

# 2009 Current Fiscal Year Report: Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for CARES Business Plan Studies

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<b>1. Department or Agency</b>	<b>2. Fiscal Year</b>
Department of Veterans Affairs	2009
<b>3. Committee or Subcommittee</b>	<b>3b. GSA Committee No.</b>
Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for CARES Business Plan Studies	22810

<b>4. Is this New Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>5. Current Charter</b>	<b>6. Expected Renewal Date</b>	<b>7. Expected Term Date</b>
No	12/28/2007		12/31/2008

<b>8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?</b>	<b>8b. Specific Termination Authority</b>	<b>8c. Actual Term Date</b>
Yes	Secretary Decision	12/31/2008

<b>9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year</b>	<b>10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?</b>	<b>10b. Legislation Pending?</b>
Terminate	No	

**11. Establishment Authority** Agency Authority

<b>12. Specific Establishment Authority</b>	<b>13. Effective Date</b>	<b>14. Committee Type</b>	<b>14c. Presidential?</b>
By Direction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs	10/22/2004	Ad hoc	No

**15. Description of Committee** Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

**16a. Total Number of Reports** No Reports for this Fiscal Year

**17a. Open** 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

**Meetings and Dates**

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Committee continued the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) process, including the independent CARES Commission report and the Secretary's CARES decision. The Secretary's CARES Decision identified implementation issues that required further study, to include additional stakeholder input, at selected sites. The Committee fulfilled the Department's pledge to consult with stakeholders as part of its implementation of the Secretary's

CARES Decision. The Committee ensured that the full range of stakeholder interests and concerns were assembled, publicly articulated, accurately documented, and considered in the development of site-level business plans for implementing CARES recommendations and decisions. Subcommittees were established to perform duties and functions within the Committee's purview. The Committee or designated subcommittee provided advice on proposed business plans or alternative business plans considered. The advice provided by the Committee or designated subcommittee was site-specific.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Committee membership selection ensured that a cross section of those directly affected were heard and represented. The Secretary was personally involved and ensured that members had the appropriate qualifications and experience to fairly consider the views of stakeholders - to include patients, Veterans service organizations, employee unions, congressional members, local community groups, special disability groups, affiliated medical schools, and state/local government.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings were held at locations throughout the United States for assembling and providing stakeholder input to the Department in connection with the Department's study, development, and selection of business plans to implement the CARES Decision at sites identified in the CARES Decision that required further study.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Secretary determined that establishing the Committee was both in the public interest and essential to the conduct of VA business. Final decisions affecting the sites under review involved potential reuse of land, changing the mission of facilities, relocation of patients with psychiatric and special conditions, and in some case an economic impact. The Secretary believes that formal local community input is vital because final decisions will likely impact the lives of patients and other members of the community. Seeking that input is essential to the entire initiative because unless we can demonstrate community involvement we risk active opposition on both substance and process. A well documented and consistently applied process for gathering stakeholder input is, therefore, critical to our success. The Committee's function could not be performed by an existing entity because there was no VA mechanism that could meet the external review conditions mandated by the Secretary. We examined alternatives to the advisory committee approach but we found that approach to be the most appropriate way to accommodate formal public input, an advisory opinion from a group of stakeholders, and documentation of public meetings. Ultimately, the advisory committee is the most effective way to demonstrate that we have conducted an inclusive and participatory process.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

There were no closed meetings.

**21. Remarks**

## Designated Federal Officer

### Jay Halpern Special Assistant to the Secretary

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Brautigan, Roger	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Under Secretary, California Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cole, Duane	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	City Manager, Walla Walla	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Corre, Harry	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Ex-POWs, California Department Commander	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dean, Morre	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	President, Walla Walla General Hospital	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Galusha, Marilyn	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Director of Nursing Education Walla Walla Community College	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Gilbert, Diane	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Chief Executive Officer, New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kelley, Thomas	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, Boston, MA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Kuntz, Jim	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Executive Director, Port of Walla Walla	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Liff, Stewart	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Director, Los Angeles VA Regional Office	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Materazzo, Thomas	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Assistant to Mayor, City of Boston	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Miscikowski, Cindy	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Los Angeles City Councilwoman 11th District	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moore, Thomas	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Dean for Academic and Clinical Programs, Boston University Med. Col.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Norman, Dean	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Chief of Staff, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Prentiss, Alan	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Chief of Staff, VAMC Spokane	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Spadaro, Ben	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Southern Westchester Veterans Coalition	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Williams, Tim	10/22/2004	12/31/2008	Director, VA Puget Sound Health Care System	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 16**

### **Narrative Description**

As the CARES review process has been implemented, recommendations on the future use of individual VA medical facilities have been forwarded to the Secretary for approval and implementation. In attaining its objectives, the Committee is guided by the Department's imperative that health care for veterans can be accessible, high quality, and cost-effective, be delivered in a safe environment, and maximize revenues from alternative or complementary uses for those sites where care is currently being provided.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

NA

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

NA

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

0

### Number of Recommendations Comments

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

0%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Feedback will be provided after the Secretary considers the recommendations and decides which recommendations will be implemented.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

NA

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A