

2006 Current Fiscal Year Report: Construction Advisory Board

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2006

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Construction Advisory Board

3b. GSA Committee No.

25101

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

04/28/2005

6. Expected Renewal Date

Date

7. Expected Term Date

Date

12/31/2005

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

Date

12/31/2005

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Pending?

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Secretary decision

13. Effective Date

04/28/2005

14. Committee Type

Ad hoc

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

11/30/2005

Report Title

Final Report to the Secretary

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 1 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Present the Board's recommendations

Start

11/15/2005

End

- 11/15/2005

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$30,500.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$2,500.00	\$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.)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00

18d. Total	\$39,000.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.10	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Secretary established the Board in April 2005 to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in improving the management of its facility construction process, by assessing the Department's current procedures on design approval, procurement and administration of construction contracts, quality assurance, construction project management, and disposition of excess VA facilities. The Chair of the Board divided up the areas of interest among three teams. The first team was charged with looking at organization and structure, a second was charged with evaluating programming of projects, design approval and planning, and the third team was assigned to investigate project execution, contract management and quality.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership of the Board ensures that all affected disciplines are represented. Those disciplines and areas of professional expertise include procurement policy, architecture, construction management, design and function of major medical facilities, engineering, and contract dispute resolution.

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

The Committee held two meetings.

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

The Secretary determined that the Board was both in the public interest and essential to the conduct of VA business. Most of the Board's work focused on the construction and management of VA medical facilities which are essential to VA's mission of delivering health care to our nation's veterans. By implementing improved processes based upon the Board's recommendations, VA will be better equipped to deliver higher quality health care more efficiently in facilities that are tailored to the special needs of the patient population. The duties and functions of the Board cannot be duplicated within VA. The Board was composed of experts within the commercial construction and development industries, will provide a body of expertise and qualifications that VA does not now have. During its deliberations, the Board applied private sector best practices to VA's current processes and procedures.

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

The Board discussed personnel issues in closed session to honor the privacy of any

individual VA employees being affected by the Board's work.

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Doug Belling Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bethell, Donna	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Attorney; President of Radiance Services (technology firm)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carton, Allen	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Plexus; retired career in Army Corps of Eng.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Duscha, Lloyd	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Consultant; retired career in Army Corps of Eng.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Fort, Arthur	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Retired Read Admiral; Navy Civil Engineering; Asst Secy State	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Heiberg III, Elvin	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	U.S. Army, Retired; 35 yrs Army Corp of Eng.; Engineering Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Keen, Edward	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Retired Project Manager and Executive; Bechtel	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Romani, Timothy	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	President and CEO; Romani Group (facility development)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schlossberg, George	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Kutak Rock; former Sr. Atty. at Pentagon	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shaw, John	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Opus Denver operation (commercial development)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Skaggs., Ronald	06/02/2005	12/31/2005	Chair HKS; healthcare projects	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

Narrative Description

The Construction Advisory Board supports the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs by ensuring that the construction program is well staffed, well positioned in the organization, and well managed by its executives. In order to better deliver world class health care, benefits, and memorial services, VA must improve its processes for investment and maintenance of infrastructure across the nation. The recommendations from the Construction Advisory Board to the Secretary will provide guidance on immediate and long term construction program needs.

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

Placing the construction program under a centrally managed office that has responsibility for VA's capital assets.

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

Since the recommendations involve the entire scope of the construction and facilities management program in the future, a cost estimate for savings is not possible at this time.

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

16

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Board provided their final report November 2005 with a total of 16 recommendations.

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

56%

% 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?

38%

% 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

NA

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 checked="" 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

None.

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



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

N/A