



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Women Veterans Committee Minutes

Friday, January 20, 2006

Meeting called to order at 2:20 PM

In attendance:

Marsha Four, Chair	Sandy Miller, Vice Chair
Sandra Spatz-Wiszneaukas	Billee Culin
Dr. Tom Berger	Bob Maras
Connie Christensen	

Sharon Hodge, VVA Gov. Relations/Staff

Guest: Carole Turner, Director

Regina Mack-Abney, Associate Director

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Women's Health Program Office

Motion #06-01: to Accept minutes of October 2005 Committee Meeting as presented. Motion by Billee Culin ; Second: Tom Berger; Motion carries.

Presentation of Carole Turner

Women's Health Program Office: discussed the work of the Office and its relationship with the three Women Veteran's Deputy Field Directors and the Women Veteran Program Managers. The Office tracks customer complaints that come directly to it. There were a total of 45 complaints in FY 05. It took an average of 13 calendar days to resolve them. By visiting the VA web page one can have direct communication with the office via its internet mailbox.

Data can be collected on OEF/OIF women veterans via cross referencing social security numbers. Of 433,398 total separated personnel, 48,384 (11.16%) were female and 5,903 females (32.6%) were evaluated by VA during FY 02-05.

An up-date was given on the Women veterans Mental Health Committee that was an outgrowth of the President's Freedom Commission. It is comprised of four sub groups: Clinical populations, data support, research, and clinical setting.

With S 1182, we continue to watch the passage of this law to provide postnatal care to infants born to women veterans who have used the VA for pregnancy care.

Discussed Women Veterans Program Managers and their Handbook 1330.1, which defines their duties and responsibilities. It is in the process of being revised. Program Managers are able to orient to their positions on line developing a level of consistency.

A comment was made by a member of the committee that in some Vet Centers women are being given the option of seeing a woman clinician for Military Sexual trauma counseling.

Budget:

With remaining budget the committee will purchase a permanent display boards for information other than general outreach. The new budget will be developed with submission to the Finance Committee by February 8 deadline. In conjunction with the PTSD and Veterans Health Care Committee a line item for contribution to a VVA National PTSD and Medical Health Conference will be submitted with the budget.

Report of the Chair:

The Miles Foundation: A letter sent to its Executive Director, Christine Hansen, under President Rowan's signature referencing our partnership on shared areas of interest.

Lynda Van Devanter Buckley Award: A letter was sent to the family of Rep. Tillie Fowler of FL notifying them of this recent award and requesting an opportunity to present it to them.

Engaged in conversation with the staff of Senator Slaughter's office to discuss the newly initiated DOD sexual trauma database.

This Chair spoke with VVA CFO regarding a situation involving organizational mailing lists that do not correctly identify our members. It was related that this problem is being addressed with the membership department and fund raising mailing lists.

Old Business:

Trip to Walter Reed: Rescheduled for our April meeting

Leadership Conference: the committee's suggestion for consideration as a seminar presentation was forwarded to the selection committee by the required submission date. We are waiting its decision. If not selected we discussed possible alternate plans to present this information at the conference.

New Business:

Will invite a representative of VA Veterans Benefits Administration to discuss the position of Woman Veterans Coordinator.

Adjourned 4:15PM

Respectfully Submitted

Marsha Four, Chair