations to host presumptive conditions outreach events in tribal communities. Approximately 500 Veterans and widows were assisted at these events and more are in the works, some may be virtual, in the year ahead.

VA 4th Mission and Covid 19 pandemic

As part of the VA 4th Mission, VA has reached out to IHS and THP CEOs to have virtual discussions about how VA can assist given the continued rise in COVID numbers for the state.

Data and other relevant information

39 Tribal Nations are located in Oklahoma
  - 2017 American Community Survey shows 13,342 AI/AN Veterans in Oklahoma
    o 11,552 Am. Indian Males
    o 1,790 Am. Indian Females
    o Male: 124,574
    o Female: 15,933

Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Source: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/AIAN.pdf

- 2017 ACS Report Nationally:
  - 39.9% of AI/AN Veterans are enrolled or use VHA Healthcare
  - 60.1% of AI/AN Veterans do not use VHA healthcare


- 2017 ACS Report Nationally:
  - 39.9% of AI/AN Veterans are enrolled or use VHA Healthcare
  - 60.1% of AI/AN Veterans do not use VHA healthcare

Eight Tribal Nations have their own Tribal Department of Veterans Services (many of which go by different office or program names) including Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Seminole Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Kaw Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, Kiowa Tribe, and Cherokee Nation.
### Daily Briefing Book

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

**SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE**

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<th>Notes</th>
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<td>Daily Sync Mtg</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Walk to Blair House</td>
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<td>Blair House Visit/Tour</td>
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<td>BVA re: Procedures for Board Members</td>
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<td>1:00 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Virtually Speak w/Veterans Day National Committee <strong>1-872-701-0185 / ID b(6)</strong></td>
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From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 20 Oct 2020 18:56:47 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Studio Interview w/Just the News

Dish, Apple, Pluto
WH requested
Good evening,

Our studio is located at International Square at 1850k NW ste. 1000. It would be best to arrive an hour before the show, just to be sure there is no rush getting in and situated. You can give me a call and I or someone on our team can meet you downstairs to bring you up. I can also be the contact for security.

Show Producer
Just the News

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 20, 2020, at 3:06 PM, Hutton, James wrote:

Dan,

Look forward to this.

Please lock-in 9:00 am Friday for this interview with “Just the News”. It will be at their studio at 18th & K.

More details below.

James
From: Carrie Sheffield (b)(6)@justthenews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:58 PM
To: Hutton, James (b)(6)
Cc: Cashour, Curtis
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] TV request/fighting COVID among vets

Hi James yes Friday would be great, who would it be from your team? ccing producer Dan to help coordinate.

Thanks,
Carrie

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 2:31 PM Hutton, James <James.Hutton@va.gov> wrote:
Would it be possible to do this Friday morning?

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Carrie Sheffield (b)(6)@justthenews.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 1:48:04 PM
To: Cashour, Curtis (b)(6)@va.gov>; Hutton, James (b)(6)@va.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TV request/fighting COVID among vets

Hi James and Curt, hope you’re doing well, left you both voicemails. Per recommendation from (b)(6) at the White House (see below), reaching out and requesting an interview with a VA representative sometime soon on my new live show, “Just the News AM” (airing on DISH Network, Pluto, Apple TV, etc.).

The topic would be VA’s work to fight COVID among veterans.

It is a daily morning news show in the 9-10am EST hour. We’d love to conduct the interview Skype or on set at 18th and K in D.C. More about us at www.JustTheNews.com we are a digital news startup founded in Feb 2020 by veteran journalist John Solomon.
Our staff have worked at ABC News, CBS, CNN, Fox News, WashPost, The Hill, WashTimes, Forbes, POLITICO, etc. We're already averaging more than 10 million visitors a month to our news, video and podcast content. President Trump often Tweets out our articles and interviews (here's one of my articles he Tweeted out, for example, and another one here. Here's another shared by Lara Trump).

We recently launched a nationally-syndicated suite of TV programs airing in 50 million unique homes with a distributor called Real America’s Voice News. They are located on PlutoTV Channel 240, Dish Channel 219, Roku, Apple TV, FireTV or http://AmericasVoice.news.

More:
Just the News website with video promo: https://justthenews.com/accountability/media/just-news-launching-tv-initiative-partnering-real-americas-voice-network

Twitter: https://twitter.com/JustTheNews/status/1308393035278024704?s=20


The size of the audience varies per video.

Hope that helps, and feel free to call with any additional questions.

Thanks,
Carrie

CARRIE SHEFFIELD
Anchor, "Just the News AM"
White House Correspondent
JustTheNews.com/
t. 646-598-4854

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 12:43 PM EOP/WHO wrote:
Hey! Here are a few of the opeds I mentioned. Also contact info:

Curt Cashour  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
@curtcashour

James Hutton  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420  
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The Department of Veterans Affairs is unified with its federal partners in leading the medical response to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Within days of the first confirmed COVID-19 case, VA began implementing a comprehensive response and operations plan to protect our Veterans, their families and the workforce.

**THE VA IS SUPPORTING STATES AND VETERANS’ GROUPS DURING COVID-19**
- The Department of Veterans Affairs is assisting a total of 46 states and territories with their Coronavirus response. It has accepted mission assignments from FEMA in 28 states and territories.
- The VA is providing humanitarian aid to another 21 states and territories.
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- The Veterans Benefits Administration has hosted tele-town halls in 23 states to discuss the VA’s COVID-19 response efforts and it has reached over 867,000 Veterans nationwide.
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- Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Department of Veterans Affairs, with outside assistance, has tested over 230,000 patients for COVID-19 and over 193,000 tests were returned negative. The agency has also hired 3,971 new Registered Nurses between March 29th and early June.
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- Veterans’ trust in the VA has reached a record high during this national emergency. In the second quarter of 2020, overall Veteran trust in the entire VA system rose to 80 percent, an all-time high and up 19 percentage points from when President Trump took office. Veterans’ trust in the VA’s outpatient services stands at an all-time high of 89 percent.
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- This legislation moves America closer to a goal that all citizens can support: increasing the local resources available to our men and women who answered the call to defend this Nation.
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- Care in the community is a critical component of our effort to end Veteran suicide.
- About 60 percent of the Veterans who die by suicide aren’t getting care from VA, so it’s vital we do all we can to offer intervention and care to Veterans where they live.
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- People in distress and in need of timely care should face the fewest obstacles possible to get help.
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But VA can do much more by working with local governments, companies and other stakeholders. Thanks to these partnerships, we’ve seen 78 communities and three states effectively end Veteran homelessness.

President Trump believes these kinds of partnerships are the same way to fight Veteran suicide. That’s why VA adopted a public-health approach to suicide prevention, which focuses on equipping communities to help Veterans connect with local support and resources.

The public-health approach is central to VA’s first ever National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which was published in 2018, as well as the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) executive order. That roadmap, released in June 2020, is bringing together stakeholders across all levels of government and the private sector to address suicide nationally and provide Veterans with the specific mental health and suicide prevention services they deserve.

President Trump’s VA is Keeping Veterans Safe During COVID-19

VA has tested over 664,000 people for COVID-19 and treated more than 48,000 Veterans nationwide, all while limiting its employee infection rate to below 1 percent, far lower than the rates seen in other health care systems. As of mid-September, more than 89 percent of the Veterans VA treated were recovering from the virus.

While COVID-19 was a serious threat to many non-VA nursing homes across the nation, VA’s early actions to protect its most vulnerable patients resulted in far fewer infections at the 134 VA Community Living Centers (CLCs) it administers. As of mid-September, VA is treating just 5 residents of VA CLCs with the virus.

Since March, 47 states have turned to VA to provide lifesaving care and best practices on how to keep patients safe. More than 3,100 VA staff members deployed across the country to support Veteran and non-Veteran patients in states that needed help, as part of VA’s “Fourth Mission” to support the U.S. health care system during crises.

VA has moved quickly to increase staff members in order to provide seamless care. From March 29 through mid-September, VA hired more than 48,000 employees, including more than 9,000 new Registered Nurses.
Withheld pursuant to exemption (b)(5) of the Freedom of Information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>RLW</th>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>RLW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>En Route to 18th and K Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All – we have a taker for Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 10:20 – 10:35 a.m. Prep materials to follow.

v/r

OUTLET: KTOK Radio (Oklahoma City)
REPORTER: Lee Matthews
DATE/TIME: Wednesday, Nov. 4, 10:20 a.m. EASTERN
INTERVIEW TYPE: Phone
Withheld pursuant to exemption
(b)(5)
of the Freedom of Information
Tribal Talking Points – VA - Oklahoma

**Healthcare**

VHA purchases care from all Indian Health Service operated health care facilities, from both urban Indian health programs located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and many of the tribally operated health care facilities located across the state. Nationally, VA reimbursed a total of $121.8 million to Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health programs (THP) for “Direct Care Services” to Veterans.

- Oklahoma IHS and THP reimbursement year to date for FY20 (as of Aug 2020) is $4,143,053.
- 1,614 Unique Veterans serviced in Oklahoma for FY20.
- The Top 8 IHS and THP facilities receiving reimbursement for FY20:
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**Tribal HUD-VASH**

In 2017, Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers were made available to tribes working to secure for Native American Veterans struggling with homelessness. As of July FY20, 5 tribes in Oklahoma were Tribal HUD-VASH grantees including:
  - Choctaw Nation
  - Cherokee Nation
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  - Osage Nation
  - Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
Cemeteries

NCA funded two tribal cemeteries in Oklahoma:
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Benefits

In 2018 and 2019 VBA partnered with tribal nations each year and the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations, with support from the State of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and Veteran Service Organizations to host presumptive conditions outreach events in tribal communities. Approximately 500 Veterans and widows were assisted at these events and more are in the works, some may be virtual, in the year ahead.

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Data and other relevant information

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From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 20 Oct 2020 20:15:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Zoom Interview w/ Will Hutchinson, KSWO TV, Lawton, OK (ABC)
Attachments: 201105 - Lawton, OK, KSWO-TV, Will Hutchinson.pptx, Oklahoma Tribal Nations
Talking Points_FY20 editsCW.docx

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/95942408828?pwd=[REDACTED]
Meeting ID: 959 4240 8828
Passcode:[REDACTED]

Nov. 5 – 2 p.m. – KSWO TV (Lawton, OK) – Zoom link:
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Monday, November 9, 2p.m. EASTERN
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From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 21 Oct 2020 14:32:45 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Interview - FOX News Interview w/Kristin Fisher
Attachments: SecVa Tps.docx, Suicide Prevention Legislation Talkers.docx, VA Transformation Info.docx, Quad - Kristin Fisher - Fox News @ Night.pptx
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But VA can do much more by working with local governments, companies and other stakeholders. Thanks to these partnerships, we’ve seen 78 communities and three states effectively end Veteran homelessness.

President Trump believes these kinds of partnerships are the same way to fight Veteran suicide. That’s why VA adopted a public-health approach to suicide prevention, which focuses on equipping communities to help Veterans connect with local support and resources.

The public-health approach is central to VA’s first ever National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which was published in 2018, as well as the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) executive order. That roadmap, released in June 2020, is bringing together stakeholders across all levels of government and the private sector to address suicide nationally and provide Veterans with the specific mental health and suicide prevention services they deserve.

President Trump’s VA is Keeping Veterans Safe During COVID-19

VA has tested over 664,000 people for COVID-19 and treated more than 48,000 Veterans nationwide, all while limiting its employee infection rate to below 1 percent, far lower than the rates seen in other health care systems. As of mid-September, more than 89 percent of the Veterans VA treated were recovering from the virus.

While COVID-19 was a serious threat to many non-VA nursing homes across the nation, VA’s early actions to protect its most vulnerable patients resulted in far fewer infections at the 134 VA Community Living Centers (CLCs) it administers. As of mid-September, VA is treating just 5 residents of VA CLCs with the virus.

Since March, 47 states have turned to VA to provide lifesaving care and best practices on how to keep patients safe. More than 3,100 VA staff members deployed across the country to support Veteran and non-Veteran patients in states that needed help, as part of VA’s “Fourth Mission” to support the U.S. health care system during crises.

VA has moved quickly to increase staff members in order to provide seamless care. From March 29 through mid-September, VA hired more than 48,000 employees, including more than 9,000 new Registered Nurses.
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

due to the Freedom of Information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:30 am</td>
<td>ERT 1850 K St, NW, Suite 1000 ** Arrive by 8:30am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Interview w/ Carrie Sheffield, Just The News **</td>
<td>Tab 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00 am</td>
<td>ERT Residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 – 11:00 am</td>
<td>VHA Briefing re: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program **</td>
<td>Tab 2</td>
<td>Dr. [REDACTED] will lead the briefing **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DEPSEC, COS, OCLA &amp; IGA have also</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>been invited to participate in the call.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1-800-767-1750 / code [REDACTED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am – Noon</td>
<td>Phone Interview w/ Tara Granahan Radio Show, WPRO, Providence, RI **</td>
<td>Tab 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b)(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ ADM Mike Mullen **</td>
<td>Tab 4</td>
<td>Bill Hudson will also be on the call **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1-800-767-1750 / code [REDACTED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Phone Interview w/ Michael Koolidge Radio Show, Chicago, IL **</td>
<td>Tab 5</td>
<td>815-561-7130</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ NJ Governor Phil Murphy **</td>
<td>Tab 6</td>
<td>SECVA calls [REDACTED]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 3:45 pm</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ SECVA calls **</td>
<td>Tab 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:30 pm</td>
<td>Interview w/ Kristin Fisher, FOX News @ Night **</td>
<td>Tab 7</td>
<td></td>
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From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 21 Oct 2020 17:18:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Call w/ADM Mike Mullen (1-800-767-1750 / code (6)(6)
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 21 Oct 2020 17:18:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD: Phone Call w/ADM Mike Mullen
From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 22 Oct 2020 14:09:18 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Taping of Veterans Day Script
From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 22 Oct 2020 14:37:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Calendar Meeting
From: RLW
Sent: Thu, 22 Oct 2020 18:00:41 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: RAH
Attachments: Nov 2 2020.docx
### DAILY BRIEFING BOOK

**Monday, November 2, 2020**

**SECRETARY ROBERT L. WILKIE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Tab</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 – 8:15 am</td>
<td>Daily Sync Meeting</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 – 8:30 am</td>
<td>ERT 425 I St, 4th Floor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 – 8:45 am</td>
<td>(b)(6)</td>
<td>VACO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 – 9:15 am</td>
<td>ERT VACO</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 – 9:45 am</td>
<td>Award Ceremony</td>
<td>OBCR</td>
<td>Tab 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:00 am</td>
<td>Bi-Weekly w/Under Secretaries ** Dr. Stone will attend for VHA ** Dr. Lawrence will attend for VBA ** Ron Walters will attend for NCA (USMA will be in PRB)</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>Phone Call w/ Taiwanese Representative, Bi-khim Hsaio ** Representative will call us</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
<td>Tab 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45am-12:15pm</td>
<td>Phone Call w/Eric Bovim, Avisa Partners ** Per ** SECVA calls (b)(6)</td>
<td>Tab 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>SECVA Suite</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 – 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Video Taping: Veterans Day</td>
<td>Broadcast Studio</td>
<td>Tab 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11/25/2020 9:21 AM
SECVA approved attached script.
I’m Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie.

On Veterans Day in 1988, Ronald Reagan said, "We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty. . . Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause."

Each Veterans Day is a remembrance set aside to honor those who have defended our country in peace and war. On November 11th, we pause to reflect on American Veterans, men and women who have served and sacrificed while
wearing the uniforms of the Nation—ordinary Americans performing extraordinary service.

In March of 1864, after almost 3 years of devastating fighting in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln reminded the nation of the sacrifices veterans make for us all: “All that a man hath will he give for his life ... the soldier puts his life at stake, and often yields it up in his country’s cause. The highest merit, then, is due the soldier.”

That demonstration of “highest merit” has now spanned 244 years, founded upon a singular, enduring principle—Liberty and Justice for All. Every American is a beneficiary of veterans’ vigilance and valor, and their contributions to our way of life are incalculable.

At the Department of Veterans Affairs, every day is Veterans Day. We are privileged to work to
repay, in full, our country’s debt of gratitude to Veterans who were there when we needed them most. We represent our grateful nation in delivering to those Veterans the programs and services they earned. In doing so, we keep faith with the promise of President Lincoln, who promised in his iconic second inaugural address to “care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.”

On Veterans Day 2020, we remember and honor all “champions of a noble cause”—and pledge never to forget the sacrifices they made for us. On behalf of VA’s over 415,000 employees, I am proud to extend to America’s veterans our department’s heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your service in the formations of the United States Armed Forces.

Thank you and God Bless you all.
This is fine

Get Outlook for iOS

Sir — Just a reminder to review this. You mentioned you wanted to make minor changes. We need to schedule this asap the week after next week in the studio. Thank you.

Mr. Secretary,

Attached & below is a draft Veterans Day 2020 message & video script for your consideration. It’s under 400 words, about 3-4 minutes, & has been reviewed by

Regards,

Secretary Robert Wilkie
Veterans Day Message Video Script
Veterans Day 2020
I’m Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie.

On Veterans Day in 1988, Ronald Reagan said, "We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give, and we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice if it were demanded of them in the line of duty. . . Most of all, we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their nation as they became champions of a noble cause."

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most. We represent our grateful nation in delivering to those Veterans the programs and services they earned. In doing so, we keep faith with the promise of President Lincoln, who promised in his iconic second inaugural address to “care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.”

On Veterans Day 2020, we remember and honor all “champions of a noble cause”—and pledge never to forget the sacrifices they made for us.

On behalf of VA’s over 415,000 employees, I am proud to extend to America’s veterans our department’s heartfelt appreciation and thanks for your service in the formations of the United States Armed Forces.

Thank you and God Bless you all.
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 23 Oct 2020 20:40:13 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - WH Holiday Reception w/Mrs(b)(5)

| Christmas Reception #20 | Monday, December 14 from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM |
| Christmas Reception #23 | Thursday, December 17 from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM |
From: RLW
Sent: Fri, 23 Oct 2020 20:42:20 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Christmas Reception w[b](b)[6]

| Christmas Reception #25 | Friday, December 18 from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM |
Good morning ladies,

Please see the below/attached invitation for SECVA.

**Event:** COVID in 20  
**Date:** Please choose 1 of the dates below:  
- Thursday, December 3, 2020 (4:20pm – 5:00pm)  
- Tuesday, December 8, 2020 (4:20pm – 5:00pm)  
- Thursday, December 10, 2020 (4:20pm – 5:00pm)  
**Location:** Virtual (Adobe Connect)  
**Request:** One on one with host of event (Dr. Chad Kessler)

*With Appreciation,*

Office of the Under Secretary for Health  
Email: [email_address]

---

**VA Core Values:** Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence  
**VA Core Characteristics:** Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated  

*President Lincoln’s promise - “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan” - by serving and honoring the men and women who are America’s Veterans.*
Thanks so much

Please let us know if you need anything else

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 7:33 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: COVID in 20: SECVA Invite

Good morning Dr.

Since your team did such a great job including the VHA Leadership in your COVID in 20 series, Dr. Lieberman thought it would be a great idea to include the Secretary on one of your episodes as well.

That being said, I kindly ask you fill out the fill out the forms below and return to me upon completion. From there, I will forward the forms to the Secretary’s office and respond with his availability.

Please let me know if you have any questions along the way.

With Appreciation,

Office of the Under Secretary for Health
Office: (b)(6)
Mobile: (b)(6)
Email: (b)(6)

VA Core Values: Integrity Commitment Advocacy Respect Excellence
VA Core Characteristics: Trustworthy | Accessible | Quality | Innovative | Agile | Integrated

President Lincoln’s promise - “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan” - by serving and honoring the men and women who are America’s Veterans.
1. TO: 
- [x] SECRETARY  
- [ ] DEPUTY SECRETARY  
- [ ] CHIEF OF STAFF  

2. TYPE OF EVENT: 
- [ ] CEREMONY  
- [x] OTHER (Specify)  

COVID in 20 (C20) Training  

3. FROM:  

4. POINT OF CONTACT:  

5. PHONE NUMBER:  

6. DATE OF EVENT:  
- [ ] TBD  

7. TIME:  
- [ ] 4:30 pm ET  

8. CONFLICT:  
- [x] YES  
- [ ] NO  

9. NAME OF EVENT:  
- COVID in 20 (C20)  

10. VENUE LOCATION:  
- Webinar using Adobe Connect (video and audio)  

11. TYPE OF SPEECH:  
- [ ] Interview  

12. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (Please include event issues and VA position):  
The C20 program is looking to invite the Secretary to provide a leadership perspective on COVID-19 and provide additional insight to VA's collaboration with governmental agencies and bodies (ie CDC, HHS, congress) through the pandemic.  

13. MEDIA EXPECTED:  
- [x] YES  
- [ ] NO  

14. TYPE OF AUDIENCE:  
- [ ] Military, Veterans, Service Organization, VA employees, etc.  
- VA front-line employees and manager  

15. EXPECTED NUMBER OF ATTENDEES:  
- 500-1,000  

16. DRESS ATTIRE:  
- [x] BUSINESS CASUAL  
- [ ] CASUAL  

17. SPOUSE INVITED:  
- [x] YES  
- [ ] NO  

18. COORDINATION:  

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<td>[ ] VBA</td>
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<td>[ ] NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>[ ] VSO</td>
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<td>[ ] NO</td>
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19. COSVA:  

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<td>[ ] REFER TO (Specify below)</td>
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20. SECVA/DEPSECVA DECISION:  

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21. SCHEDULING:  

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<th>REGRET LETTER</th>
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<td>[ ] REFER TO (Specify below)</td>
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</table>

VA FORM 0908b  
MAR 2009
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Request/Invitation to Special Events and Ceremonies

Request/Invitation for: Secretary ☑ Deputy Secretary ☐
[Check the appropriate box(es)]
Under Secretary for Health ☐
If the requested official is unavailable, please indicate a primary and secondary official that may substitute:

For Internal Use Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Requestor:</th>
<th>Thru:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date requestor notified</td>
<td>Comments:</td>
<td>Accept ☐ Regret ☐ -- Defer ☐ to another VA representative or office:</td>
</tr>
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- **Name and purpose of the event (attach a copy of the agenda):**

COVID in 20 (C20) is a training program that brings strong clinical care and institutional knowledge of VA to front-line employees. The program is 20 minutes long and its format is a fireside chat-style interview between the guest and Dr. [redacted]. Through the 20 minutes, Dr. [redacted] takes the first few minutes to highlight accomplishments of Veterans or VA employees and spends the rest of the time asking the guest questions that have been agreed upon by both parties.

- **Expected role (e.g., keynote speaker; introduction of other participant(s); on-stage non-participant; site/staff visit pre- or post-event; honored guest):**

We expect the Secretary to be a guest participant of the program for a one-on-one conversation with Dr. [redacted]. We ask that the Secretary have open audio and video and will present the conversation using the Adobe Connect platform.

- **Date/Time of requested participation and the projected duration of participation: (Three options should be submitted.)**

Thursday, December 3, 2020 from 4:20 – 5:00 pm ET
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 from 4:20 – 5:00 pm ET
Thursday, December 10, 2020 from 4:20 – 5:00 pm ET

- **Location of the event:**

This program is virtual utilizing the Adobe Connect platform.

For Internal Use Only
• Approximate size and make-up of audience expected:

The audience of this program ranges from 600-1,000 VA employees. Most of the attendees are front-line staff of VHA.

• Dignitaries (e.g., Members of Congress; local elected officials; organization heads) invited/expected:

Not applicable

• Has VA Congressional Affairs been contacted? YES ☐ NO ☑

• Has VA Intergovernmental Affairs been contacted? YES ☐ NO ☑

• VA officials who will be present:

Not Applicable

• Are news media invited/expected? YES ☐ NO ☑

Have the appropriate VACO/Network/Facility public affairs officers been made aware? YES ☑ NO ☐

We are in constant communication with the appropriate communications teams to promote this event within VA and will notify them of the Secretary’s participation as soon as it is confirmed.

Has the nearest VA Regional Office of Public Affairs been notified? YES ☑ NO ☐

• Requesting official:

Dr. Chad Kessler

• Contact name/title/telephone number:

Director, Emergency Medicine, [redacted]@va.gov, [redacted]

• Additional information/comments (please attach background and supporting materials, as well as pertinent biographies):

Please use this link to watch previous episodes: here.
Note to Requesting Official: Attach a concurrence memorandum signed by your Network Director or Chief Officer. Forward this form and cover memorandum to your respective Deputy Under Secretary for Health.
**TO:**
- **SECRETARY**
- **DEPUTY SECRETARY**
- **CHIEF OF STAFF**

**TYPE**
- OFFICE CALL

**LOCATION**
- OFFICE CALL

**REQUESTED DATE(S)**
- 12/3, 12/8, or 12/10

**LENGTH**
- 30 minutes

**PRINCIPAL ATTENDEES**
- VHA Employees

**BRIEFING POINT OF CONTACT**
- Dr. (b)(6)

**PHONENUMBER**
- (b)(6)

**OTHER ATTENDEES**
- VHA leaders

**PURPOSE**
COVID in 20 (C20) is a training program that brings strong clinical care and institutional knowledge of VA to front-line employees.

**VA INTEREST**
The C20 program highlights the successful efforts of VA employees while creating a community of curiosity and learning through the COVID-19 pandemic. This training has acted as a way to disseminate COVID-19 breakthroughs and successes quickly to a broad audience and develops human capital across the Enterprise.

**EXPECTED OUTCOME**
The C20 program hopes that the Secretary is able to provide VHA frontline staff with a leadership perspective on COVID-19 and additional insight to VA’s collaboration with governmental agencies and bodies (ie CDC, HHS, congress) through the pandemic.

**OSVA STAFF COORDINATION**

**PREBRIEF REQUIRED**
- **YES**
- **NO**

**READ AHEAD DUE DATE**
Camera/mic check on the event date

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

**COMMENTS**

**ACTION**
- Approved
- Disapproved

**EXPLANATION**

**SCHEDULED FOR**

**DATE**

**TIME**
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:22:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Lunch
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:30:10 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Media prep/avail
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:30:55 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Bay County Vet Center
From: EOP/OVP
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:33:14 +0000
To: EOP/OVP; EOP/OVP; hhs.gov

Subject: White House Coronavirus Task Force Call

All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Call at 3:00pm on Tuesday, October 27th. Materials will be forthcoming.

Thank you,

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:47:21 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Tour/Coin Recog.
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:49:11 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Tour/Coin recog.
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:50:34 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Executive time
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:51:05 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Gate Transition/Boarding
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:55:15 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Marriott Columbia hotel
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:56:42 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Phone Interview w/IHEART Media
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 14:58:35 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at Columbia VA HCS [(b)(6)]
From:       RLW
Sent:       Mon, 26 Oct 2020 15:00:58 +0000
To:         RLW
Subject:    ERT/Arrive at SC State Governor's office
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 15:01:18 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Meeting w/Gov. McMaster
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 15:03:08 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at lunch
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 15:05:01 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: ERT/Arrive at residence
All—thank you for patience as we work to confirm details for tomorrow night’s event.

**The event will now take place on the State Floor of the White House. It will begin at 7:30 PM and will end around 11:00 PM.**

Cabinet and their plus ones will need to be tested and show a negative result prior to the event. Testing instructions are forthcoming.

As usual, we ask that Cabinet and their plus ones arrive via West Exec. Cabinet Affairs will handle WAVES for all plus ones, and will be on hand tomorrow night to greet and escort Cabinet and their plus ones over to the State Floor.

Thank you, and please feel free to reach out with additional questions.

Best,

Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House

---

All,

The President and First Lady would like to invite your Principal and a plus one to the Trump International Hotel on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Additional details are forthcoming.

Please let me know by COB TODAY if your Principal will attend, and who their plus one will be for this event.
Thank you,

Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House
M: (b)(6)
All – we have another opportunity for the Secretary next week with the Lawton Constitution. They’d like to talk with the Secretary on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. It would fit in one sense since he’s talking with a Lawton TV station later that day.

Is that window still available?

v/r
Mark

---

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 10:36 AM Jacobsen, Jessica B. @va.gov wrote:

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie would like to speak with you or another reporter at the Lawton Constitution about current VA hot topics such as our COVID preparedness, response and moving forward plans as
well as mental health services for veterans. I know the VA has an outpatient clinic and a Vet Center located in Lawton with a strong veteran population.

He has the following times available, would one work?

Tuesday, Nov 3 at 1:00-2:00pm EASTERN
Wednesday, Nov 4 at 10:00-11:00am and 2:00 – 3:00pm EASTERN
Thursday, Nov 5 at 10:00-11:00am and 2:00-3:00pm EASTERN
Friday, Nov 6 at 2:00 – 3:00pm EASTERN

Look forward to hearing from you!

 Regards,
Jessica Jacobsen

Jessica Jacobsen, APR
Director
Dallas Regional Office of Public Affairs *
Department of Veterans Affairs
Phone (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)

*Dallas Region includes: AR, AZ, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

of the Freedom of Information
Healthcare

VHA purchases care from all Indian Health Service operated health care facilities, from both urban Indian health programs located in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and many of the tribally operated health care facilities located across the state. Nationally, VA reimbursed a total of $121.8 million to Indian Health Service (IHS) and tribal health programs (THP) for “Direct Care Services” to Veterans.

- Oklahoma IHS and THP reimbursement year to date for FY20 (as of Aug 2020) is $4,143,053.
- 1,614 Unique Veterans serviced in Oklahoma for FY20.
- The Top 8 IHS and THP facilities receiving reimbursement for FY20:
  - Choctaw Nation Health Care Center @ $1,199,740
  - Health Centers & Hospitals of Cherokee Nation @ $719,822
  - Muscogee (Creek) Nation @ $710,079
  - Claremore Indian Hospital (IHS Facility) @ $312,290
  - Lawton Indian Hospital @ $200,640
  - Northeastern Tribal Health System (NTHS) @ $163,678
  - Chickasaw Nation Division of Health @ $160,364
  - Clinton Indian Health Center @ $149,638

Both the OKC VAHCS and Jack C. Montgomery (or Muskogee VAMC) leadership meet every 6 months with tribal leaders, the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, local IHS and THP leadership along with representatives from the Tulsa and OKC Urban Indian Health Clinics. Discussions are often focused on topics ranging from care coordination, sharing of resources and staff, improving customer service, IT interconnectivity and telehealth.

Tribal HUD-VASH

In 2017, Tribal HUD-VASH vouchers were made available to tribes working to secure for Native American Veterans struggling with homelessness. As of July FY20, 5 tribes in Oklahoma were Tribal HUD-VASH grantees including:
- Choctaw Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Osage Nation
- Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
Cemeteries

NCA funded two tribal cemeteries in Oklahoma:
  o 1 Tribal Veterans Cemetery with Ponca Nation
  o 1 Tribal Veterans Cemetery with Seminole Nation

Benefits

In 2018 and 2019 VBA partnered with tribal nations each year and the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations, with support from the State of Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs and Veteran Service Organizations to host presumptive conditions outreach events in tribal communities. Approximately 500 Veterans and widows were assisted at these events and more are in the works, some may be virtual, in the year ahead.

VA 4th Mission and Covid 19 pandemic

As part of the VA 4th Mission, VA has reached out to IHS and THP CEOs to have virtual discussions about how VA can assist given the continued rise in COVID numbers for the state.

Data and other relevant information

39 Tribal Nations are located in Oklahoma
  - 2017 American Community Survey shows 13,342 AI/AN Veterans in Oklahoma
    o 11,552 Am. Indian Males
    o 1,790 Am. Indian Females
    o Male: 124,574
    o Female: 15,933

Source: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/AIAN.pdf

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Eight Tribal Nations have their own Tribal Department of Veterans Services (many of which go by different office or program names) including Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Seminole Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Kaw Nation, Muscogee Creek Nation, Kiowa Tribe, and Cherokee Nation.
All – we have another opportunity for the Secretary next week with the Lawton Constitution. They’d like to talk with the Secretary on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. It would fit in one sense since he’s talking with a Lawton TV station later that day.

Is that window still available?

v/r

Jacobsen, Jessica B.  b)(6) @va.gov >

Monday, October 26, 2020 11:59 AM

FW: [EXTERNAL] Re: Interview with VA Secretary Robert Wilkie - Nov. 3-6?

4th media opp for OK next week - please advise if you wish me to lock in? Timeframe should work with original windows.

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 10:36 AM Jacobsen, Jessica B. b)(6) @va.gov > wrote:

Hi b)(6)

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie would like to speak with you or another reporter at the Lawton Constitution about current VA hot topics such as our COVID preparedness, response and moving forward plans as
well as mental health services for veterans. I know the VA has an outpatient clinic and a Vet Center located in Lawton with a strong veteran population. He has the following times available, would one work?

Tuesday, Nov 3 at 1:00-2:00pm EASTERN
Wednesday, Nov 4 at 10:00-11:00am and 2:00 – 3:00pm EASTERN
Thursday, Nov 5 at 10:00-11:00am and 2:00-3:00pm EASTERN
Friday, Nov 6 at 2:00 – 3:00pm EASTERN

Look forward to hearing from you!

Regards,
Jessica Jacobsen

Jessica Jacobsen, APR
Director
Dallas Regional Office of Public Affairs *
Department of Veterans Affairs
Phone: (b)(6)
Cell: (b)(6)

*Dallas Region includes: AR, AZ, LA, MS, NM, OK, TX
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Prepared by the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics
Source: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/AIAN.pdf

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of the Freedom of Information
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 16:18:29 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - Media
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 19:56:05 +0000
Subject: HOLD -
From: RLW  
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 19:56:05 +0000  
To: RLW  
Subject: HOLD (b)(6)
From: RLW
Sent: Mon, 26 Oct 2020 20:07:52 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD - (6)(6) call
He should call (b)(6) at (b)(6) Thank you!

Thank you.

Indeed, thank you! I will forward the number to call separately.

Could we schedule this call at 11:45AM on Monday?

Would you set up a call for next Monday—see below.

Get Outlook for iOS
Begin forwarded message:

From: Odhrinternational.com >
Date: October 26, 2020 at 2:31:41 PM EDT
To: ROBERT WILKIE @verizon.net >
Subject: Next Monday

It will be a call with 9:45am-12:30pm is the open window. Let me know what works.

Avisa Partners...

Managing Partner, Corporate Affairs Practice

DHR International
900 17th Street, NW | Washington, DC | 20006
T:+1(b)(6) — rdhrinternational.com

Click here to view my bio.
For more than 30 years DHR International has been a leading, privately held provider of executive search solutions with more than 50 wholly-owned offices spanning the globe. DHR's renowned consultants specialize in all industries and functions in order to provide unparalleled senior-level executive search, management assessment and succession planning services tailored to the unique qualities and specifications of our select client base. For more information on DHR International, visit www.dhrinternational.com.
Please find below the call information to attend the EHRM Executive Go-Live Brief for updates on Mann-Grandstaff Go-Live.

Thank you,
OEHRM Command Center

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting
+1 872-701-0185 United States, Chicago (Toll)
Conference ID:

Local numbers | Reset PIN | Learn more about Teams | Meeting options
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of the Freedom of Information
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Refer to Another Agency/Component
of the Freedom of Information
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 27 Oct 2020 13:40:26 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Caregivers Award Ceremony - To be rescheduled
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 27 Oct 2020 13:40:26 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: Caregivers Award Ceremony
From: RLW  
Sent: Tue, 27 Oct 2020 16:31:50 +0000  
To: RLW  
Subject: HOLD (b)(6) will update SecVA IPHONE
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 27 Oct 2020 16:31:50 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: HOLD [b/(6)] will update SecVA IPHONE
From: RLW
Sent: Tue, 27 Oct 2020 16:31:50 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: [b](6) will update SecVA IPHONE
All,

There will be a White House Coronavirus Task Force Call at 3:00pm on Tuesday, October 27th. Materials attached.
Reminder: the Watchfloor will start building the call by calling attendees to 10-15 minutes before the start time.

Thank you,

Operations Coordinator, White House Coronavirus Task Force
Office of the Vice President
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From: RLW
To: RLW
Subject: En Route to Arlington National Cemetery
En Route to Residence
From: RLW
Sent: Wed, 28 Oct 2020 20:02:59 +0000
To: RLW
Subject: VEO Taping of Town Hall Questions
Attachments: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach, Key Points SECVA Townhall QA 11.9.20.docx, VEO_VetXL_CommunityTownHall_flyer_v02.pdf
Yes, please. That would be great to connect with the studio.

Thanks

We should have questions by November 4th and yes we will provide written answers for the teleprompter if he wants to use that.

I see (b)(6) is on but do you want me to connect with (b)(6) and (b)(6) to plan for studio time and responses to the questions?

Happy to do so. Please advise.

Sincerely,

(b)(6) MHA
Veterans Experience Office (VACO)
Partnerships and Agreements
Department of Veterans Affairs

Email(b)(6)@va.gov

News! https://www.va.gov/vetresources/

White House VA Hotline 1-855-948-2311
Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1) or send text to 838255

Community Engagement Website and CVEB Contacts:
The new, customer-focused VA.gov makes it easy for Veterans to schedule an appointment, update contact info, file a claim, apply for healthcare and much more!

Disclaimer: The sharing of any non-VA information does not constitute an endorsement of products or services on behalf of VA
From: [b](6)@va.gov
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:59 PM
To: [b](6)@va.gov
Cc: [b](6)@va.gov; [b](6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

Let’s do 11:00am-12:00n on 11/17. When can we expect the questions? Will you all provide possible answers and talking points? Thank you!

From: [b](6)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:52 PM
To: [b](6)@va.gov
Cc: [b](6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

We could do 11:30am on the 17th.

From: [b](6)
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:51 PM
To: [b](6)@va.gov
Cc: [b](6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

How long do you expect this to last? We Are slammed on the 17th.

From: [b](6)
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 4:44 PM
To: [b](6)@va.gov
Cc: [b](6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

Hi

We could move that out and record him Nov 17th at 1pm or 2pm ET if he has availability. I can then circle with [b](6) and [b](6) to confirm use of studio and OPIA support.

We have adjusted the Facebook premiere date to air the video to November 30th at 1pm ET to accommodate all the Veterans day activities and Thanksgiving holiday time.
Sincerely,

MHA
Veterans Experience Office (VACO)
Partnerships and Agreements
Department of Veterans Affairs

Email:

News! https://www.va.gov/vetresources/

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From: [b](6)@va.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 3:53 PM
To: [b](6)@va.gov
Cc:[b](6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

[b](6) – What is your preferred date to do this?

From: [b](6)@va.gov
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 3:30 PM
To: [b](6)@va.gov
Cc: [b](6)@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

We hope to get any questions from Veterans ahead of time by Nov 2nd to review. Then we can use those to pre-record SECVA addressing the questions sometime the week of November 9th.

The video would air Nov 17th on Facebook Premiere.
Standing by.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]

Veterans Experience Office (VACO)
Partnerships and Agreements
Department of Veterans Affairs

Email: [Redacted]@va.gov

News! https://www.va.gov/vetresources/

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From: [Redacted]@va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:33 PM
To: [Redacted]@va.gov
Subject: RE: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

YES – Will do. Thank you!

From: [Redacted]@va.gov
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 1:32 PM
To: [Redacted]@va.gov
Subject: FW: Veteran Virtual Townhall in November with SecVA Q&A - repeating a successful outreach

Hi!

Let me know if you need anything on this initial request from Dr. [Redacted] 128522;

Hope you are well.

Sincerely,
Mr. Secretary,

We’d like to repeat the successful community townhall we had with you in FY’19 when you answered hundreds of questions from Veterans and reached 60K viewers.

The VEO Comms Team is working with the OPIA Team to be able to offer you a similar event this year. A pre-recorded, Virtual Veterans Community Townhall with VA Secretary Wilkie’ with questions from Veterans and their families that would air on November 17th from 2 – 3pm ET through Facebook Premiere.

In advance of the event, we will solicit up to 10-12 questions from Veterans on video through the Community Veterans Engagement Boards (CVEBS) and some of our VA partners. You will respond to the Veterans who sent the questions In a pre-recorded video.

The audience will be Veterans, families, caregivers, survivors, partners, VSOs, and the general public. The event will be marketed through our VetResources newsletter to 11.6M.
This event we will allow us to use Facebook Premiere and access tens of thousands of Veterans to answer their common questions.

Please let us know if this is of interest to you and I will work with James and his team to execute it for showing in November as part of our month long honoring of those who have served and those who love and support them.

V/r,

Get Outlook for iOS
SECVA Virtual Community Townhall Pre-Recording Nov 17th

Run of Show

- Dr. Lynda Davis is moderating and will introduce SECVA.
- SECVA will make his introductory remarks sent by (b)(6) using teleprompter.
- Dr. Davis will then begin by summarizing the first question and who sent it
- A recorded video of the person asking the question will play (on screen in studio)
- Then SECVA will answer the question unscripted (no teleprompter use).
- This will repeat until all questions answered
- Once all questions addressed, SECVA will do close out remarks sent by (b)(6) using teleprompter
- SECVA to pass back to Dr. Davis for her closing of event.

1. (b)(6) - Clarksville, Tennessee (Montgomery County Veterans Coalition) – two questions
   - What is being done to make the VA more user friendly and accessible?
   - What is the future for access to community care, is there a plan in place to incentivize providers to accept community care?

Key Points – first question

- Download the VA Welcome kit for step by step instructions to access VA benefits and services at VA.gov/welcome-kit
- 1-800-MyVA411 – is never the wrong number
- White House VA Hotline (1-855-948-2311) for any concerns, 24/7 – talk to a live agent
- Each week we e-mail resources and updates to nearly 12M Veterans and their families. Sign up at VA.gov/VetResources
- Increased telehealth services including tele-mental health; Using Remote Patient Monitoring and VA Video Connect, you can meet providers in virtual medical rooms using the camera on a smartphone, computer or tablet. You and your provider work together to schedule online video appointments. You can even invite family members and caretakers to join the sessions.
- Increased remote and rural access through Project ATLAS providing telehealth stations at locations such as VFW posts or Walmart
- Efforts like the Red Coats Ambassador help Veterans get to their appointments and find where they need to go

Key Points – second question

- The Mission Act of 2018 enabled Veterans to have better access and choice in health care at VA or with a community provider
- VA will continue to encourage service providers to become community providers to support Veterans
- Electronic Health Records System connects with community care providers
- Community providers are a vital part of VA’s high-performing health care network, ensuring eligible Veterans and their beneficiaries get the timely, high-quality health care they need.
If you are a community provider interested in providing care to Veterans, please consider joining the new VA Community Care Network and join our VHA Provider Advisor newsletter.

VA has a variety of resources available for community providers to equip you with the knowledge needed to successfully provide care to Veterans that includes MISSION Act provider training to ensure a full understanding of how to care for Veterans. Learn more at VA.gov/CommunityCare.

2. Air Force Veteran, former SGT. Commander DAV Chapter #90, Franklin, MA

- Is there a plan in place today for a better handling of a veteran's health care needs when traveling or on short term leave to a temporary residence?
- He also says that Veterans should be able to get VA health care at any facility across the US just by showing their Veteran ID card.

Key Points

- When you sign up for VA health care, you become part of the country's largest integrated health care system—with more than 1,200 care locations serving nearly 9 million Veterans each year. Learn more about where you'll get care.
- Let us know in advance so we can plan for your care at a VA location near where you'll be staying. Please give us at least 4 to 6 weeks' notice if you can.
- Please provide your temporary address, phone number, arrival/departure and care concerns. We can also mail prescription refills to you at your temporary address. Just be sure to allow about 2 weeks for the refills to arrive.
- Before you travel - Call your local VA facility and ask for your VA Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) or the Traveling Veteran Coordinator.
- If you're planning to travel outside the U.S., you'll need to sign up for our Foreign Medical Program.

3. Veteran Caregiver and Director Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network

- With the expansion of the program for comprehensive assistance for Veteran caregivers and Mission Act, who is eligible right now and what is the timeline for it to be open to caregivers of all eras?

Key Points:

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for caregivers of eligible Veterans who are seriously injured.
- These changes are described in VA’s Final Rule – Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018.
- These changes include: Expanding eligibility for the PCAFC; Establishing new benefits like legal and financial assistance for designated Primary Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans; and Making other changes affecting program eligibility and VA’s evaluation of PCAFC applications.
- Who will potentially qualify: Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury (now includes serious illness) in the line of duty in the active military,
naval, or air service on or after September 11, 2001, or on or before May 7, 1975.

- If you and your Family Caregiver(s) were approved and designated by VA as eligible for PCAFC before October 1, 2020, you are considered a “Legacy Participant.”
- VA will schedule a reassessment appointment between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 to reassess your continued eligibility and care needs.
- No matter when your reassessment occurs within that year, you maintain your automatic eligibility for one year – through September 30, 2021.

   - What role would the VA play in a post COVID-19 illness that is contracted on duty?

   **Key Points**
   
   - VA and DoD are working closely together along with HHS and CDC to support our Service men and women with the COVID-19 illness and any secondary implications.
   - VA has implemented an aggressive public health response to protect and care for Veterans, their families, health care providers, and staff in the face of this emerging health risk. We are working directly with the CDC and other federal partners to monitor the outbreak of the virus.
   - On March 27, VA shared its COVID-19 response plan. We updated the plan in August.
   - VA is taking aggressive steps to prevent COVID-19 transmission.
   - These measures include outreach to Veterans and staff, clinical screening at VA health care facilities, and protective procedures for patients admitted to community living centers and spinal cord injury units.
   - Check for updates and additional information at VA.gov/Coronavirus

5. Goldstar Mom, Surviving Spouse
   - What is VA doing to ease transition from active duty to Veteran status after numerous deployments in war to ensure every Veteran is getting the support they need to prevent a death by suicide?

   **Key Points**
   
   - The issue of suicide in the U.S. also affects the Veteran population. That’s why we are working with an extensive network of community partners across the country to prevent suicide among all Veterans including those who may never come to VA for care.
   - Each VA medical center has a Suicide Prevention Coordinator to connect you with the counseling and services needed.
   - In many states we’ve executed efforts alongside governors and mayors to develop local and state action plans to help reduce Veteran suicide.
   - The White House, alongside VA, created The President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) that focused on a holistic public health approach to suicide prevention. PREVENTS seeks to change the culture surrounding mental health and suicide prevention through
enhanced community integration, prioritized research activities, and implementation strategies that emphasize improved overall health and well-being.

- The goal of PREVENTS is to prevent suicide — among not just Veterans but all Americans. By adopting a holistic public health approach, PREVENTS is acting on the knowledge that suicide prevention is everyone’s business, and that by working together, locally and nationally, we can prevent suicide.
- PREVENTS is building on the critical successes of suicide prevention pioneers and agencies working with service members and Veterans. The PREVENTS task force is partnering with stakeholders from multiple sectors, including nonprofits, state and local organizations, Fortune 500 companies, and government leaders, to implement best practices to improve health and prevent suicide.
- During transition, the VA executes the Transition Assistance Program. About 200,000 service members transition to civilian life each year. TAP provides information, resources, and tools to service members and their loved ones to help prepare for the move from military to civilian life that includes mental health and suicide prevention resources. Service members begin TAP one year prior to separation, or two years prior to retiring.
- In December 2019, VA implemented the Solid Start program to provide consistent, caring contact between service members and VA to guide them through understanding and using the benefits and resources available to them.
- Representatives at the VA Solid Start program call newly separated Veterans three times during their first year of separation. A specially trained VA Representative will reach out to these Veterans around 90-, 180- and 365-days post-separation. The phone conversations are tailored to the Veteran’s needs, directing them toward appropriate resources, services and benefits. After each call, Veterans receive a follow up email with the information and resources specific to their needs.

6. [b](6) Veteran Family Member (Spouse)

- What services are offered to Military and Veteran spouses in helping find employment and transferring professional licenses across state lines?
- What programs are offered to military and Veteran spouses in furthering education and for professional development?

Key Points

- Programs like Chapter 35, Survivors and Dependents Education Program (DEA) can help pay for training and skills certification.
- Military service members are eligible to designate some of their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to a spouse or military dependent. The Post 9/11 GI Bill® education program provides a monthly housing stipend for military service members, veterans, and spouses while pursuing a university or other college degree program.
- The Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marine Corps provide some job training assistance for our military spouses. Federal government agency employers established military employment preference codes, transition assistance employment training, internship programs, or paid civil-service positions for military family members.
- Spouse Employment Job Training Services Include:

- [b](6)
- Resume writing
- Resume marketing skills
- Interview techniques
- Job networking
- Online job assistance services
- Skills assessment evaluation
- How to market transferable skills
- Transition assistance
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Addressing important questions from Veteran communities.

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Moderated by Dr. Lynda Davis, VA’s Chief Veterans Experience Officer

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