

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS  
to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
SUMMARY OF MEETING**

The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans was convened for its second meeting of fiscal year (FY) 2014 at 8:00 am on September 23, 2014 at the offices of the American GI Forum, National Outreach Forum, Inc., 611 North Flores, Suite 200, San Antonio, TX, 78205. George Basher, Committee Chairman opened the meeting.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on September 23-24, 2014 and from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on September 25, 2014. There were no discussions that required the meeting to be closed to the public.

**Committee members present:**

George Basher- Chair  
Craig Burnette  
Julia Cleckley  
Mark Walker  
Phil Landis  
Leslie Lightfoot  
Irvin Goodwin

**Additional attendees present for a portion or all of the meeting:**

Lisa Pape, VA, Director, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Homeless Programs Office (HPO)  
Robert Reynolds, VA, Director, Benefits Assistance Services (BAS), Veterans Benefits Administration  
Anthony Love, VA, Senior Advisor to Director, VHA HPO  
Vince Kane, Director, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, VHA (via phone)  
John Kuhn, VA, National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, VHA (via phone)  
Jeffrey Quarles, VA, Director, Grant and Per Diem Program, VHA (via phone)  
Sean Clark, National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach, VHA (via phone)  
Sharon Lien, VA, Staff Assistant, VHA HPO  
Stephen Shomion, Director, Health Care for Homeless Veterans,  
Richard Cho, Senior Policy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (via phone)  
Linda Charest, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Base Realignment and Closure  
Coordinator/HUDVet, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, HUD (via phone)  
Caroline Crouse, Housing Program Specialist, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, HUD (via  
phone)  
James Davis, Director/President, Air Force Review Boards Agency on Physical Disability Board of Review  
Ruth María Samardick, Department of Labor (DOL), Director of National Programs, Veterans'  
Employment & Training Service  
Emily Rosenoff, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ,Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) (via phone)  
Tish McCullough, Texas Veteran Commission, State of Texas  
Carlos Munoz, President and CEO, American GI Forum, National Outreach Program, Inc.

For the record, it is noted that to avoid a conflict of interest, Committee members absent themselves from the meeting when the Committee discusses applications from their respective institutions or in

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which a conflict of interest may occur. Members are asked to sign a statement to this effect. This does not apply to "en bloc" actions.

**September 23, 2014**

- 08:00 am Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV) called to order by George Basher. General introductions made. Review of agenda and priorities. He also briefly discussed the Committee membership and tenure.
- 08:15 am Each of the attendees introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their work with homeless Veterans.
- 09:30 am Lisa Pape, Director, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Homeless Programs Office (HPO) provided opening comments as the Designated Federal Official. Ms. Pape thanked American GI Forum for their hospitality. She also discussed the change in membership which will be discussed in more detail on Thursday. Ms. Pape talked briefly about her recent meeting with the new Secretary and that we have seen a 33 percent decrease in Veteran homelessness, but more must be done to reach our goal. There was also an open discussion on Congress passing the extender bill on the Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) but they did not increase the limit to \$500 million. Board members expressed their concern regarding the increase not being passed.
- 9:45 am Break
- 10:00 am Presentation by Jeffrey Quarles, Director, Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD). Mr. Quarles discussed the GPD program metrics and negative and neutral discharges.
- Presentation by John Kuhn, National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). Mr. Kuhn provided an update on the SSVF program. The Committee discussed the issues regarding the request to SSVF to \$500 million per year and the proposed rule in process.
- Presentation by Vince Kane, National Director, Center on Homelessness Among Veterans. Mr. Kane provided information on the programs and research being done through the Center.
- Presentation by Sean Clark, National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach. Mr. Clark presented information on the efforts through the Veteran Justice Outreach program.
- 12:10 pm Lunch
- 1:10 pm Presentation by Linda Charest, Base Realignment and Closure Coordinator/HUDVet, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, HUD and Caroline Crouse, Housing Program Specialist, Office of Public Housing and Voucher Programs, HUD. Open discussion between the Committee and HUD representatives on the HUD-VASH

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program, allocation of HUD-VASH vouchers, progress discussed at HUDStat meetings and lessons learned.

- 2:00 pm Presentation by Richard Cho, Senior Policy Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. USICH has a role in ensuring resources are leveraged to assist communities in ending homelessness. They are also working on programs that reach Veterans who are not eligible for VA services.
- 3:00 pm Presentation by Robert Reynolds, Director, Benefits Assistance Services (BAS), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Mr. Reynolds discussed the processing of homeless Veteran claims, outreach efforts to homeless Veterans, the Cash for Keys program, Homeless Shelter Program and the home loan resolution rate. He also introduced VBA's new homeless Veteran employment program.
- 4:00 pm Break
- 4:15 pm Presentation by James Davis, Air Force Review Boards Agency on Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). Mr. Davis discussed recent updates to the PDBR program and the results of the outreach to homeless Veterans done through staff at the Medical Centers.
- 5:00 pm Adjourn

**September 24, 2014**

- 8:00 am Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV) called to order by George Basher and a general discussion of previous day.
- 8:30 am Ruth María Samardick, Department of Labor (DOL), Director of National Programs, Veterans' Employment & Training Service. Discussion of upcoming notices of funding availability (NOFA). Ms. Samardick discussed the programs that the Department of Labor can bring to assist in ending homelessness among Veterans as well as the career services available within DOL.
- 9:30 am Presentation by Emily Rosenoff, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Board members and Ms. Rosenoff had an open discussion on the programs available from HHS that can help Veterans, especially those who are not eligible for VA services. She also discussed the programs and services from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Administration for Children and Families and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- 10:30 am Break
- 10:45 pm Briefing by Stephen Shomion, Director, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans on the San Antonio VA Health Care System homeless programs. Mr. Shomion discussed the San

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Antonio Health Care for Homeless Veteran program, local outreach efforts, the HUD-VASH program, Veterans Justice Outreach, Supportive Services for Veteran Families and the San Antonio Domiciliary.

Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Presentation by Carlos Martinez, President and CEO of the American GI Forum homeless Programs. This presentation included the history of the organization and details on the various programs they offer Veterans.
2:00 pm	Tour of American GI Forum Facility and Programs.
5:00 pm	Adjourn

**September 25, 2014**

8:00 am	Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV) called to order by George Basher and a general discussion of previous day.
8:30 am	Advisory Committee Membership Discussion. In order to keep some continuity within the committee, it was decided that five board members would cycle of the committee. The remaining five would serve a two-year term. They also discussed how they could get more public involvement in the Committee meeting. Should use other methods to let the public know about the meeting, in addition to the Federal Register notice, which is required.

**Board decided that the following five members would cycle off the Committee:**

**Thomas Lyons  
Leslie Lightfoot  
George Basher  
Sandra Miller  
Joseph Autry**

9:30 am	The Committee convened to discuss recommendations for next report and future activities of the Committee. Recommendations:
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1. Support the increase of SSVF to \$500 million.
2. Encourage fast tracking the SSVF proposed rule.
3. Re-emphasis on collaboration at VA Medical Center Level.

The committee also discussed the next meeting to be held in Washington, DC in March 2015.

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**SUMMARY OF REQUESTS AND SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Advertise the meeting through additional venues to promote more public participation.
2. Five members would cycle off the Committee making way for five new members.
3. The Committee made the following recommendations:
  - a. Support the increase of SSVF to \$500 million.
  - b. Encourage fast tracking the SSVF proposed rule.
  - c. Re-emphasis on collaboration at VA Medical Center Level.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am on September 25, 2014 by George Basher, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.