

investigation of representation petitions and the conduct or supervision of representation elections.

18. *Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB)*: To the MSPB in connection with appeals, special studies of the civil service and other merit systems, review of rules and regulations, investigation of alleged or possible prohibited personnel practices, and such other functions promulgated in 5 U.S.C. 1205 and 1206, or as authorized by law.

19. *Researchers, for Research*: To epidemiological and other research facilities approved by the Under Secretary for Health for research purposes determined to be necessary and proper, provided that the names and addresses of Veterans, their dependents and caregivers will not be disclosed unless those names and addresses are first provided to VA by the facilities making the request.

#### **POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR STORAGE OF RECORDS:**

The CARMA system of records is hosted in the Salesforce Gov Cloud (GovCloud). The production environment (including application data) is backed up weekly to VA's Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud.

#### **POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETRIEVAL OF RECORDS:**

Records in this system are retrieved by name, integration control number (ICN), correspondence tracking number, internal record number, facility number, or other assigned identifiers of the individuals on whom they are maintained.

#### **POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF RECORDS:**

Records in this system are retained and disposed of in accordance with the schedule approved by the Archivist of the United States, VHA RCS 10-1, Item Number 7900, Temporary; Destroy 75 years after enrollment.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND PHYSICAL, SAFEGUARDS:**

1. On an annual basis, employees are required to sign a computer access agreement acknowledging their understanding of confidentiality requirements. In addition, all employees receive annual privacy awareness and information security training.

2. Access to electronic records is deactivated when no longer required for official duties. Recurring monitors are in place to ensure compliance with nationally and locally established security measures.

3. Strict control measures are enforced to ensure that access to and disclosure from all records are limited to VA and

the contractor's employees whose official duties warrant access to those files.

4. Access to the records in CARMA is restricted and requires approval prior to access. Restricted access will be provided to enable workflow management to administer, monitor and track services delivered through VA's Caregiver Support Program including, but not limited to, documentation of calls to the Caregiver Support Line.

5. The records in CARMA are safeguarded by the AWS GovCloud infrastructure that has been authorized at the high-impact level under the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program. The secure site-to-site encrypted network connection is limited to access via the VA trusted internet connection.

#### **RECORD ACCESS PROCEDURE:**

Individuals seeking information on the existence and content of records in this system pertaining to them should contact the system manager in writing as indicated above or inquire in person at the nearest VA facility. A request for access to records must contain the requester's name, address, telephone number, signed by the requester, and describes the records sought in sufficient detail to enable VA personnel to locate them with a reasonable amount of effort.

#### **CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:**

Individuals seeking to contest or amend records in this system pertaining to them should contact the system manager in writing as indicated above or inquire in person at the nearest VA facility. A request to contest or amend records must state clearly and concisely what record is being contested, the reasons for contesting it, and the proposed amendment to the record.

#### **NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES:**

Generalized notice is provided by the publication of this notice. For specific notice, see Record Access Procedure, above.

#### **EXEMPTIONS PROMULGATED FOR THE SYSTEM:**

None.

#### **HISTORY:**

86 FR 18588 (April 9, 2021).

[FR Doc. 2024-01984 Filed 1-31-24; 8:45 am]

#### **BILLING CODE**

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **Scientific Merit Review Board, Health Services Research and Development Service; Federal Register Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. 10, that a meeting of the Health Services Research and Development Service Scientific (HSRD) Merit Review Board (hereinafter, "the Board") will be held on Monday, March 18, 2024, via WebEx from 12-1:30 p.m. EST. The meeting will be partially closed to the public, with an open portion from 12-12:15 p.m. EST. The closed portion, from 12:15-1:30 p.m. EST, will be used for discussion, examination of and reference to the research applications and scientific review. Discussions will involve reference to staff and consultant critiques of research proposals. Discussions will also cover the scientific merit of each proposal and the qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. As provided by Public Law 92-463 subsection 10(d), and amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the committee meeting is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

The objective of the Board is to provide for the fair and equitable selection of the most meritorious research projects for support by VA research funds and to offer advice for research program officials on program priorities and policies. The ultimate objective of the Board is to ensure that the VA HSRD program promotes functional independence and improves the quality of life for impaired and disabled Veterans.

Board members advise the Director of HSRD and the Chief Research and Development Officer on the scientific and technical merit, mission relevance and protection of human subjects of HSRD proposals. The Board does not consider grants, contracts or other forms of extramural research.

Members of the public may attend the open portion of the meeting via WebEx in listen-only mode, as the time-limited open agenda does not allow for public comment presentations. To attend the open portion of the meeting (12-12:15 p.m. EST), the public may join by

dialing the phone number (1-833-558-0712) and entering the meeting number/access code (2761 198 6545).

Written comments from members of the public must be sent to Tiffin Ross-Shepard, Designated Federal Officer, HSRD, Department of Veterans Affairs (14RDH), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or to [Tiffin.Ross-Shepard@va.gov](mailto:Tiffin.Ross-Shepard@va.gov) at least five days before the meeting. The public comments will be shared with the Board members. The public may not attend the closed portion of the meeting, as disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. As provided by Public Law 92-463 subsection 10(d), and amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the committee meeting is in accordance with title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Dated: January 29, 2024.

**LaTonya L. Small,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024-02006 Filed 1-31-24; 8:45 am]

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## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

### **Rehabilitation Research and Development Service Scientific Merit Review Board; Federal Register Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. ch. 10, that a meeting of the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service

(RR&D) Scientific Merit Review Board (hereinafter, "the Board") will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, via Webex from 1-1:30 p.m. EST. The meeting will be partially closed to the public, with an open portion from 1-1:10. The closed portion, from 1:10-1:30 p.m., will be used for discussion, examination of and reference to the research applications and scientific review. Discussions will involve reference to staff and consultant critiques of research proposals. Discussions will also cover the scientific merit of each proposal and the qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Additionally, premature disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. As provided by Public Law 92-463 subsection 10(d), and amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the committee meeting is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

The objective of the Board is to provide for the fair and equitable selection of the most meritorious research projects for support by VA research funds and to offer advice for research program officials on program priorities and policies. The ultimate objective of the Board is to ensure that the VA RR&D program promotes functional independence and improves the quality of life for impaired and disabled Veterans.

Board members will advise the Director of RR&D and the Chief Research and Development Officer on the scientific and technical merit,

mission relevance and protection of human and animal subjects of the proposals submitted to RR&D. The Board does not consider grants, contracts or other forms of extramural research.

Members of the public may attend the open portion of the meeting via WebEx, from 1-1:10 p.m., in listen-only mode, as the time-limited open agenda does not allow for public comment presentations. To attend the open portion of the meeting, the public may dial the Webex phone number (1-833-558-0712), then enter the meeting access code (2764 419 8398).

Written comments from members of the public should be mailed to Kristy Benton-Grover, Designated Federal Officer, RR&D, Department of Veterans Affairs (14RDR), 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, or to [Kristy.Benton-Grover@va.gov](mailto:Kristy.Benton-Grover@va.gov) at least five days before the meeting. The public comments will be shared with the Board members. The public may not attend the closed portion of the meeting as disclosure of research information could significantly obstruct implementation of proposed agency action regarding the research proposals. As provided by Public Law 92-463 subsection 10(d), and amended by Public Law 94-409, closing the committee meeting is in accordance with title 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Dated: January 29, 2024.

**LaTonya L. Small,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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