

The purpose of the meeting is to review the quality of the services which the Department of Veterans Affairs provides to disabled veterans who participate in VA-sponsored programs of rehabilitation.

On the morning of May 22, the Committee will hold a joint meeting with the VA Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special-Disabilities Programs to discuss mutual issues and concerns. Both Committees will also receive a briefing on the current status of the rehabilitation bed issues by the Chief Consultant of the Rehabilitation Strategic Healthcare Group. At the conclusion of the joint meeting, the Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation will move to room #530 for the remainder of the day. In the afternoon, the Committee will receive briefings regarding veteran demographics and the linkage between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor.

On the morning of May 23, the Committee will receive a briefing on the current status of the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program. In the afternoon, the Committee will receive a briefing concerning the recommendations from VR&E's Blue Ribbon Panel of rehabilitation experts. On the morning of May 24, the Committee will discuss future meeting dates, agenda items and recommendations.

The meeting is open to the public. For those wishing to attend, contact Jada G. Jones, Veterans Benefits Administration (28), phone (202) 273-7425, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, prior to May 17, 2001.

Dated: April 27, 2001.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Ventris C. Gibson,

Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee

Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) as amended, by section 5(c) of Public Law 94-409, that a meeting of the Research and Development Cooperative Studies Evaluation Committee will be held at The River Inn, 924 Twenty-Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037, on May 9-10, 2001. The session is scheduled to begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. A total of six studies and three sub-studies will be reviewed. One study, including its two sub-studies, "Testosterone Treatment to Prevent Fractures in Aging Hypogonadal Men" is a resubmission. Three studies are undergoing mid-term reviews: "18-F-Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Imaging in the Management of Patients with Solitary Pulmonary Nodules," "Genetic Tissues Banking in VA Clinical Research: A Cooperative Studies Program Demonstration Project," and "The Coronary Artery Revascularization Prophylaxis Trial (CARP)." The two new studies and one new sub-study submitted for review are: "Veterans Affairs Open Versus Endovascular Repair (OVER) Trial for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm," "Total Myocardial Revascularization On and

Off Cardiopulmonary Bypass: A Prospective Randomized Study," and a sub-study "Homocysteinemia in Kidney and End Stage Renal Disease—DNA Bank."

The Committee advises the Chief Research and Development Officer through the Director of the Cooperative Studies Program on the relevance and feasibility of the studies, the adequacy of the protocols, and the scientific validity and propriety of technical details, including protection of human subjects.

The meeting will be open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m. to discuss the general status of the program. Those who plan to attend should contact Ms. Denise Shorter, Coordinator, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC at (202) 273-8265.

The meeting will be closed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. This portion of the meeting involves consideration of specific proposals in accordance with provisions set forth in section 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by sections 5(c) of Public Law 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6). During the closed session of the meeting, discussions and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, staff and consultant critiques of research proposals, and similar documents, and the medical records of patients who are study subjects, the disclosures of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: April 27, 2001.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Robert W. Schultz,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration.

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