

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 01/15/2021

Health Policy

Meetings

- Jan 11: ATLAS Wickenburg Update
 - Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) status
 - The MoA has been signed by Phoenix, Prescott, and VISN 20's leadership. It is currently routing through VA central offices for concurrence and the Executive in Charge's signature.
 - Communications
 - Press release drafted awaiting some additional quotes to finalize the draft and then it will be shared with this group for review
 - Marketing
 - Post cards are being finalized to mail to Veterans living near Wickenburg, AZ
 - Timeline
 - MoA signatures (hopefully in the next 2 weeks)
 - Ensure that website is available to schedule into
 - Additional on-site testing
 - Train attendants
 - Press release
 - Post cards
 - Schedule first patient appointment
- Jan 5: Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Hosted IVF in VA
 - This meeting was set up by PVA to open the discussion on how VSOs and other medical communities can bring IVF to all veterans
 - Major groups of individuals who want access to IVF were discussed
 - LGBTQ
 - Single people
 - Unmarried partners
 - Thoughts about starting a formal coalition were discussed
 - Major asks from all members of the meeting
 - Inclusion
 - Data
 - Follow-up

Claims Services

Indianapolis & Washington, D.C. Board Units (combined)

- Legacy appeals	4699
- Board Unit inventory (AMA Appeals)	2185
o Pending 125 days+	0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) prepared	266
- Memos generated	4
- Phone inquiries	162
- Decision reviews	108
- Individual training	12.75 hours
- Team training	13.75 hours
- Hearings	2
- Board dispositions	174
o Appeals granted	43 (24.7%)
o Remanded	86 (49.4%)
o Denied	37 (21.3%)
o Other	8 (4.6%)

Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialists

- Compensation & Pension Claims	37
- Discharge Upgrades	7
- Other Issues	16
- Contacts	53

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims (all types)	44
- Supporting Submissions	198
- Sensitive Claims	4
- Rating Reviews/Audits	68
- Contacts	178

Veterans Benefits

Meetings

- January 11: Veterans Benefit Coordinators participated in VSO Meeting on VBA Claims, Appeals and Legislative concerns. Also attending were various Veterans Service Organizations, including AMVETS, Wounded Warrior Project, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.
 - o VBA Claims and Appeals Concerns

- Congress Status
 - Senate
 - COVID-19 Relief
 - SVAC and HVAC have not been assigned yet
 - House
 - Senate and House in state work periods until January 19th and January 21st respectively
- VBA Legislative issues
 - Agent Orange presumptive conditions
 - DAMA toxic exposures bill, no text yet
- Toxic Exposures
 - DAMA possible roundtable
 - SVAC Mark Up on several bills
- Backlog of record request at NPRC
 - Wall Street Journal Article 34,000 claims
 - [Article Link](#)
 - SVAC spoke with NPRC 18-24 months to process existing backlog
- Stakeholder Enterprise Portal (SEP) <https://www.sep.va.gov/sep/web/guest/sep>

Upcoming Events

- Jan 19: Toxic Exposure Working Group
- Jan 22: ATLAS Weekly Update

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End of VA&R weekly update – 01/15/2021