

## 2004 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Commission on VA Nursing

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2004

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Commission on VA Nursing

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

13810

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

03/24/2004

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

Date

08/23/2004

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

Public Law 107-135

### 8c. Actual Term Date

08/23/2004

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Yes

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Enacted

### 11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Public Law 107-135

### 13. Effective Date

03/25/2002

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

1

### 16b. Report Date

03/18/2004

### Report Title

Caring for America's Veterans: Attracting and Retaining a Quality VHA Nursing Workforce

### Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

### Meetings and Dates

#### Purpose

The Commission discussed the chapters for its final report and received briefings by each team on proposed final draft recommendations. The Commission discussed and selected draft recommendations for its final report.

#### Start

#### End

12/04/2003 - 12/05/2003

The Commission completed its consideration of recommendations to be submitted to Congress and the Secretary. This was the last formal meeting of the Commission.

02/10/2004 - 02/11/2004

### Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

### 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

\$143,277.00 \$0.00

### 18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants

\$10,000.00 \$0.00

### Current FY Next FY

<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$11,419.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$9,984.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$8,796.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$1,204.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$184,680.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	3.00	0.00

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

The Commission was established in 2002, through Public Law 107-135, and charged to provide advice and recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding legislative and organizational policy changes to enhance the recruitment and retention of nurses and other nursing personnel in the Department. The Commission focused on identifying strategies and tactics to assure the readiness and capacity of VA to meet the current and future nursing needs of American's veterans. In putting forth its recommendations, the Commission reviewed the findings from multiple sources and sought to develop visionary changes to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA)that, if implemented, will serve to assure that nurses will be available in adequate numbers with the requisite skills for caring for the nation's veterans through the foreseeable future. Further, the Commission believes that if VHA were to implement these recommendations, it will serve as a model for nursing throughout the nation. Through deliberate processes of review, analysis and synthesis, the Commission developed its recommendations in the areas of leadership, professional development, work environment, respect and recognition, fair compensation, technology, and research/innovation. The Comission submitted to the Secretary and Congress its findings and recommendations in its final report on March 18, 2004, including 18 recommendations.

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

The Commission included 12 members appointed by the Secretary from knowledgeable VA and non-VA experts. Two were representatives of employees (including nurses) of the VA, one a representative of professional associations of nurses of the Department or similar organizations affiliated with the Department of VA health care practitioners, one a nurse from a nursing school affiliated with the VA, two were representatives of veterans and one economist. The remainder were appointed as the Secretary considered appropriate. Geographic, ethnic, gender and advocacy representations were attributes highly valued within the Commission and to the group's topic deliberations.

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

The Commission had two meetings this year. The meetings were designed to generate

relevant input from various sources to allow the Commission to meet its mandate in a timely fashion.

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

The Commission was established pursuant to Public Law 107-135 and terminated 90 days after the date of submission of its final report.

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

Meetings were open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

**Designated Federal Officer**

Oyweda Moorer DFO

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Adair, Ann	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Veterans representative	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bolton,, Linda	03/25/2003	08/23/2004	Vice President, Cedars-Sinai Health System and Research Institute	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Converso,, Ann	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Registered Nurse, VA Western New York Healthcare System	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cox,, Jeffery	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Registered Nurse, Salisbury, NC, VA Medical Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dandridge,, John	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Director, VA Mid South Healthcare Network (VISN 9), Nashville, TN	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gorman, David	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Executive Director, Disabled American Veterans, Washington Headquarters	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hansell,, Phyllis	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Dean and Professor, Seton Hall University, College of Nursing	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kingston,, Eileen	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Nurse Executive, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Raymer,, Mary	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Registered Nurse, Healthcare Staff Development and Retention Office, VA Central Office	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sochalski, Julie	07/14/2003	08/23/2004	University of Pennsylvania, School of Nursing	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Spetz,, Joanne	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Associate Director, Center for California Health Workforce Studies, UCSF	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wakefield,, Mary	03/25/2002	08/23/2004	Director, Center for Rural Health, U. of N. Dakota, Institute of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 12**

**Narrative Description**

The Commission provided advice to Congress and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding legislative and organizational policy changes to enhance the recruitment and

retention of nurses and other nursing personnel issues in the Department.

**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**

Recruitment and retention of nurses.

**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**

NA

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

18

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

NA

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

94%

**% 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?**

0%

**% 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 type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

Established a multidisciplinary task force to develop plans for implementation of recommendations.

**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**

NA