

Dated: January 15, 2009.

**Gordon H. Mansfield,**

*Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. E9-1508 Filed 1-22-09; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans will be held on February 19-20, 2009, in room 730, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the policies, organizational structures, and services of the Department in assisting homeless veterans. The Committee shall assemble and review information relating to the needs of homeless veterans and provide advice on the most appropriate means of offering assistance to homeless veterans. The Committee will make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

The agenda will include briefings from VA and other officials regarding services for homeless veterans. The Committee will also begin final preparation of its upcoming annual report and recommendations to the Secretary.

Those wishing to attend the meeting should contact Mr. Pete Dougherty, Department of Veterans Affairs, at (202) 461-7401. No time will be allocated for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, the Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues affecting homeless veterans. Such comments should be referred to the Committee at the following address: Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, Homeless Veterans Programs Office (075D), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: January 8, 2009.

By direction of the Secretary:

**E. Philip Riggan,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. E9-1373 Filed 1-22-09; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Health Services Research and Development Service Merit Review Board; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Health Services Research and Development Service Merit Review Board will be held March 2-4, 2009, at the Crowne Plaza San Diego, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA. Various subcommittees of the Board will meet. Each subcommittee meeting of the Merit Review Board will be open to the public the first day for approximately one half-hour from 8 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The remaining portion of the meetings will be closed. The closed portion of each meeting will involve discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of the research proposals and critiques.

The purpose of the Board is to review research and development applications involving the measurement and evaluation of health care services, the testing of new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are submitted to the Chief Research and Development Officer.

On March 2, the subcommittee on Nursing Research Initiative will convene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On March 3-4, five subcommittees on Health Services Research A through E will convene from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

After the subcommittees meet, there will be a debriefing provided to members of the Health Services Research & Development Scientific Merit Review Board. The purposes of the debriefing are to discuss the outcomes of the review sessions and to ensure the integrity and consistency of the review process.

During the closed portion of each meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would likely compromise significantly the implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of

each meeting is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who plan to attend the open session should contact Ms. Rita Lysik, Scientific Merit Review Program Manager (124R), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, at least five days before the meeting. For further information, please call (202) 461-1521.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Dated: January 16, 2009.

**E. Philip Riggan,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. E9-1511 Filed 1-22-09; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the annual meeting of the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) will be held May 20-22, 2009, at the Marriott Westchase, 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, Texas. The meeting is open to the public, and the sessions are scheduled as follows:

May 20—2 p.m. until 4 p.m.

May 21—8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

May 22—8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The Committee, comprised of sixty-three national voluntary organizations, advises the Secretary, through the Under Secretary for Health, on the coordination and promotion of volunteer activities within VA health care facilities. The primary purposes of this meeting are: To provide for Committee review of volunteer policies and procedures; to accommodate full and open communications between organization representatives and the Voluntary Service Office and field staff; to provide educational opportunities geared towards improving volunteer programs with special emphasis on methods to recruit, retain, motivate and recognize volunteers; and to approve Committee recommendations.

The May 20 session will involve opening ceremonies and remarks by several VA and local officials. The May 21 session will feature the Voluntary Service Report and recognition of the recipients of the VAWS Award for Excellence and NAC Volunteers of the Year. In addition, the James H. Parke Memorial Scholarship Luncheon will be held to honor an outstanding youth

volunteer. Educational workshops will be held in the afternoon.

On May 22, the business session will include subcommittee reports. This session will be followed by a repeat of the educational workshops and closing remarks from the Chairman.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. However, interested

persons may either attend or file statements with the Committee. Written statements may be filed either before the meeting or within 10 days after the meeting and addressed to: Ms. Laura B. Balun, Director, Voluntary Service Office (10C2), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Individuals

interested in attending are encouraged to contact Ms. Balun at (202) 461-7300.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Dated: January 16, 2009.

**E. Philip Riggins,**

*Committee Management Officer.*

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