

different locations and combinations of facilities serving as a community-based outpatient clinic (CBOC), a multi-specialty outpatient clinic (MSOC), and a residential rehabilitation treatment program (RRTP) facility; expanding, renovating, or vacating existing facilities; and taking no action. The new preferred Alternative, referred to as A-2 in the Final EIS, is a hybrid of Alternatives A and C evaluated in the Draft EIS. It was identified by consulting parties during the public comment period on the Draft EIS and includes renovating Building 12 on the existing Hot Springs campus to operate as a CBOC a new MSOC (replacing the existing leased CBOC), and a 100-bed RRTP in Rapid City.

VA is substituting the implementation and review procedures of Section 102 of NEPA for consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA. This process meets the integration intent of the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500.2(c) and 1502.25(a)) and the substitution intent of the NHPA regulations (36 CFR 800.8(c)). This process follows the joint CEQ-ACHP guidance for integrating NEPA and Section 106 compliance (CEQ-ACHP 2013). The EIS includes identification and evaluation of impacts to historic properties. Formal consultation and identification and resolution of effects to historic properties are documented throughout the Final EIS.

In the Final EIS, VA has analyzed the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action/Preferred Alternative, a reasonable range of alternatives, and a No Action Alternative.

The Final EIS considers comments on the Draft EIS, including those submitted during the public comment period that officially began on November 6, 2015, and ended on June 20, 2016, following three comment period extensions. The extensions were provided in response to requests from the public and other stakeholders, including consulting parties participating in the NEPA/NHPA substitution and consultation process.

As indicated above, VA's purpose and need is to improve the availability of high quality, safe and accessible health care services for Veterans residing in the VA BHHCS service area.

While developing the Final EIS, VA considered the alternatives analyzed in

the Draft EIS, the comparisons of impacts for each resource area, and input received on the Draft EIS, including the identification of a new hybrid alternative A-2. Based on the information presented in the Final EIS, VA has identified Alternative A-2—operation of a CBOC in a renovated Building 12 on the existing Hot Springs campus and a new MSOC and RRTP in Rapid City—as its preferred alternative in the Final EIS.

#### Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gina S. Farrissee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on November 4, 2016, for publication.

Dated: November 4, 2016.

**Jeffrey Martin,**

*Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2016-27207 Filed 11-9-16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 that the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will meet on December 6–8, 2016, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Conference Room 230, Washington, DC. On December 6th and 7th, the sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. On December 8th, the session will reconvene at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public.

The purposes of the Committee are to: Advise the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority Veterans; assess the needs of minority Veterans; and evaluate whether VA compensation,

medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities.

On December 6, the Committee will receive briefings and updates from the Center for Minority Veterans, National Cemetery Administration, National Center for Veterans Analysis, Office of Tribal Government Relations, MyVA Initiatives, and Veterans Benefits Administration. On December 7, the Committee will receive briefings and updates on the Office of Health Equity, Center for Women Veterans, Veterans Health Administration, Board of Veterans Appeals, Community Veterans Engagement Boards, Office of Rural Health, and Women's Health Services. On December 8, the Committee will receive a briefing and update on Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Ex-Officios Update and hold an exit briefing with VBA, VHA and NCA. The Committee will receive public comments from 10:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. After the Leadership Exit Briefing, the Committee will continue to work on their report.

A sign-in sheet for those who want to give comments will be available at the meeting. Individuals who speak are invited to submit a 1–2 page summaries of their comments at the time of the meeting for inclusion in the official meeting record. Members of the public may also submit written statements for the Committee's review to Ms. Juanita Mullen, Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Minority Veterans (00M), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or email at [Juanita.Mullen@va.gov](mailto:Juanita.Mullen@va.gov). Because the meeting will be in a Government building, anyone attending must be prepared to show a valid photo ID for checking in. Please allow 15 minutes before the meeting begins for this process. Any member of the public wishing to attend or seeking additional information should contact Ms. Mullen or Ms. Denise Wright at (202) 461-6191 or by fax at (202) 273-7092.

Dated: November 7, 2016.

**Jelessa M. Burney,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2016-27198 Filed 11-9-16; 8:45 am]

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