

2019 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2019

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs

3b. GSA Committee No.

33

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

05/24/2018

6. Expected Renewal Date

05/24/2020

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 543

13. Effective Date

10/09/1992

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

4

16b. Report Date

Report Title

10/18/2018	Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs
10/30/2018	Annual Comprehensive Review Advisory Committee Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs FY18
11/05/2018	Annual Operations Plan Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs
11/13/2018	Annual Assessment of Committee Activities CY 2018 Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 4

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 2 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 3 Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

The Committee provides advice to the Secretary on prosthetics and special disabilities programs which are defined as any program administered by the Secretary to serve Veterans with spinal cord injury, blindness or visual impairment, loss of or loss of use of extremities, deafness or hearing impairment, or other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions. The Committee received briefings from key program officials pertaining to issues / recommendations previously addressed in past meetings. 10/17/2018 - 10/18/2018

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on VA's prosthetics programs designed to provide state-of-the-art prosthetics and the associated rehabilitation research, development, and evaluation of such technology. The Committee also provides advice to the Secretary on special-disabilities programs, which are defined as any program administered by the Secretary to serve Veterans with spinal cord injuries, blindness or visual impairments, loss of extremities or loss of function, deafness or hearing impairment, and other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions. 04/29/2019 - 04/30/2019

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on VA's prosthetics programs designed to provide state-of-the-art prosthetics and the associated rehabilitation research, development, and evaluation of such technology. The Committee also provides advice to the Secretary on special-disabilities programs, which are defined as any program administered by the Secretary to serve Veterans with spinal cord injuries, blindness or visual impairments, loss of extremities or loss of function, deafness or hearing impairment, and other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions. 04/29/2019 - 04/30/2019

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$18,562.04	\$20,000.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$105,017.67	\$106,067.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$61,882.57	\$65,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$4,978.00	\$5,500.00
18d. Total	\$190,440.28	\$196,567.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.30	0.30

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Federal Advisory Committee for Prosthetics and Special Disabilities Programs met objectives for VA Priorities in FY 2019. The Committee provided advice to the Secretary on prosthetics and special disabilities programs which are defined as any program administered by the Secretary to serve Veterans with spinal cord injury, blindness or visual impairment, loss of or loss of use of extremities, deafness or hearing impairment, or other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions. The interaction of the Committee with various VA programs for the severely disabled Veteran population and their recommendations to these programs supported VA initiatives to improve the quantity and quality of services provided to these Veterans while meeting the Department's Strategic Goals, to include: • Goal 1 - Veterans choose VA for easy access, greater choices, and clear information to make informed decisions: In FY2019, Veterans' access to rehabilitation and prosthetic services increased to include expanding Chiropractic Care across VHA by adding 17 additional new chiropractic clinics in compliance with Public

Law 115-141. VA promoted High Performing Community Partnerships by developing and utilizing a multi-factorial assessment tool to objectively evaluate geographic distribution of adaptive sports grants (ASG) and ensure programming is available nationwide, particularly for funding underserved areas of sport, rural geographical regions, and areas with high Veteran population density. This effectively facilitated a more objective review process and successful awarding of 126 grants to 124 grantees in FY2019, totaling \$14.8M – the greatest number of grants and largest amount ever awarded by VA for ASG.

- Goal 2 – Veterans receive timely and integrated care and support that emphasizes their well-being and independence throughout their life journey: VA developed and implemented a multi-pronged action plan to implement Section 161 of the MISSION Act to strengthen the VA Caregiver Support Program and expand the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, with the inclusion of Veterans who were seriously injured before 9/11/2001. Over 7 strategies were operationalized across VA in collaboration with multiple staff offices to standardize this program, expand across the enterprise and adapt to the changing patient population. This included: developing and obtaining leadership approval of a comprehensive national staffing plan; convening a first ever subcommittee of experts on Veteran Clinical Eligibility Assessments to recommend an assessment tool for evaluating Veteran functional needs; publishing 14 SOPs; developing performance metrics; and developing communication messaging for the Department regarding this expansion.
- Goal 3 – Veterans trust VA to be consistently accountable and transparent: In developing the new Electronic Health Record (EHR) that will ensure integrity of Veteran's medical records and integration with their military health records, all required workflows for Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Service acute therapies have been developed and submitted for the new EHR. All rehabilitation specialties developed and validated evaluation and treatment documentation forms in support of initial operating capability. All workgroups within the Rehabilitation and Acute Clinical Ancillaries Council identified risks for their respective disciplines which have been resolved. Other workgroups in this council are in process of developing proposed solutions to mitigate identified risks; e.g., monitoring prosthetic limbs orders without a Cerner solution. A Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) application was identified as an enterprise solution to ensure successful transition to the new EHR efficiently integrate audiology records from VA and DoD.
- Goal 4 – VA will modernize systems and focus resources more efficiently to be competitive and to provide World Class capabilities to Veterans and its employees: VA continued transforming business systems, establishing new contracts for Biologic Implants to leverage VA buying power and ease burden on VA clinical staff for providing prescribing and procuring these items. Effectively deployed process improvements to virtually monitor, evaluate and assist sites with managing timeliness for fulfilling requests for prosthetic items, reducing pending requests for prosthetic items by 77% from the baseline from FY2018. Successfully implementing

FLOW3 to enable real-time tracking, procurement, and provision of prosthetic limbs and improved timely services to Veterans.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee is comprised of not more than 12 members made up of experts from the rehabilitation, research, management administration and audiological fields including Veteran consumers. The majority of the Committee's diverse membership will be designated as Special Government Employees with a variety of backgrounds and knowledge sufficient to provide adequate advice and guidance to the Secretary. VA will strive to develop a Committee membership that represents members with diverse professional and personal qualifications: experience in military service, military deployments, working with Veterans, subject matter expertise, and working in large and complex organizations. The Committee shall represent, to the extent possible, Veterans or diverse eras and branches of service, as well as diversity in race/ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, and geographical background.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee meets twice a year. Title 38 U.S.C. Section 543 requires the Secretary to regularly consult with and seek the advice of the Committee. The Committee receives update briefings from key program officials on issues and recommendations addressed in past meetings. However, the Committee met twice this year.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Committee conducts a comprehensive review of prosthetics and special disabilities programs administered by the Department. All Committee recommendations and responses support the Department's strategic goals. The Committee's work is appreciated and provides great value to the Department. Its work is vital to improving the quality of care for Veterans with spinal cord injuries, blindness or visual impairment, loss of or loss of use of extremities, deafness or hearing impairment or other serious incapacities.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public. Sessions are open to the public except when the Committee is conducting tours of VA facilities, and participating in off-site events. Tours of VA facilities are closed to protect Veterans' privacy and personal information, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Sec. 552b(c)(6).

21. Remarks

No comments.

Designated Federal Officer

Judy D'Amico Schafer Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Avina, Alberto	03/30/2013	09/30/2019	Executive Director, Blinded Veterans of America	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bogart, Joseph	03/01/2019	09/30/2022	Executive Director of Blind Veteran's Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Boggs, Joseph	03/30/2013	09/23/2020	Director, Research Neurodevice Innovation Medical, LLC, Chapel Hill, NC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cernich, Alison	03/01/2019	09/30/2022	Director, National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Diehl, Arthur	09/01/2019	09/30/2022	retired Brigadier General; Managing Director, Diehl & Associates	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gonzalez-Fernandez, Marlis	03/01/2019	09/30/2022	Associate Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Johns Hopkins University Hospital	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gorman, David	03/01/2019	09/30/2022	Board of Directors for Camp Corral; Past Executive Director of Disabled American Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grill, Warren	03/30/2013	09/30/2020	Professor, Biomedical Engineering, Duke University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Marshall, Lynne	03/30/2013	09/30/2020	Sr. Research Scientist, Naval Submarine Medical Laboratory, Groton, CT	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Niemeier, Janet	10/01/2016	09/30/2019	Professor, Senior Director of Research for Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Quillen, William	10/01/2016	09/30/2019	Director of the School of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sioss, Donald	03/30/2013	09/30/2019	Former National Commander, Disabled American Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Wiley, LisaMarie	10/01/2016	09/30/2019	Human Intelligence Colltor and Non- Commissioned Officer	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Williams-Gary, Kelli	03/30/2013	09/30/2020	Asst. Prof., Dept. of Occupational Therapy, Virginia Commonwealth University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Yochelson, Michael	07/30/2014	09/30/2020	Vice-President, Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer MedStar National Rehab. Network	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 15

Narrative Description

The Committee represents the interests of Veterans with spinal cord injury, blindness or visual impairment, loss of or loss of use of extremities, deafness or hearing impairment, or other serious incapacities in terms of daily life functions.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000

\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000

Over \$10,000,000

Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

Unable to determine cost savings associated with this Committee.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

182

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2019.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

80%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Some recommendations requires long term planning in order to implement. Committee receives updates regarding implementation of each recommendation.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

20%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Some recommendations requires long term planning in order to implement. Committee receives updates regarding implementation of each recommendation.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Department provides a written response to each recommendation.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- Reorganized Priorities
- Reallocated resources
- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

N/A