

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Special Medical Advisory Group

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Veterans Affairs		2024	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Special Medical Advisory Group		1351	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	07/07/2023	07/07/2025	
8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?		8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear		10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue		Not Applicable	Not Applicable
11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
38 U.S.C. 7312	01/01/1945	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
17a. Open	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
0	0	0	0
17d. Total			
0			
Meetings and Dates			
No Meetings			
		Current FY	Next 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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee primarily advises and provides consultation to the Secretary (SECVA) and Under Secretary (USH) on various matters relating to the statutory mission of care and treatment of disabled Veterans and other matters pertinent to the Veterans Health Administration such as research, education and training, and VA's role in support of DoD and DHS contingency planning. The Committee considers emerging health care trends to make recommendations to VA as VA embarks on improving systems, rebuilding trust of Veterans and the American People, and continuing to be a learning organization. The Committee reviews extensive documents prior to the meetings and comes prepared to have an in-depth discussion and provide real-time feedback to the presenters and USH/SECVA. This year, SMAG reviewed

matters related to VA's strategic Goal 1: Veterans choose VA for easy access, greater choices and clear information to make informed decisions, Goal 2: Veterans receive timely and integrated care and support that emphasizes their well-being and independence throughout their life journey, Goal 3: Veterans trust VA to be consistently accountable and transparent, and 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.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee has several statutory members, to include representatives from the medical, optometric, podiatric, allied health professions and a disabled Veteran, as well as other individuals considered by the USH. The additional members bring expertise in the areas of mental health, clinical quality, measurement and metrics, academic partnerships, research and leaders of large private sector healthcare organizations. Members offer the perspective of their professional disciplines, professional affiliations, unique ethnicities corresponding to established Veteran population constituencies, and the geographic areas from which they come. To better ensure the diversity of the health professions and clinical expertise, we increased membership capacity to 22. We always try to welcome members of various race, gender and ethnic backgrounds.

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

The Committee historically meets twice a year in-person with virtual meetings if needed. This year, the spring and fall meetings, April 20, 2023

and September 13-14, 2023, were held in person with the option for attendees to attend virtually due to outside requirements. The committee members provide guidance and advice to the Under Secretary for Health and the Secretary on current matters of importance to VA and to the health care of our Veterans. The Committee members are senior and distinguished individuals in the field who are leaders within their professions. Therefore, their advice is carefully considered by the Under Secretary and Secretary.

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

The members of the SMAG are highly regarded experts in their field with experience leading large healthcare organizations. The majority are non-government employees, therefore, their experience in the private sector is pivotal as the VA is expanding services in the community and modernizing to conform to best practices in the private sector.

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

The Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) portion of meetings have been closed during FY23 due to the sensitive nature of enterprise EHRM discussions as authorized under the exemptions of the Government in the Sunshine Act (5 U.S.C. Sec. 552(b)(c)).

21. Remarks

The committee provided verbal feedback during several topic discussions to VA leaders at the spring and fall meetings. Dr. M. Christopher Saslo was added as a new Committee Member and Dr. Lewis G. Sandy was a 1st reappointment. Both approved in FY23.

Designated Federal Officer

Brian Schoenhofer Acting Director, VHA Resource

Board

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Akman, Jeffrey	02/01/2020	09/30/2026	Interim Chair, Dept. of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, George Washington University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Crosson, Francis	09/01/2020	09/30/2026	Chairman of the Congressional Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fulmer, Terry	02/01/2020	02/28/2026	President, The John A. Hartford Foundation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Garrison, Bijibaa'	09/14/2022	09/30/2025	General Surgeon, Northern Navajo Medical Center and Member of Navajo Nation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gonzales, Junius	09/14/2022	09/30/2025	Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Montclair State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Haywood, Trent	02/01/2022	02/28/2025	Chief Medical Officer, Zing Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kellermann, Arthur	09/01/2019	08/30/2025	Professor and Senior Vice President, VCU Health Sciences Chief Executive Officer, VCU Health System	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Matthews, Kameron	03/01/2021	02/28/2025	Chief Health Officer for CityBlock Health	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Meyer, Gregg	09/01/2017	02/28/2025	President, Community Division and Executive Vice President of Value-Based Care at Mass General Brigham	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mittelman, Michael	09/01/2019	08/30/2025	President and Professor of Public Health, Salus University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Nuntavong, Chanin	09/01/2019	08/30/2025	Executive Director of Government Affairs for The American Legion National Headquarters	Representative Member
Prescott, John	09/01/2019	08/30/2025	Previously: Chief Academic Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reyes, Carolina	09/14/2022	09/30/2025	Associate Clinical Professor, Maternal Fetal Medicine, UC Davis	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sandefur, Phillip	02/01/2020	02/28/2026	Associate Director of Dental Laboratory Operations, VHA Office of Dentistry Central Dental Laboratory	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Sandy, Lewis	07/21/2018	03/31/2027	Executive Vice President, Clinical Advancement, United Health Group	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Saslo, M.	09/28/2023	07/31/2026	Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services/Chief Nursing Officer	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Taubman, Ross	09/01/2020	09/30/2026	President and Chief Medical Officer, Podiatry Insurance Company of America	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Wakefield, Mary	02/01/2022	02/28/2025	Visiting Professor at Georgetown University and the University of Texas	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wilkie, Misty	09/14/2022	09/30/2025	Clinical Assoc. Professor, University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Member of Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa/Metis	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Winn, Robert	02/01/2022	02/28/2025	Director, Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Commonwealth University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 20

Narrative Description

The Committee provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on matters relating to the care and treatment of Veterans and other matters pertinent to the operations of the Veterans Health Administration (e.g., research, education and training, resources, information technology, quality and safety of care, costs, and VA/DoD contingency planning).

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

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" 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

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input 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

N/A

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

64

Number of Recommendations Comments

The recommendations are from 1945 through FY 2023. The Veterans Health Administration reviews the recommendations and rationale and implements as appropriate.

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

92%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

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

8%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Approximately 5 recommendations from the 2018 report are in progress with plans in place to reach completion ahead of the 2025 timeline. SMAG DFO/ADFO continues to work with respective enterprise action plan leads to determine recommendation(s) closure statuses associated with major VISN/VAMC(s) restructuring programs & resources.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Formal correspondence occurs to, from and through the SMAG chair, SMAG members, VHA and VA Secretary and back. The public can attain more information on agency feedback by visiting

https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/Special_Medical_Advisory_Group_Statutory.asp. In addition, the general public may e-mail questions to the SMAG Designated Federal Officer at VASMAGDFO@va.gov.

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

N/A

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

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

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

N/A