

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Veterans' Advisory Committee on  
Rehabilitation

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

48

### 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

01/18/2022

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

01/18/2024

### 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?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 3121

### 13. Effective Date

10/01/1980

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open

0

### 17b. Closed

0

### 17c. Partially Closed

0

### Other Activities

0

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next  
FY FY

<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (VACOR) is in alignment with the Strategic Goals of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), whereby VACOR or the "Committee" assesses the rehabilitation needs of Veterans with disabilities and reviews the programs and activities within VA that are designed to meet those needs. During the April 2023 meeting, the Committee was advised on outreach and collaboration efforts to connect transitioning Service members with rehabilitation services, which is aligned with goal #1, as Veterans choose VA for easy access, greater choices and clear information to make informed decisions. The Committee also focused on increasing suicide

awareness and access to the VA crisis line, which is in alignment with goal #2 to ensure Veterans receive timely and integrated care and support that emphasizes their well-being and independence throughout their life journey. Overall, the Committee meetings were in alignment with goal #3 that VA will build and maintain trust with Stakeholders through proven stewardship, transparency and accountability. An annual report is prepared each calendar year offering recommendations to the Secretary concerning the administration of Veterans' rehabilitation programs under Title 38, United States Code. The Secretary takes such reports under advisement and includes them in his annual report to Congress.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Committee is comprised of members with diverse professional and personal backgrounds and experiences: military service, rehabilitation subject matter experts and working in the private and public sectors for individuals including Veterans. The Committee also represents diversity in race/ethnicity such as qualified protected class (e.g., African American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American), gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation and geographical backgrounds. A reasonable effort has been made to appoint candidates who work in the areas of rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, employment and training. The Committee also includes female Veterans and Veterans with disabilities. The diversity of the Committee is highly valued. The Committee's diverse demographics are representative of the target population they serve as they identify the needs of a diverse Veteran population.

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

The Committee meets a minimum of two times per year. The meetings provide briefings on VA and community rehabilitation related programs and innovative services for Veterans with disabilities. The Committee members are provided with relevant and detailed information on trends in rehabilitation, current disability issues and VA rehabilitation programs.

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

VA has no other method of obtaining this level of expertise on rehabilitation issues. The Committee is able to cross divisional boundaries and examine how Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration operate in providing rehabilitation services. The Committee can point out duplication of services, communication issues, and suggest improvements in service delivery between various VA components without bias or motivation for professional gain. Additionally, the Committee is comprised of individuals with diverse, extensive, and nationally recognized knowledge of rehabilitation that allows them to bring to the Secretary's attention general trends and state-of-the art practices in the rehabilitation field. This type of expertise is particularly useful in recommending solutions to some of VA's challenges in meeting the rehabilitation needs of Veterans with disabilities.

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

The Committee meetings are open to the public. However, partially closed committee meetings have been conducted when topics discussed

could disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Therefore, closing the meeting would be in compliance with 5 U.S.C. 552b (c) (6).

## 21. Remarks

As the management program office, Veteran Readiness and Employment Service recommends that the Committee continue its mission to ensure that the needs of Veterans with disabilities are addressed in the VA's policies, benefits and services. The Committee's recommendations are instrumental in helping VA maintain awareness of the needs encountered by Veterans with disabilities.

## Designated Federal Officer

Latrese Thompson Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Breitenstein, Jacquelyn	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Manager for a Military program	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Davis, Jessica	02/06/2023		Department of Education	Ex Officio Member
Dillahunt-Aspillaga, Christina	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Professor of Rehabilitation and Research	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Drain, Tiffany	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Manager for a U.S. Air Force program	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hamilton, Robert	04/03/2023	03/31/2026	Property Tax	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hill, Kristi	08/01/2021		Director of National Institute on Disability	Ex Officio Member

Hilliard, Lorenza	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	U.S. Army Veteran	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member Regular Government
Martin, Jennifer	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Audiologist	Employee (RGE) Member Special Government
McRavion, James	04/03/2023	03/31/2026	College Professor	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Milam, Ronald	10/01/2019	08/31/2025	College Professor	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Newberry, Luis	04/03/2023	03/31/2026	College Counselor	Employee (SGE) Member Special Government
Ottomanelli, Lisa	08/01/2021		Clinical Psychologist	Ex Officio Member
Pamperin, Nick	01/03/2022		VA VRE Executive Director	Ex Officio Member
Peterson, Michelle	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Clinical Specialist	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Pogoda, Terri	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Research Health Scientist	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member Special Government
Rhone, Lawrence	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Veteran Peer Advocate	Employee (SGE) Member Regular Government
Santos, Franco	08/01/2021	05/31/2024	Psychologist	Employee (RGE) Member
Savage, John	06/01/2023	12/29/2023	Department of Labor	Ex Officio Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 18**

### **Narrative Description**

The Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation has the charge to assess the rehabilitation needs of Veterans with disabilities and to address those needs holistically. This Committee continues to support the mission of the agency to serve the needs of Veterans and their families. The first VA strategic goal states that the VA shall restore the capability of Veterans with disabilities to the greatest extent possible and improve the quality of their lives and that of their families. The work of the Committee is to improve the administration of services to Veterans with disabilities.

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

Checked if  
Applies

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Trust in government                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Effective grant making                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

### **Outcome Comments**

NA

### **What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

Over \$10,000,000  
Cost Savings Other

☐  
☐

### **Cost Savings Comments**

NA

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

46

### **Number of Recommendations Comments**

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2023.

**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**

NA

**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**

NA

**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 submits a formal response to each Committee recommendation, and Department officials brief the Committee on actions taken to implement recommendations. Published Annual Reports can be found online:

[https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Veterans\\_Advisory\\_Committee\\_on\\_Rehabilitation\\_Statutory.asp](https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Veterans_Advisory_Committee_on_Rehabilitation_Statutory.asp)



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

Checked if Applies

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other                             | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**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               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Access Comments**

The Committee's webpage can be accessed at:

[https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Veterans\\_Advisory\\_Committee\\_on\\_Rehabilitation\\_Statutory.asp](https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Veterans_Advisory_Committee_on_Rehabilitation_Statutory.asp)