

| Dates                        | Times   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, November 5, 2024.   | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern standard time (EST). |
| Wednesday, November 6, 2024. | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST.                         |

The meeting sessions are open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the VA regarding the provision by VA of benefits and services to assist Veterans in the readjustment to civilian life. The Committee, comprised of 14 subject matter experts, advises the Secretary through the VA Readjustment Counseling Service. In carrying out this duty, the Committee shall take into account the needs of Veterans who served in combat theaters of operation.

On November 5, 2024, and November 6, 2024, the Committee will meet to assemble, review, and assess information relating to the needs of Veterans readjusting to civilian life and the effectiveness of VA services in assisting Veterans in that readjustment. They will also receive updated briefings on various VA programs to further their ability to discuss and explore potential recommendations to be included in the next annual report.

Time will be allotted for the public to provide comments starting at 4 p.m. EST and ending no later than 4:30 p.m. EST. The comment period may end sooner, if there are no comments presented or they are exhausted before the end time. Individuals interested in providing comments during the public comment period are allowed no more than three minutes for their statements. Additionally, the Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues outlined in the meeting agenda or other issues regarding the readjustment of Veterans. Parties should contact Mr. Joshua Mathis, via email at [Joshua.Mathis@va.gov](mailto:Joshua.Mathis@va.gov) or by mail at Department of Veterans Affairs, Readjustment Counseling Service (10RCS), 810 Vermont Avenue, Washington, DC 20420.

Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Mr. Mathis at the email address noted above.

Dated: October 2, 2024.

**Jelessa M. Burney,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024-23169 Filed 10-7-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Notice of a new matching program.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, VA is providing notice of a new matching program between VA and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) entitled “Disclosure of Information to Support the Veterans Affairs’ “Seek to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Initiative.”

**DATES:** Comments on this matching program must be received no later than November 7, 2024. If no public comment is received during the period allowed for comment or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the new agreement will become effective a minimum of 30 days after date of publication in the **Federal Register**. If VA receives public comments, VA shall review the comments to determine whether any changes to the notice are necessary. This matching program will be valid for 18 months from the effective date of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or mailed to VA Privacy Service, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, (005X6F), Washington, DC 20420. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “Disclosure of Information to Support the Veteran Affairs’ Seek to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Initiative.” Comments received will be available at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) for public viewing, inspection, or copies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Morales, Director, VA Office of Business Oversight Program Integrity Office, 1615 Woodward Street, Austin, TX 78772, (512) 673-8960.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This Agreement establishes the terms, conditions, and procedures under which CMS will provide certain data to VA that supports the VA’s Seek to Prevent Fraud, Waste, and Abuse initiative. The data will be provided from CMS’ database of enrolled Medicare providers and suppliers (System of Records Notice [SORN] No. 09-70-0532, *Provider Enrollment, Chain, and Ownership System [PECOS]*). Using PECOS data in a matching program for this purpose will

provide VA prompt access to extant information, using an efficient process that both eliminates the need to manually compare substantial numbers of data-intensive files and enables VA to leverage, instead of duplicating, the costly Advance Provider Screening process that CMS uses to check suitability of Medicare providers and generate the data in PECOS.

*Participating Agencies:* VA and CMS.

*Authority for Conducting the Matching Program:* This Agreement is executed pursuant to the Privacy Act (5 United States Code [U.S.C.] 552a) and the regulations and guidance promulgated thereunder; Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-108, Federal Agency Responsibilities for Review, Reporting, and Publication under the Privacy Act, published at 81 **Federal Register** (FR) 94424 (December 23, 2016); and OMB guidelines pertaining to computer matching published at 54 FR 25818 (June 19, 1989). Title 38 U.S.C. 7301(b) states that the primary function of VA is to provide a complete medical and hospital service for the care of eligible Veterans. In carrying out this function, including through contracts with external entities and providers, VA has an obligation to (1) ensure providers furnish care that is appropriate and safe and meets or exceeds professional standards for quality and (2), in the case of external providers, maintain billing integrity and compliance with contractual terms.

*Purpose(s):* Under this matching program, VA internal and external providers will be matched against the database of Medicare providers and suppliers who have been revoked by CMS pursuant to 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 424.535. VA intends to review the information provided, perform additional validation, and if deemed appropriate, conduct further investigation, or refer the matter to the VA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) for further investigation. Based on additional validation or investigation, should VA determine VA program requirements have been violated, VA intends to take action (or refer to the OIG for action) against the VA internal and external providers. Such action may be based on activities that endanger VA patients and/or reflect improper or erroneous billing practices related to claims for health care provided to VA beneficiaries. Actions VA may take include (1) terminating or modifying existing contractual or provider agreements; (2) stopping referral of VA patients to the VA external providers; (3) referring the VA internal and external providers to the

OIG; (4) performing pre- or post-payment reviews of claims paid or submitted; or (5) taking disciplinary actions or removing, demoting, or suspending VA internal providers.

**Categories of Individuals:** VA internal and external health care providers will be matched against the database of Medicare providers who have been revoked by CMS under 42 CFR 424.535. “Provider” is defined by 42 CFR 400.202 as a “hospital, a Critical Access Hospital, a skilled nursing facility, a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility, a home health agency, or a hospice that has in effect an agreement to participate in Medicare, or a clinic, a rehabilitation agency, or a public health agency that has in effect a similar agreement but only to furnish outpatient physical therapy or speech pathology services, or a community mental health center that has in effect a similar agreement but only to furnish partial hospitalization services.”

**Categories of Records:** VA will provide CMS electronic files, in a format defined by CMS, containing identifying information required to match VA records with CMS records. Data fields will include one or more of the following elements: (1) Name of Provider/Business; (2) Tax Identification Number (TIN) (EIN, ITIN or SSN); (3) National Provider Identifier (NPI); (4) State(s) in which the provider is providing services; and (5) Specialty Code or Taxonomy Code. Upon matching the TIN or NPI, CMS will provide VA the matched data elements above and the following additional fields: (1) NPI (for individuals) where VA provided a TIN; (2) Current Enrollment Status; (3) Current Enrollment Status Effective Date; (4) Status Reason (PECOS codes used to denote the specific reason(s) on which the final revocation was based); and (5) All NPIs associated with a revoked TIN to include all above fields (1–4) and Enrollment State, Specialty, Role, Enrollment Bar status, and Enrollment Bar Expiration Date (if applicable).

**System(s) of Records:** VA will provide information covered by SOR 77VA10E2E, *Health Care Provider Credentialing and Privileging Records-VA*, last published in full at 85 FR 7395 (February 7, 2020), routine uses 1 and 2; SOR 23VA10NB3, *Non-VA Care (Fee) Records-VA*, last published in full at 80 FR 45590 (July 30, 2015), routine use 2 and 30; SOR 02VA135, *Applicants for Employment under Title 38, U.S.C.-VA*, last published in full at 42 FR 49728 (September 27, 1977), and updated at 51 FR 25969 (July 17, 1986), 55 FR 42534 (October 19, 1990), and 58 FR 40852 (July 30, 1993), see routine uses 1 and

2 published at 42 FR 49728; and SOR 186VA10D, entitled “Community Care Provider Profile Management System,” last published in full at 86 FR 6979 (January 25, 2021). See routine use 10. CMS will provide information covered by Provider Enrollment Chain and Ownership System (PECOS), System No. 09–70–0532, last published in full at 71 FR 60536 (Oct. 13, 2006) and updated at 78 FR 32257 (May 29, 2013) and 83 FR 6591 (Feb. 14, 2018), see routine use 6 published at 71 FR 60536 and the unnumbered routine use published at 78 FR 32257; and National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), System No. 09–70–0555, last published in full at 75 FR 30411 (June 1, 2010) and updated at 78 FR 32257 (May 29, 2013) and 83 FR 6591 (Feb. 14, 2018), see routine use 5 published at 75 FR 30411 and the unnumbered routine use published at 78 FR 32257.

#### Signing Authority

The Senior Agency Official for Privacy, 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. John Oswalt, Chief Privacy Officer and Chair of the Data Integrity Board, Department of Veterans Affairs approved this document on August 27, 2024 for publication.

Dated: October 3, 2024.

**Amy L. Rose,**

*Government Information Specialist, VA Privacy Service, Office of Compliance, Risk and Remediation, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2024–23225 Filed 10–7–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee, Amended, Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. ch. 10, that the Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee will hold its face-to-face meeting at the American Legion Build, 1608 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20006 on Thursday October 24, 2024. The meeting will convene at 8 a.m., eastern standard time (EST) and adjourn at 4:30 p.m. EST. The meeting sessions are open to the public. Additionally, a meeting link is available for individuals who cannot attend in person and would like to join online. The meeting can be

accessed through the <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m362183abee8a40616be272e42b86ac9b> or by telephone, +1–404–397–1596, Conference ID 2820 022 4291.

The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of VA on rural health care issues affecting Veterans. The Committee examines programs and policies that impact the delivery of VA rural health care to Veterans and discusses ways to improve and enhance VA access to rural health care services for Veterans.

The agenda will include updates from Department leadership; the Executive Director, VA Office of Rural Health; and the Committee Chair; as well as presentations by subject-matter experts on general rural health care access.

Time will be allocated for receiving public comments on October 24, 2024, at 5 p.m. EDT. Interested parties should contact Mr. Paul Boucher, by email at [paul.boucher@va.gov](mailto:paul.boucher@va.gov), at (207) 458–7129, or send by mail to 810 Vermont Avenue NW (12RH), ATTN: VRHAC Committee, Washington, DC 20420 no later than close of business on October 14, 2024. Individuals wishing to speak are invited to submit a 1–2-page summary of their comment for inclusion in the official meeting record no later than close of business on October 14, 2024. Any member of the public seeking additional information should contact Mr. Boucher at the email address noted above or 207–458–7129.

Dated: October 3, 2024.

**LaTonya L. Small,**

*Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2024–23252 Filed 10–7–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee, Notice of Meeting, Amended

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. ch. 10, that the Executive Committee of the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee (NAC) will meet October 24–25, 2024 at the Disabled American Veterans Washington Headquarters located at 1300 I Street NW, Suite 400 West, Washington, DC 20005. The meeting sessions will begin and end as follows: