

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

1. Official Designation. Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

2. Authority. The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee (Committee) is established by statute, title 38 U.S.C. § 7315 and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Ch.10.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities. The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) and the Under Secretary for Health on all matters pertaining to geriatrics and gerontology. The Committee duties include but are not limited to (1) assessing the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system and those programs for which VA has oversight responsibility to respond with the most effective and appropriate services possible to address 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, including direct oversight of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers.

4. Description of Duties. The Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee shall (1) assess, through an evaluation process (including a site visit conducted not later than 3 years after the date of the establishment of each new Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center and not later than 2 years after the date of the last evaluation of those centers in operations on August 26, 1980) to measure the ability of each such center to achieve its established purposes, (2) assess the capability of VA to provide high quality geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services to eligible older Veterans, taking into consideration the likely demand for such services, (3) assess the current and projected needs of eligible 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 to the Secretary, through the Under Secretary for Health, such reports as it considers appropriate with respect to matters described in paragraphs 1 through 4 herein and, in those reports, shall include the following: descriptions and assessments of the quality of operations of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers; assessments of the extent to which VA is meeting the needs of eligible older Veterans through the operation of the Geriatric and Extended Care programs; assessments of and recommendations for correcting any deficiencies in the operations of the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers; and recommendations for such geriatric, extended-care, and other health care services as may be needed to meet the needs of older Veterans. Whenever the Committee submits a report to the Secretary, the Committee shall at the same time transmit a copy of the report in the

same form to the appropriate congressional committees. Not later than 90 days after receipt of a report, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees containing any comments and recommendations of the Secretary with respect to the report of the Committee.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports. The Geriatric and Gerontology Advisory Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the Under Secretary for Health.

6. Official Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support for the Committee. The VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration, is responsible for providing support to the Geriatrics and Gerontology Advisory Committee.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years. The estimated annual cost for operating the Committee is \$236,350.00 and 1.0 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.

8. Designated Federal Officer. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee and subcommittee 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 the DFO determines it is in the public interest to do so.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings. The Committee will meet at least once annually.

10. Duration. There is an ongoing and continuing need for the Committee to assist the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities under title 38 U.S.C. § 7315.

11. Committee Termination Date. Authorized by law for an indefinite period, the Committee has no termination date. The charter will expire 2 years from the date it is filed unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration.

12. Membership and Designation. By statute, the 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 interests and expertise in research, education, 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's membership will consist of Special Government Employees as well as representative and ex officio members. The Committee will be composed of approximately 12 members serving no more than 2 terms of 4 years each.

13. Subcommittees. The Committee is authorized to create subcommittees with the DFO's approval to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with its mission. The Committee Chair shall notify the Secretary and Under Secretary for Health, through the DFO, of the creation of any subcommittee, including its function, membership, and estimated duration. Such subcommittees may not work independently of the chartered Committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the full committee for deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the parent Committee nor can they provide advice or work products directly to VA.

14. Recordkeeping. Records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2. or other approved agency records disposition schedules. Those records shall be available for public inspection and copying subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

15. Filing Date.

Approved. _____/s/_____
Denis McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

_____/6/20/2024_____
Date