

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
CHARTER OF THE  
GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee advises the Secretary and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology. The Committee's areas of interest include but are not limited to (1) assessing the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities (including facilities designated as Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers) to respond with the most effective and appropriate services possible to the medical, psychological and social needs of older veterans, and (2) advancing scientific knowledge to meet those needs by enhancing geriatric care for older veterans through geriatric and gerontology research, the training of health personnel in the provision of health care to older individuals, and the development of improved models of clinical services for older veterans.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE(S): There is an ongoing and continuing need for the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee to assist the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities under 38 U.S.C. § 7315. Authorized by law for an indefinite period, the Committee has no termination date.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the Under Secretary for Health.

E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: The Veterans Health Administration is responsible for providing support to the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee shall: (1) conduct an evaluation process (including a site visit not later than three years after the date of the establishment of each new Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center) to measure the ability of each such center to achieve its established purposes; (2) assess the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide high quality geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services to older veterans, taking into consideration the likely demand for such services; (3) assess the current and projected needs of older veterans for geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services provided by VA, as well as VA's activities and plans to meet such needs; and (4) perform such additional functions as the Secretary or Under Secretary for Health may direct. The Committee will submit such reports as it considers appropriate with respect to matters described in (1) through (4) above and, in those reports, may include recommendations for such geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services as may be needed to meet the needs of older veterans.

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By statute, Committee members shall be appointed by the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, and shall include individuals who are not employees of the Federal government and who have demonstrated interest and expertise in research, educational and clinical activities related to aging, and at least one representative of a national veterans service organization. The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Under Secretary for Health, shall invite representatives of other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States to participate in the activities of the Committee. The Committee will be composed of approximately fourteen (14) members, and the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE).

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS:

Operating costs of the Committee are estimated at \$65,000 per year and about .5 staff-years. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee will meet at least once annually. In addition, individual members, task forces, and subcommittees will be called upon periodically for particular advisory services and consultation. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: NONE

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

James B. Peake, M.D.  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/9/04