Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor Advisory Committee May 1, 2024
The American Legion, 1608 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

Advisory Committee Members

Dr. Rebecca Porter, Chair
Maggie Hall Walsh, Vice Chair
Meredith Beck
Caira Benson
Melissa Comeau
Jill DeBord – Ex-officio (Virtual)
Holly Ferrell
Gregory Gadson (Excused)
Stacy Greathouse
Dr. Scotte Hartronft – Ex-officio (Virtual)
Lisa Hallett
Dr. Catherine Kelso – Ex-officio (Virtual)
Jennifer Koget- Ex-officio (Virtual)
Linda Kreter (Virtual)
Shawn Lopez
Mary Chi Michael
Laura Monk
Johnathan Pruden
Rafiq Raza – Ex-officio (Virtual)
Andrea Sawyer
Tori Seals
Chelsey Simoni (Virtual)
Robert Thomas (Excused)
Lauren Trosclair Duncan

VA Staff

Dr. Colleen Richardson, Executive Sponsor
Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, DFO
Janet Elder
Jennifer Jessup
Mary Jackson
Timothy Jobin
Priscilla Kates
Jeffery Moragne
Michael Parks (ESD)
Eugene Russell
Richard Starliper (ESD)

Public

Note: This meeting was hybrid. Some attendees only listed first name, may have logged in under different variations of their name, or as a Guest. It should also be noted that a few participants dialed in and attended "in-person."

Adam Greathouse
Angel
April Saint
Ashley Lee
Betty Seaman
Bob Carey
Carla
Col Strand
Colleen Nerney
Danielle Armbruster
Darci Drinkwater
Dayna Candler
Katie Fanning
Keith Jackson
Kelly
Kelsey Baron
Kerby Stracco
Kim Wilkinson
Kristi Mogen
Kristie Sheets
L. Hickerson

Debra Webber
Denise Heet
Diane Felner
Edward Bonfrancesco
Elisa Z. James
Faye Fernadis
Guest

Guest
Guest 5
Harley Marino
Heather J. Hess-Chatterjee
Heather Salazar
Janet Schauf
Jason Passebet
Jeffrey
Jeffrey Powell

Jennifer Molleker
Julianna Holt
Julie Quigley

Karen Dunaway

Karla Seijas
Kerby Stracco

Lea Anderson
Lezlie Poole
Lindsay
Lindsay Dove
Melissa Johnson
Nancy L

Nancy Re
Rebecca Gudenkauf
Rene Campos
Renee F
Ricardo Da Silva
Rita
Robin Stitt
Rose De Jong
Roscoe Butler
Rosemarie De Jong
Roxann K.
Samantha Gonzalez
Steven Mullikin
Tara Kaplan
Timothy M. Corzine
Valerie Mullikin

<u>Others</u> (unable to categorize individuals who called in; only by phone numbers)

Call in User (+1254248****)
Call in User (+1309838****)
Call in User (+1504360****)
Call in User (+1602315****)
Call in User (+1603892****)
Call in User (+1605290****)
Call in User (+1707235****)
Call in User (+1724256****)

Call in User (+1757846****)
Call in User (+1814341****)
Call in User (+1814419****)
Call in User (+1814440****)
Call in User (+1912349****)
Call in User (+1912980****)
Call in User (+1914420****)

Note: the consolidated slides are an attachment to these Minutes. Some questions and answers have been paraphrased and included for informational purposes.

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance Betty Moseley Brown, Ed.D., Designated Federal Officer	Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance • Attendees can request a copy of the consolidated slide deck by emailing their request to VHA12CSPFAC@VA.gov. • Rules of behavior for the meeting were reviewed. • All committee members have completed their ethics training. • There is a quorum to conduct business.
Welcome and Opening Remarks - Colleen Richardson, Psy.D., Executive Director, Caregiver Support Program (CSP), Veterans Health Administration (VHA)	• Welcome VA staff, committee members, members of the public, thank you for being here in person and online. ○ We had the opportunity to select several new members and we were very intentional to not only include caregivers, but family members and survivors.

	○ Introduction of Mr. Tim Jobin, not only Deputy Director for the Caregiver Support Program but he is also the Alternate Executive Sponsor.
Opening Remarks & Committee Introductions – Becky Porter, Ph.D., Chair, Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor (VFCS) Advisory Committee	• Opening remarks included: ○ Joined as a member in 2021 and have witness evolution of the members as well as the rich discussion from current members and ex-officios have done to prepare for today's meeting. • Committee members introduced themselves.
Video Address – Denis McDonough, Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs	Secretary McDonough's video address in full is at: [VA Secretary's Address to Advisory Committees]
End of Life Planning – Jennifer L. Jessup, Chief of Staff, National Cemetery Administration	Ms. Jennifer Jessup provided an overview of end-of-life planning and services. Topics included financial planning, survivor benefits, advance care planning and memorial planning. Ms. Mary Chi Michael: Is there connectivity between records, so the advanced directives, once they're determined by the individual that they are uploaded into the records in the VA? Ms. Jennifer Jessup: I think that would be best answered perhaps by someone on the phone.

	Ms. DeBord: Thanks, Jen. So, Mary, having probably completed 1000 or more advanced directives over my career with VA, it does. It is uploaded into the medical record, of course. As you know, anybody who wants to have visibility into the record has to have a release of information signed by the Veteran. But, what I always did with the Veterans was completed multiple copies, so there, you know, primary or secondary powers of attorney would have to have copies made. Small copies for them to keep in their wallets, etc. Does that make sense? Ms. Mary Chi Michael: Yes. Thank you very much. Ms. Lauren Trosclair Duncan: My question is how would one receive the Presidential Memorial Certificate if it was misplaced by the family of a deceased Veteran? Ms. Jennifer Jessup: Yes, absolutely. If one has been lost, there no limitation on the number of Presidential Memorial Certificates that can be requested. Complete the Presidential Memorial Certificate Request Form (VA Form 40-0247). Ms. Andrea Sawyer: As the wife of a funeral director and embalmer and he was military mortuary affairs, I have a question about your pre-need eligibility application. Are you all advertising that out to the larger funeral director community like the National Funeral Directors Association so they know that's available? Ms. Jennifer Jessup: Thank you for that question. Yes, absolutely. I think over the years VA has tried to find their voice in this space about death. It can be a hard discussion to have but now that we've kind of framed it and found some other ways to talk about it, we have started reaching out to such groups like the Funeral Directors association. Through blogs and newsletters trying to talk to local Communities about these services. Even the National Association of Palliative Care organizations. If you know of other organizations we should be talking with, please let us know. We would really love you sharing this, and I believe everyone in this room are force multipliers to get the word out. Ms. Meredith Beck: If I had a magic wand, I'd provide one kind of pre- need application for the survivor benefits. Ms. Jennifer Jessup: It may be more of a VBA question and if Kevin Friel is already on the line, that something you can

	present him next. Ms. Meredith Beck: Yes, I agree. Mr. Kevin Friel: If we're talking burial and all that we have, I can tell you right now that the VA Form 21-537 is actually a claim for survivors' pension, dependency, indemnity compensation and any accrued benefits that are eligible. If there's some other benefit that you are thinking, please let me know and what we can do with that.

	Ms. Meredith Beck: Thank you. Ms. Holly Ferrell: My question is about medical records and planning that goes into the pre-planning for end of life. Is there a process or consideration for the records for caregivers and Veterans and their survivors to be able to obtain after the Veterans' death? Because right now we're having survivors who need records, but they cannot get the records since VA just abruptly removes access to the records immediately after the Veteran's death through his VA. Have you considered a way for them to obtain the records after death or educating them in a way to create alternative accounts such as a spouse's account, through what used to be eBenefits, but is now VA.gov? Or an alternative spouse's account with VA to remain connected to the Veteran? Or have they considered educating them on how to request the Veterans VA health records so that they are able to maintain access to those, especially those with children who may be tracking toxic exposure? Ms. Jill DeBord: I'm going to do my best to summarize. The Veteran passes away. What is the process for requesting the medical records for those who are in need for the family members who need the following either through VA.gov or through some other means? Ms. Holly Ferrell: Yes, but they also can't get home loan eligibility. They can't get any of the VA letters proving that the Veteran is, say 100%. The Veterans accounts are essentially shut off as soon as a Notification of Death is received. The spouse has no access until they create their own. If they go ahead in advance while the Veteran is still alive then they have access to those accounts. Mr. Kevin Friel: As it relates after the Veterans' death, there is always the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request so they can request the Veteran's record. We could physically print those out or get them on a CD and provide it to the surviving spouse. I haven't heard anything about any pre-planning where we would provide access to the survivor prior to the Veteran's death. I think we could take this back as an action to see if there any feasibility to do that.

	Mr. Rafiq Raza: Thank you, Kevin and thank you for the great question, Holly. I think that is why VHA is looking to invest in what we're doing with our survivors. I think we acknowledge that this is a huge challenge for our survivors. So, that's what we're working on in survivors, assistance and memorial support and we look forward to sharing more on this later today. Ms. Caira Benson: Following up on one of the slides, it says "eligible spouses independently may be buried as well in a VA National Cemetery." Can they go through pre-need eligibility? And a follow-up to that is if the spouse or dependent deceases first. Is there an assurance that the next person will also receive the benefit because we understand that pre-need does not necessarily guarantee a space? Ms. Jennifer Jessup: So, is there a guarantee of space if the first dependent or spouse is buried? Yes, spouses can go through the pre- need eligibility process and can apply. Regardless of whoever passes first, there is a guarantee (I'd probably not say guarantee) that partners will be buried together but it's part of the pre-planning process. Whenever the first person passes, hopefully whoever is the designated personal representative (sometimes the spouse, sometimes that's the child). Hopefully, during that consultation with us, the families' wishes are made known at that time because then we can usually try to plan for that to happen.

Pension and Fiduciary Program Kevin Friel, Deputy Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)	Mr. Friel provided an overview of the Pension and Fiduciary (P&F) Service. Topics included fiduciary program & statistics, pension program & eligibility, special monthly pension (Aid & Attendance, Housebound eligibility), dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC). PACT Act and DIC (there is no time limit for survivors to elect reevaluation of a previously denied claim based on expanded eligibility under PACT Act and how to apply for DIC and burial benefits. Ms. Maggie Walsh: I just want to reemphasize that the common denominator across the country is Funeral Home Directors. Mr. Kevin Friel: Thank you for that, Maggie. I will tell you that we have a meeting scheduled with the National Funeral Association. They have a very good relationship with funeral directors from the VA perspective about how we can leverage that resource specifically as the outreach to survivors comes, you know. Providing them some insight into what benefits are available specifically because as I said, we don’t always have a survivor in our system, right, if the Veteran doesn’t tell us they’re married, we don’t know. So, we’re definitely looking at ways to leverage many different entities and I agree with you that Funeral Home Directors would be a great resource for us. Ms. Ann Duff: If I might add, we’re also developing a trifold that can be sent to the funeral homes that you know. The Funeral Home Directors can, you know, sort of just give that information as far as a very quick summary of all the benefits that are available and who to contact if you have any questions. Ms. Andrea Sawyer: You mentioned as you were going through the very last slide, I believe something about for those folks who were qualified for DIC under like the 100% service-connected permanent and total that you could make those payments faster. Can you clarify? Mr. Kevin Friel: So, in 2012, Congress passed the law that allows VA specifically to pay benefits to survivors based on evidence of record at the time of the Veteran’s death. So, what we did in 2014, we began implementation of what we classify as at the first notice of death payments in that when we get a call from a surviving spouse reporting the Veteran’s death. This can trigger us to pay the month of

	death payment that the Veteran would have been entitled to. The survivor can also trigger the burial payments to the survivor and if the Veteran met the requirements of 38 USC 1318 which states if the Veteran is 100% service-connected for five consecutive years from the data separation or until the time of death, or for 10 consecutive years prior to death, or if they were a POW for one year prior to that, we can pay under Section 1318 of USC. We can pay DIC under 1318 which is an administrative grant DIC, so we don't have make this service-connection requirement that 100% for those time periods. So, allows us to pay it, and if the Veteran met that we would pay DIC under that and I can tell you typically we pay about 4000 of those a year. There's no application. It's just the phone call that we get from the survivor that triggers those payments. Note: After the meeting the Committee asked Mr. Friel for further clarity, and he provided the below response on May 15, 2024: What is the best phone number for a survivor to call to complete all next steps? • month payment • burial benefits • DIC If this is in reference to receiving potential benefits based on the death of the Veteran, the best number is the VA Benefits Hotline number – 800-827-1000. The call representative will be able to take the information and process the first notice of death (FNOD). The call representative will ask specific questions to verify the spouse and any potential entitlements. Once validated the potential exist for payment of the Veteran's month of death benefit, burial benefits (nonservice connected if the Veteran was in receipt of benefits and not rated 100% service connected at the time of death, if the Veteran is rated 100% at the time of death the service-connected rate will be paid for burial purposes). Additionally, if the Veteran is rated 100% service connected at the time of death and meets the requirements for DIC under 38 USC 1318:

	- Rated 100% Service connected for the following period:
	  ○ 10 consecutive years prior to death
	  ○ 5 consecutive years from separation from service
	  ○ 1 year prior to death if the Veteran is a former POW DIC can be granted based off of this same call.
	
	As of May 14, 2024, we have made the following number of payments based off of the FNOD (no application just the phone call) processing for FY24.
	
	Burial - 9,977
	Month of death – 10,072
	DIC – 2,517
	
	Ms. Mary Chi Michael: I'm curious to understand for the interviews and other materials, especially for the spouses and survivors, are they culturally competent? So, in other words, to make sure that individuals who might be where English might not be their native language, that they actually understand and comprehend the benefits that they're eligible for.
	
	Mr. Kevin Friel: I know we have our forms in several different languages. We don't identify or typically we don't know what an individual's native language is until we meet with them, right. So we're kind of going in there blind until we can kind of figure that out to make sure that we're getting the right, the right type of writer to the individual. We have worked on putting much of our materials in Spanish because we do have a large population in Puerto Rico.
	
	You know, they're looking at potentially Tagalog language for the for the beneficiaries that we support in the Philippines.
	
	Ms. Ann Duff: I was going to say, there's often an option to get an interpreter with us if we're aware ahead of time. There's a number we can call to get someone on the line.
	I will say, and sometimes when we're emailing people, you know, I use Google Translate, which maybe is not, you know, the best option, but that has worked well for us to sort of get the information back and forth between some of our survivors who really don't speak English very well at

	all. So, you know the interpreter translator option or again Google Translate is like the immediate answer that we have for that. But like Kevin said, we are working on perhaps translating some of the forms into other language. Again, it's something that we need to know about ahead of time or, if we need to sit down with someone who needs to translate it into Farsi, you know, we would need to find that person to get on the call with us or what's needed. Thanks. Ms. Meredith Beck: There are income limits that you mentioned on a number of different benefits for example DIC. I know that I believe the income limit for a parent to receive DIC is $18,000. Are those set by regulation or legislation? Mr. Kevin Friel: The are set by legislation and are a part of the legislation called adjustment. So, they do get increased but you know one of the things that we have conversations with them is survivors pension is the point of contention for us is that know a survivor's pension the threshold is just over $11,000 the national poverty threshold is $15,000. We're working on legislative proposals to get submission to potentially, request that be changed (but we don't control since it's congressionally mandated). Ms. Meredith Beck: You mentioned that 68% of the fiduciaries have a personal relationship, many of whom are family caregivers, and understanding that professional fiduciaries' process can be very complicated. What efforts does the Fiduciary office make to assist those family caregivers in navigating the fiduciary program? Mr. Kevin Friel: With the fiduciary program, we meet both the fiduciary and the beneficiary, and we pretty much will ask them if they have a preference, and we will work to appoint that preference. One of the things that we do is a background check. It's both a financial and criminal background check. We don't want to appoint the wrong person to be that, but we provide them guidance. We also have the field examiner spend time with them explaining what their duties and responsibilities are. And then we're available to answer any questions they might have.

	We also have recently developed in the last couple of years the fast financial accounting system tool where we do accounting. We used to do it by snail mail. They send us information and we send it back. Now we have a mechanism where they can actually load and we have email conversations back and forth with them and there's training available on the website, too. So, we have a lot of engagement and interaction with the fiduciary to help them work their way through the process and to help address any questions or concerns they may have. Ms. Laura Monk: I just had a question and I think this is more for Ms. Duff and the Office of Survivor Assistance (OSA). I became a widow in 2000. Just recently hearing about the OSA, I had a question more so related to the education process. If a survivor logged on to the VA benefits and found out that the benefits portal is telling them that their benefits had expired on their 33rd birthday, but that is incorrect. Is there something that the OSA would help out with, or is this something that an outside organization should be helping survivors with? Ms. Ann Duff: We can actually help you with this. If they had turned 33, I'm guessing it was an education benefit. The Education does have a dedicated number for survivor education questions. But absolutely we can help you with that. Mr. Jonathan Pruden: A lot of families that have fiduciaries, professional fiduciaries assigned and also those who have familial caregivers assigned as fiduciaries, the accounting or the reviews cause a lot of anxiety for a variety of reasons, and some legitimate, some not. But the question that I've heard repeatedly is how do those accountings, if you could describe a little more, how do those accountings and those reviews, if there are issues that need to be addressed, how do those get filtered into VBA, VHA and the caregiver program? Is there communication between those programs about the fiduciary reviews and the outcomes? Mr. Kevin Friel: If you're talking about interaction between the caregivers program and the fiduciary program, we don't have level of engagement within the fiduciary program.

	When we have an individual who is appointed as a fiduciary and they will get a letter of notification, we'll initially meet with them during the initial appointment to share about the accounting requirements and to confirm we have the income thresholds right. If it's over $20,000, they need to account every year and for the other individuals where that threshold is not met, we actually have them every couple years and they only have to do like a three month accounting period. But even then, we send them a letter notifying them of the accounting that's due. We give them the accounting periods that they are to have input in the fast tool where they can submit all the evidence electronically to us. Within that tool we have the means of communicating with them through email or we can count reach out to them. No, the fiduciary can reach out to them by via phone we can talk them through what is needed and assist them in that. The purpose of the accounting, we realized that you know for the fiduciary, it's a little bit of a burden, but it's one of VA's ways of validating that the fiduciary is using the funds as required. I will tell you the majority of what we see from misuse as bad as it sounds, it makes sense because it's our largest population, but is the family taking advantage of the beneficiaries funds where they are using it for the purposes of enhancing their lives and not the life of the Veterans. So that's the piece of the oversight. We realize it creates some anxiety but our responsibility is to the beneficiary and to make sure that the beneficiary is being properly taken care of and the funds are being dispersed in a way they should be. Mr. Jonathan Pruden: The second piece, that is if they recognize that familial fiduciary is misusing funds is there a mechanism to indicate that to VHA or to the caregiver program? Mr. Kevin Friel: I will tell you if we identify somebody's misusing funds, we will replace them typically within 60 days. So once it's identified, we take action to remove that individual as a fiduciary and appoint a new fiduciary. And then we also track it to ensure that the fiduciary being replaced has transferred all of the funds over.

	And with current law, Congress passed a few years ago, We are then able to make the beneficiary whole for the funds that have been misused. So if you know they have misused $1000 or more, you know or any amount actually we will we will work to make the beneficiary whole and reimburse those funds. Ms. Holly Ferrell: Has VA considered using tools such as Social Security records or other federal records and entities to identify survivors? Mr. Kevin Friel: We have actually talked to the IRS and Treasury and they're not willing to share those records with us because we can't validate that they are in fact the survivor and that they would be potentially eligible for our program. So they don't. They're very stringent on excess, especially sharing anything related to federal tax information with us. As I said, we are totally, truly dependent upon either a the Veteran to tell us prior to death or for the beneficiary to when they identify themselves to us after the veteran's death. It is a struggle and as I said, we are looking for many opportunities, funeral directors being one of the primary initial ones. But we do for just for awareness a match with Social Security, weekly for notices of death. Once we receive that notification that the Veteran has passed away, we send a letter. If there's a survivor of record, we send a letter to that survivor. If not, we send a letter to the estate. So you know the survivor as a minimum should get that estate letter if they are in fact residing with the Veteran at the time of the Veteran's death. There is a lot of different avenues we pursued and some of them are just restrictions on law on what we can and can't get from different entities.

VBA Office of Survivors Assistance – Ann Duff, Assistant Director, Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA), Pension and Fiduciary Service,	Ms. Ann Duff shared the history of the OSA. Public Law 110-389, Title II, Section 222 (Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008). OSA focuses on the following to maximize impact – • Outreach • Collaboration • Policy and Programs

	• Client relations. Upcoming Triannual Joint VA/DoD Survivors' Forum May 16, 2024.
Federal Advisory Committee Act 101 - Jeff Moragne, Director, Advisory Committee Management Office	Mr. Jeff Moragne described what is a Federal Advisory Committee and what constitutes a meeting? When can a meeting be Closed, and what is an Administrative Meeting. Provided Best Practices of Federal Advisory Committees. Ms. Lisa Hallett: Regarding the kind of getting out in the field and connecting with the community we serve, what as a FACA member, what are our allowances for connecting with some of these suggestions that have been made from in public comment and recommendations? Are we allowed to engage in calls outside of these main sessions to help prepare informed recommendations? Mr. Jeff Moragne: That is actually a great question. I get that from time to time, so my recommendation is always move as a group, so subcommittee level OK, not as individuals. Then you could break if a subcommittee had five people, it could break down into two as a work group, and they could do that. I'll call it research or data gathering activity, but don't do it without the permission of the DFO right. Ms. Lisa Hallett: Does the DFO/ADFO have to be present? Mr. Jeff Moragne: OK, so if you and the young lady next to you are going as a work group part of Subcommittee A to location X physically going there, you're going to have to have DFO there for that meeting, virtually or physically. All right. And when the meeting is over, you don't continue to meet, OK. Your authorization as a federal advisory committee member fall under FACA and it needs a DFO present. OK. That's a great question. Ms. Tori Seals: I actually have two parts to this. First one is a private meeting slash administrative, does the DFO need to be present for those? We've got 3 subcommittees and one day, well one and alternate day. This is going to be very difficult to schedule everything and we have to have every from my understanding of the Charter, we have to have everything put in place by July 1st. We have to hand over our recommendations by July 1st. We were already six months behind because of picking and getting everything signed off and everything.

	Now we're being told that we have by July 1st to get everything done. Mr. Jeff Moragne: So yes, the DFO needs to be present for private meetings, administrative meetings. For the timeline on the next report that is in the Charter… so you have a body of work which is in the oven, and you know it is ready to come out. You men and ladies of this committee are the cooks you determine via consensus. First, be a consensus voice. Whether that's the way you want to move forward or whether you want to add or subtract to it. If your DFO thinks you're in pretty good shape, so maybe some of the newer recommendations don't make this particular report. Maybe they make the next year's report. Let me talk to your DFO offline and we'll talk about maybe an exception to slide your due date if that's the way you as a body think you should move forward. Your DFO is nodding that you are in good shape in terms of the body of work that's ready, but you all will determine that, right? I know I went long, but you had a lot of new members.
Survivor and Memorial Program Rafiq Raza, National Director Survivors Assistance and Memorial Support Program Care Management and Social Work Services (VHA)	Mr. Rafiq Raza shared that VHA is establishing a Survivors Assistance and Memorial Support (SAMS) Program to provide personalized, supportive services to families, caregivers, and survivors at the end of a Veteran's life and ensure Veterans without identified family receive dignified burials to honor their service. He shared the SAMS program development, the vision, and the forward progress.

Overview of Recommendation Process Colleen Richardson, Psy.D., Executive Sponsor for the Federal Advisory Committee	Dr. Colleen Richardson discussed the process for making recommendations. She shared that upon review, there are now three subcommittees: a subcommittee for Families, a subcommittee for Caregivers, and a Subcommittee for Survivors. This was done to ensure that each segment of this Committee (per the Charter) received proper attention. Each subcommittee met virtually several times for administrative discussions and brainstorming on topics to bring forward to the full committee today. While the Subcommittee Chairs are briefing, if you as a Committee have any questions or concerns, if time permits, we can ask those, but then keep in mind we'll have additional time after lunch to further discuss and vote on which recommendations should be forwarded to the Secretary. Each subcommittee took into account concerns from fellow constituents, comments from the public presentations previously offered during the virtual on November 30th through December 1st meeting along with their real life knowledge of the gaps that need to be corrected for families, caregivers and survivors. I want to thank the subcommittee chairs for their due diligence in this focus and as I mentioned at the very beginning of the day, I think we have a really nice diverse group of folks who represent this committee as a whole. I just wanted to explain the process to all of you and to the public so that they can hear how you, came about with these recommendations today.

Briefing on Suggested Recommendations	Families Subcommittee Chair, Meredith Beck
Briefing on Suggested Recommendations	Caregiver Subcommittee Chair, Andrea Sawyer
Briefing on Suggested Recommendations	Survivor Subcommittee Chair, Lisa A. Hallett
	Lunch (on own)

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers Lezlie D. Poole, B.A., CPAR, CPS- WH, CPRP Program Innovation Manager	Ms. Lezlie Poole shared A Toolkit for Caregivers of Veterans for Disaster Preparedness by The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers & VA Caregiver Support. She shared the words of their Founder, Rosalynn Carter, "There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who need them." The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers (RCI) recently launched a new partnership to support caregivers of Veterans, caregivers who are Veterans, and caregivers who work for the VA. As part of this work, RCI and VA will be working together to increase support for caregivers through disaster preparedness. RCI and VA will work together to develop curricula and content related disaster preparedness and emergency management for caregivers of Veterans.
Recommendations Discussion Becky Porter, Ph.D., Chair, Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor (VFCS) Advisory Committee	During this discussion, the Committee decided that more work was needed by the subcommittees to fine-tune the recommendations and the rationales. Because of this, follow-up virtual administrative meetings were held, and a public follow-on virtual meeting was announced in the Federal Register for June 3, 2024.
Public Comments	Public comments were made during this meeting. Summaries were submitted in accordance with the Notice of Meeting and are available for review by a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.
Adjournment Becky Porter, Ph.D., Chair, Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor (VFCS) Advisory Committee	

Approved – July 19, 2024
/s/ Dr. Colleen Richardson, Executive Sponsor

Approved
/s/ Dr. Rebecca Porter, Chair

Approved
/s/ Dr. Betty Moseley Brown, DFO