Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date:

From: Under Secretary for Health (10)

Subj: National Academic Affiliations Council VHA Action Plan Response (VAIQ #7765958)

To: Acting Secretary (00)

1. The National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC) Federal Advisory Committee held its meeting on September 13, 2016 via teleconference. The Council provided a variety of recommendations to advise you on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates.

2. Attached are the Council’s recommendations, as well as VA’s responses to those recommendations, pending your approval.

3. Should you have any questions, please contact the NAAC Designated Federal Official, Mr. Stephen K. Trynosky, Staff Assistant in the Office of Academic Affiliations, at (202) 461-6723 or by email at steve.trynosky@va.gov.

David J. Shulkin, MD

Attachment

Concur/Non-Concur

Robert Snyder
January 3, 2017

The Honorable Robert Snyder
Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Acting Secretary Snyder:

It is with great pleasure that I submit the minutes from the National Academic Affiliations Council’s (NAAC) meeting held via teleconference on September 13, 2016.

The Council commends VA’s dedication to bolstering external relationships with the academic community. As evidenced by its September 2016 meeting, the Council continued to explore the many benefits of seamless integration between VA and its academic partners to enhance Veterans’ access to health care.

The Council also had the pleasure of receiving updates on the Graduate Medical Education expansion initiative authorized by the Choice Act and VA’s truly groundbreaking efforts in nursing education.

Finally, I would draw your attention to the concern expressed by the Council regarding the need for legislative authority allowing VA to engage in joint planning for, and common execution of, joint ventures with the academic community.

In order to further strengthen VA’s national leadership in health professions education, the Council makes the recommendations contained in the attached minutes.

We look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Cox, MD (Chair)
VA National Academic Affiliations Council

Enclosure

CC: David J. Shulkin, MD
Improve access in GME shortage areas.

October 7, 2016. Of these, 727 positions were in primary care and 404 were in mental health. VA has a continuing commitment to meet the needs of the veteran population.

The results for Phase III of this high priority initiative: 173 FTE positions were authorized by the Under Secretary of Health on October 7, 2016. Of these, 727 positions were in primary care and 404 were in mental health. VA has a continuing commitment to meet the needs of the veteran population.

Program into the Future.

Veterans, including veterans in rural areas, and recommended full funding of Phase III as well as continuing support of the program. The VA has previously emphasized the importance of this program for expanding access to care for veterans, access to care for veterans, and improving access to care for veterans.

A source: VA Source: National Academy of Medicine (NAM). The Council notes that the implementation of Phase III of VA's is pending final approval of funding by the VA cycle.

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When necessary, the Council will submit a proposal to acquire the authority for sole source leasing in the next legislative cycle.

Response: The Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of seamless integration between VA and its academic partners to enhance veterans' access to health care. Strategic partnerships and joint ventures are vehicles for achieving this goal.

Recommendation: The Council has repeatedly stressed the importance of seamless integration between VA and its academic partners to enhance veterans' access to health care. Strategic partnerships and joint ventures are vehicles for achieving this goal.

September 13, 2016 Recommendations
Response to the National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Actions to Implement: None

This meeting is scheduled for November 29-30 in Boston, MA.

VA Response: Concern.

Recommendation 4: The Council notes the increasing size, scope, and evolution of VA's nursing education programs, and has also received consideration by academic nursing bodies for the development of residency programs in primary care and mental health. In some cases, VA has taken the national lead in the development of new accreditation standards. Given the increasing diversity of VA's health professions education portfolio, the NAAH recommends expanding the program to other students with interests in joining the health professions.

Recommendation 5: The Council recognizes that early accreditation of health professionals is a critical element of clinical workforce development. With this in mind, the NAAH recommends that, once the pre-medical shadowing program is established, VA consider expanding the program to other students with interests in joining the health professions.