

seq.). Effective December 1, 2001, **spina bifida** monthly rates are as follows:

Level I—\$228
Level II—\$792
Level III—\$1,354

Birth Defects Benefits

Section 401 of Public Law 106-419 authorizes the payment of monetary benefits to, or on behalf of, children of female Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects. Rates are subject to adjustment under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5312, which provides for the adjustment of certain VA benefit rates whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 *et seq.*). Effective December 1, 2001, birth defects monthly rates are as follows:

Level I—\$100
Level II—\$228
Level III—\$792
Level IV—\$1,354

Dated: May 16, 2002.

Anthony J. Principi,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 02-13095 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 14th and K Streets, NW., Washington, DC, from June 19 through 21, 2002. The Nursing Research Initiative review will convene on June 19, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. The Investigator Initiated Research review will convene on June 19, from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., on June 20, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on June 21, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care services and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management, and nursing research. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding funding are prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer.

This meeting will be open to the public at the start of the June 19 session for approximately one half-hour to cover

administrative matters and to discuss the general status of program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will include qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly the implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Those who are planning to attend the open session or wishing further information should contact Dr. Martha Bryan, Assistant Director, Scientific Review (124F), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 1400 Eye Street, NW., Suite 780, Washington, DC at (202) 408-3665.

Dated: May 20, 2002.

Nora E. Egan,
Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 02-13099 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

National Research Advisory Council; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the National Research Advisory Council will meet at the Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard, Herndon, VA 20171, on June 20, 2002, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. The purpose of the Council is to provide external advice and review for VA's research mission.

The meeting will begin with opening remarks and an overview by the Council Chairman. The Council will receive informational briefings on the VA Health Services Research Program, human subjects protection issues in VA and the peer review process.

Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting or further information should contact Ms. Karen Scott, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Research and Development

(12C2), 801 I Street, NW., Washington, DC at (202) 565-8381.

Dated: May 20, 2002.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Nora E. Egan,
Committee Management Officer.
[FR Doc. 02-13098 Filed 5-23-02; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2002, beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 4 p.m. and Thursday, June 6, 2002, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and adjourning at 11:30 a.m. The June 5 session will be held in the Horizon Ballroom of the Ronald Reagan Building International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. The June 6 session will be held in the First Floor Conference Room of the VFW Memorial Building, 200 Maryland Avenue, NE., Washington, DC. Both sessions are open to the general public.

The purpose of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is to:

(a) Identify ways to improve benefits and services for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) beneficiaries and Department of Defense (DoD) military retirees who are also eligible for benefits from VA, through better coordination of the activities of the two departments;

(b) Identify opportunities to remove barriers that impede VA and DoD coordination, including budgeting processes, timely billing, cost accounting, information technology, and reimbursement; and

(c) Identify opportunities through partnership between VA and DoD, to maximize the use of resources and infrastructure, including buildings, information technology and data sharing systems, procurement of supplies, equipment and services.

On the morning of June 5, the Vision Work Group and the Leadership Work Group will brief the Committee. During the afternoon session, the Benefits and Services Work Group, Resources and Budgeting Work Group, and Pharmaceuticals Work Group will brief the Committee. On the morning of June 6, the Acquisition and Procurement