

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
BLUE RIBBON PANEL ON VA-MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS

- A. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations.
- B. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations will advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on the formation of a comprehensive framework for guiding VA's affiliations with medical schools and academic medical centers.
- C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE PANEL TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: The Panel will terminate not later than September 30, 2009.
- D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE PANEL REPORTS: The Panel will report to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Health.
- E. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE PANEL: The Office of Academic Affiliations, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will be responsible for providing support to the Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations.
- F. DUTIES OF THE PANEL: As part of the 60th anniversary of Policy Memorandum #2 (Association of Veterans' Hospitals with Medical Schools), the Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations will provide advice and consultation relating to a broad re-assessment of these partnerships in light of changes in medical education, shifting research priorities, and current and future veterans' health care needs. The Panel will be guided by VA's strategic planning initiative to ensure equitable, harmonious, and synergistic academic affiliations. The Panel will (a) assess the principles governing VA's relationships with medical schools and academic medical centers; (b) review Policy Memorandum #2 and make recommendations to either reaffirm its provisions or update them as necessary; and (c) provide national guidance for enhancement of VA-medical school affiliations based on projected changes in medical education, research, and patient care services.

The Panel will be comprised of approximately 15 members. Panel members shall be appointed by the Secretary and shall serve as objective advisors, not as representatives of any organizations for which they may otherwise be serving. Several members may be Regular Government Employees (RGE), but the majority of the Panel's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE). The Panel's membership will include individuals who can effectively express the views of large and small medical schools which are involved in the principal affiliation activities (research, patient care, and education).

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

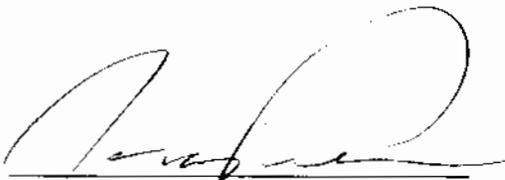
Estimated annual operating costs for the Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations are \$94,000 which includes 0.5 staff years. Members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Panel.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Panel is expected to meet at least twice annually. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Panel 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. PANEL TERMINATION DATE: The Panel will terminate not later than September 30, 2009.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:



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

Date:

8/28/09