

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 November 8, 2024 for publication.

Dated: November 25, 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.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Solicitation of Nomination for Appointment to the Veterans' Rural Health Advisory Committee**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation for nominations.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as members of the Veterans' Rural Health Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the VRHAC").

DATES: Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received by January 21, 2025, no later than 4 p.m., eastern standard time. Packages received after this time will not be considered for the current membership cycle.

ADDRESSES: All nomination packages should be emailed to Mr. Paul Boucher, Committee Manager at paul.boucher@va.gov and cc: Dr. Peter Kaboli, Designated Federal Officer at peter.kaboli@va.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shannon Middleton, Assistant Designated Federal Officer, Center for Women Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW (00W), Washington, DC 20420, telephone 202–461–6194.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In carrying out the duties set forth, the

Committee responsibilities include, but are not limited to,

(1) Providing a letter to the Secretary and congress outlining recommendations to improve and enhance VA's delivery of services to rural Veterans.

(2) Meeting with VA officials, Veteran Service Organizations, and other stakeholders to assess the Department's efforts in providing access to healthcare, outreach and education services offered to rural Veterans.

(3) Making annual site visits and holding town hall meetings with Veterans to address their concerns.

Management and support services for the Committee are provided by the Office of Rural Health (ORH).

Authority: The Committee was established pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 3121 and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to advise the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Health on ways to improve and enhance access to VA health care services for Veterans residing in rural areas by reviewing current program activities and identifying barriers to accessing care and services.

Membership Criteria: The VRHAC is requesting nominations for upcoming vacancies on the Committee. The committee is composed of 12 members, in addition to ex-officio members. As required by statute, the members of the Committee are appointed by the Secretary from the general public, including, but not limited to:

(1) Representatives of Veterans Service Organizations.

(2) Persons who have distinguished themselves in the public, academic affiliation, community healthcare organizations, and private sector.

(3) Ex-officio members of the Committee may include one representative from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture.

To the extent possible, the Secretary seeks members who have diverse professional and personal qualifications. We ask that nominations include information of this type so that VA can ensure a balanced Committee membership. Individuals appointed to the Committee by the Secretary shall be invited to serve a three-year term. The Secretary may reappoint a member for an additional term of service. In

accordance with Federal Travel Regulation, Committee members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance for any travel made in association with duties as members of the Committee and within Federal travel guidelines. Self-nominations are acceptable. Any letters of nomination from organizations or other individuals should accompany the package when it is submitted. Non-Veterans are also eligible for nomination.

Requirements for Nomination

Submission: Nominations should be typed (one nomination per nominator). Nomination package should include: https://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/docs/VRHAC-Application-Form_7-31-18.pdf.

(1) A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the basis for the nomination (*i.e.*, specific attributes which qualify the nominee for service in this capacity), and a statement from the nominee indicating that he/she is a U.S. citizen and is willing to serve as a member of the Committee.

(2) The nominee's contact information, including name, mailing address, telephone numbers, and email address.

(3) The nominee's resume or curriculum vitae. the nominee's curriculum vitae.

(4) A summary of the nominee's experience and qualifications relative to the membership considerations described above.

(5) A statement confirming that he/she is not a federally-registered lobbyist.

The Department makes every effort to ensure that the membership of VA Federal advisory committees is balanced in terms of points of view represented and the committee's function. Appointments to this Committee shall be made without discrimination based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. Nominations must state that the nominee appears to have no conflict of interest that would preclude membership. An ethics review is conducted for each selected nominee.

Dated: November 25, 2024.

Jelessa M. Burney,

Federal Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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