

2004 Current Fiscal Year Report: Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Veterans Affairs		2004	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission		15123	
4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	12/22/2003		02/29/2004
8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority		8c. Actual Term Date
Yes	Secretary decision		02/29/2004
9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?		10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	No		
11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority			
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Secretary decision	12/16/2002	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board			
16a. Total Number of Reports 1			
16b. Report Date	Report Title		
02/12/2004	CARES Commission Report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs		
Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1			
17a. Open	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	17d. Total
4	0	0	4

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Stakeholder perspectives on the Draft National CARES Plan.	10/07/2003	10/07/2003
Commission discussions of Draft National CARES Plan.	10/14/2003	10/16/2003
Continue discussions of Draft National CARES Plan and deliberations about Commission report recommendations.	11/19/2003	11/21/2003
Review of and discussions on draft Commission report.	12/18/2003	12/18/2003

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 4

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$292,000.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$157,000.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$34,000.00	\$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.)	\$410,000.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$913,000.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	2.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Commission was designed to objectively examine veterans health care needs over the next

20 years. The Commission focused on the accessibility and cost-effectiveness of care to be provided, while ensuring that the integrity of VA's health care system and related missions is maintained and any adverse impact on VA staff or affected communities is minimized. The Commission submitted its recommendations to the Secretary by a Report on February 12, 2004.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The CARES Commission consisted of 16 Commissioners, who have a demonstrated awareness or understanding of the views of VA's diverse stakeholders – including veterans service organizations, Congress, medical school affiliates, local government entities and affected community groups. The Secretary considered ethnic, sexual and geographic diversity when appointing Commissioners.

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

The Commission held regular monthly meetings and conducted 38 hearings and 81 site visits nationwide to obtain information from the agency and interested parties, to review the Draft National CARES Plan and to deliberate and discuss recommendations for its report to the Secretary.

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

The Secretary determined that an independent commission should be created to conduct an external assessment of VA's capital asset needs and, during the assessment process, to ensure that VA stakeholders' concerns are appropriately addressed. As the Commission deliberated, it focused on VA providing quality health care,

taking access and cost-effectiveness into account while ensuring that the integrity of VA's health care system and related missions is maintained and any adverse impact on VA staff or affected communities is minimized.

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

The meetings were open to the public.

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Officer

Richard E. Larson DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Alvarez, Everett	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former Deputy Administrator, Veterans Administration; President, Conwal Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Battaglia, Charles	12/23/2002	12/31/2003	Former Senate Veterans Affairs Staff Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Binard, Joseph	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former VA Physicial (Spinal Cord Injury) and Associate Professor in Surgery and Family Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Boland, Raymond	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	President, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Wisconsin	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Colley, Ralph	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former National Commander of Disabled American Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ferguson, Vernice	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former VA Nurse Executive	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Kendall, John	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Professor of Medicine, Dean Emeritus, Division of Endocrinology, Oregon Health and Sciences University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McCormick, Richard	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Private practice/Cleveland Mental Health Associates, Ohio; Former VHA Mental Health Care Line (VISN 10)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McCurdy, Layton	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Dean Emeritus and Professor of Psychiatry, Medical Univ. of So. Carolina	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Pell, Richard	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former VA Chief of Staff and VA Medical Center Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Ray, Robert	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former State Commander, The American Legion; AMVETS life member; Retired, Senior Manufacturing Engineer, Ford Motor Co.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Vandenberg, Patricia	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Eastern US Area Coordinator of the Sisters of the Holy Cross; former Director of the Health Care MBA program, Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio; former Pres. and CEO for Holy Cross Health System, S.Bend, Ind.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Vogel, Raymond	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Webb, Jo Ann	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Director of Federal Relations & Policy for the American Org. of Nurse Executives; former VA Asst. Sec. for Policy and Planning and Director of the National Cemetery System, DVA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wyrick, Michael	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former Deputy Surgeon General United States Air Force	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Zamberlan, Al	12/23/2002	02/29/2004	Former Veterans Health Administration Regional Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 16

Narrative Description

The Commission reviewed VA's Draft National CARES Plan (DNCP) to realign VA's capital assets to assist in the delivery of health care. The review undertaken involved obtaining stakeholder views through site visits, hearings and meetings and through many outreach efforts, as well as reviewing data and analyses, and developing independent analyses. The Commission's report to the Secretary accepted, refined and made alternative recommendations to the DNCP proposals.

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
Other

☐
☐

Outcome Comments

By obtaining local input at its site visits and hearings, the Commission better informed local populations of the work being developed. The report provides recommendations to the Secretary which, inter alia, set forth policy changes to improve health care services and safety. The Secretary will make final decisions regarding implementation.

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

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Cost Savings Comments

Until recommendations are implemented, cost savings are unknown.

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

250

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Commission issued a 613-page report covering numerous policy and other national issues as well as multiple recommendations for all but one of VA's Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

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

Virtually all of the recommendations will be fully or partially implemented. However, it may be 2-10 years before implementation is complete.

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

See comments above.

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 checked="" 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

Implementation has not occurred therefore this is not known.

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

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Online Agency Web Site

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Online Committee Web Site

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Online GSA FACA Web Site

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Publications

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Other

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Access Comments

NA