

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Women
Veterans

3b. GSA Committee

No.

1332

4. Is this New During

Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current

Charter

10/04/2023

6. Expected

Renewal Date

10/04/2025

7. Expected

Term Date

**8a. Was Terminated During
FiscalYear?**

No

**8b. Specific
Termination
Authority**

38 U.S.C. 542

**8c. Actual
Term Date**

9. Agency

**Recommendation for Next
FiscalYear**

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. 542

**13. Effective
Date**

11/23/1983

**14. Committee
Type**

Continuing

**14c.
Presidential?**

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory
Board

16a. Total

**Number of
Reports**

No Reports for
this FiscalYear

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next

FY

FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Through regular meetings, the Committee is briefed by VA Administrations and Staff Offices about their initiatives, especially those targeting women Veterans (e.g. potential increased risk of death by suicide, adverse outcomes related to opiate usage), and engages in open discussion with VA leadership and subject matter experts. The Committee also conducts annual site visits, to gain an understanding of how VA policy is

implemented in the field. The meetings, and site visit--which includes a town hall meeting for stakeholders--are used as tools to monitor changes from both the Department's and consumers' perspectives. The Committee uses the information gathered from meetings to construct a Congressionally-mandated, annual report to the Secretary of VA. This report includes the recommendations constructed by the Committee and supporting rationales that explain how the recommendation would mitigate an identified problem. VA then provides responses to the recommendations which are added to the Committee's report and submitted to designated leaders in the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees. The Committee submitted its last annual report in FY 24. The activities enabled the Committee to advise the Secretary on VA's priorities and strategic goals across the Administrations (VHA, VBA, NCA) and staff offices.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee is comprised of a diverse group of Veterans--women and men--representing several branches of the armed services, enlisted and officer ranks, various eras of service (e.g., Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn), various professional areas, and the women Veterans' community. All candidate nominations are reviewed for their military and civilian experience, Veterans status, Veterans advocacy involvement, and ability to contribute to the gender-specific health care and benefits needs of women Veterans. Consideration is also given the following to ensure balance: the ethnic and geographic diversity of the Veterans population,

sexual orientation/gender expression representation, longevity of military service, significant deployment experience and ability to handle complex issues. Membership of the Committee is reviewed and appointments are made based on an individual's potential contributions to the women Veterans community and the representational needs of the Committee. Candidates meeting demographic needs of the committee are recommended for appointment as Special Government Employees. Current membership includes representation by Veterans from the Air Force, Navy, Army and the National Guard. Members represent a variety of military career fields and possess extensive military experience, to include service during the Vietnam era and service in theater for the Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

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

The Committee is expected to meet at least twice per year--usually a regular meeting at VA Central Office in Washington, DC and a site visit in the field (to include visits to a VA medical center that has a women's clinic and an active special emphasis program designed for women Veterans, a regional office and a cemetery). The meeting held in Washington, DC, is designed to brief Committee members on Department initiatives; to engage in transparent dialogue with key officials on issues currently concerning the women Veterans' community and to receive updates on policy and initiatives; and to provide a mechanism to formulate and finalize Committee recommendations. Site visits usually include visits to VA medical centers, regional offices, Vet Centers, outpatient clinics, and national

cemeteries. In FY 2024, the Committee conducted three meetings. On December 12-13, 2023, the Committee held an open virtual regular meeting with VA Central Office Staff (VACO). During this meeting, they received updates on National Cemetery Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) initiatives, the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program, Office of Women's Health initiatives, updates on the Women Veterans Call Center, Veteran homelessness, assault and harassment prevention, Office of Transition and Economic Development initiatives, and held an open comment period. The Committee conducted an open virtual regular meeting on April 2-4, 2024. The agenda included updates from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and VBA regarding 2018, 2020 and 2022 report recommendations, an overview of the National Comprehensive Plan on Intimate Partner Violence, a briefing on PACT Act benefits and women Veterans' claims, full committee discussion on the status of 2018, 2020, 2022 report recommendations, and an open comment period. On June 5-6, 2024, the Committee held an open hybrid meeting with VA Central Office Staff in Washington, DC. The Committee conducted a full committee review discussion on 2018, 2020, 2022 report recommendations, full committee discussion on 2024 report recommendations, and an open comment period. Committee members maintain a strong liaison within the women Veterans' community, State Departments of Veterans Affairs, national Veterans service organizations and other special interest groups concerned about Veterans issues. Members actively participate in meetings and forums that address women concerns. Additionally, members usually observe town hall meetings with women Veterans who are

consumers of VA services and other advocates interested in women Veterans' issues. The Committee's meetings add tremendous value to VA, as well as other stakeholders interested in women Veterans' issues. The briefings provide an opportunity for VA to enhance stakeholders' and Committee members' understanding about its programs, policies and initiatives. This enhanced knowledge enables the Committee to insightfully consider how VA's programs and policies specifically impact women Veterans. Veterans service organizations, interested members of the public and VA staff from various administrations attend the meeting for the educational value and to assess potential opportunities for future collaborations that would enhance outreach to women Veterans.

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

This Committee is the only Committee within the Department that is comprised of individuals with the personal and historical understanding of the issues confronting women Veterans and the barriers they encounter in accessing services and benefits from VA. It is a consumer-oriented Committee that is well-versed in women Veterans issues while, at the same time, is capable of developing recommendations that incorporate both the needs of the consumer and the needs of the Department.

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

Committee meetings are open to the public. However, Committee activities, such as tours in a medical environment where there could be patients interaction, were closed to the public to respect patient privacy. The site visit usually

includes several closed sessions, to protect patient privacy during tours of medical facilities, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6).

21. Remarks

The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans (Committee) is Congressionally mandated to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) on issues related to the Department's administration of benefits and services for women Veterans, with respect to health care, rehabilitation, compensation, and outreach. Kathryn Smith was appointed effective August 2023 and was erroneously omitted from the FY 2023 ACR.

Designated Federal Officer

Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd Director, Center for Women Veterans

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Aliga, Nestor	03/22/2023	09/30/2025	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bido, Jacquleen Bido	03/20/2023	12/05/2024	Independent Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dietrich, Alex	07/10/2025	06/30/2027	Associate Vice President, Syracuse University; Professor, Colorado University Boulder	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dunbar, Sharon	03/20/2023	09/30/2025	Senior executive in private industry	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Haskell, Sally	06/15/2023	07/15/2025	Acting Chief Consultant for Women's Health	Ex Officio Member

Haynie, Jeanette	08/30/2022	12/01/2024	Senior Advisor to the USD for Personnel and Readiness	Ex Officio Member
Hough, Shannon	07/10/2025	06/30/2027	President; Shield of Sisters	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mayo, Yolanda	07/10/2025	06/30/2027	Deputy Operations Officer, Marine Corps Community Services	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Mazyck, Centra	03/20/2023	09/30/2025	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Messenger, Kristina	10/01/2022	02/25/2025	Deputy Executive Director of Operations, Compensation Service	Ex Officio Member
Meyer-Worthen, Rebecca	07/10/2025	06/30/2027	Educator	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Miller, Sandra	03/11/2020	09/30/2025	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Neri, Nicole	11/15/2022	09/30/2029	DOL Regional Administrator, Women's Bureau	Ex Officio Member
Parker, Lachrishia	03/11/2020	09/30/2025	CEO of a consulting company	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rogers, Wendy	07/10/2025	06/30/2027	Arizona State Senator	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Smith, Kathryn	08/30/2023	09/30/2025	Veterans Advocate	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Wonnum, Sundonia	07/15/2025	09/30/2029	Chief Consultant, Office of Women's Health	Ex Officio Member
Wright, Wanda	12/19/2017	09/30/2025	Director of Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement Program Management Officer;	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zmetra, Allison	07/16/2025	09/30/2029	Outreach, Transition and Economic Development, VBA	Ex Officio Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 19

Narrative Description

The Committee advises the Secretary on issues related to the administration of VA benefits and services for women Veterans. It conducts at least two meetings at VA Central Office (VACO), where they receive briefings from senior VA officials, and subject matter experts in the Administrations and Staff Offices regarding initiatives for women Veterans, and openly discuss their concerns with VA representatives. Additionally, the Committee conducts an annual site visit to local VA facilities, which includes a town hall meeting with women Veterans who are consumers of VA services, and other stakeholders. In this way, the Committee monitors changes from both the Department and consumer perspectives. The Committee prepares a Congressionally-mandated annual report, which includes recommendations and rationales that address issues impacting the women Veterans population. A comprehensive report is then provided to Congress, which encompasses the Committee's recommendations and rationales and VA's responses to the recommendations.

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

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

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

187

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2024.

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

64%

% 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?

22%

% 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

Agency feedback is provided by written responses to Committee recommendations and requests for information, through briefings and updates to the Committee and by information directly disseminated to the members throughout the year. Published annual reports and minutes can be found online:

https://www.va.gov/advisory/advisory_committee_on_women_veterans_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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

https://www.va.gov/advisory/advisory_committee_on_women_veterans_statutory.asp