

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 01/28/2022

Health Policy

Meetings

- January 24: Health Policy Coordinator, Marie Black, attended cyber seminar on Veterans and COVID-19 Vaccination covering two studies: Attitudes and Intentions of US Veterans Regarding COVID-19 Vaccinations & Serious Mental Illness Diagnosis, COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in the Veterans Health Administration.
- January 26: Deputy Director for Health Policy, Tiffany Ellett, attended the Veteran Health Administration Open Forum for Veteran Service Organizations which discussed quality measurement, reporting, and improvement process conducted by the Veteran Affairs Office of Quality & Patient Safety.
- January 27: Health Policy Coordinators, Marie Black and Kenny Harman, attended a meeting of the Research Advisory Committee where they provided advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, plans, and strategies related to understanding and treating Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.
- January 27: Deputy Director for Health Policy, Tiffany Ellet, attended Transgender American Veterans Association VA Engagement meeting where they discussed an upcoming research partnership with an office within VA.
- January 28: Deputy Director of Health Policy, Tiffany Ellett, participated in the American Legion/ATLAS Weekly Huddle.

Veterans Benefits and Claims Services

Meetings:

- January 24: Weekly VSO meeting on VBA claims, appeals and legislative concerns.

Accreditations

- Applications received 35
- Certifications submitted by TAL 35
- Certifications received from OGC 17

The American Legion Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) Unit

- AMA appeals pending (125+ days) 686
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared 352
- Memos generated 5
- Phone inquiries 254
- Internal quality reviews 0

- Individual training	1 hour
- Team training	0 hours
- Hearings	0
- Board dispositions	213
o Appeals granted	76 (35.7%)
o Remanded	94 (44.1%)
o Denied	33 (15.5%)
o Other	10 (4.7%)

Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialists

- Compensation & Pension Claims	14
- Discharge Upgrades	1
- Other Issues	0
- Contacts	15

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims (all types)	31
- Supporting Submissions	117
- Sensitive Claims	4
- Rating Reviews/Audits	48
- Contacts	103

Katie Purswell

Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

(202) 861-2700

End of VA&R weekly update – 01/28/2022