

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Charter of the
Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee**

1. Official Designation. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee.

2. Authority. The Veterans Rural Health Advisory (Committee) was established by direction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary) 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 Committee will advise the Secretary on health care issues that affect Veterans residing in rural areas.

4. Description of Duties. The Committee will examine ways to enhance or improve VA's services for Veterans residing in rural areas by assessing the current rural environment, existing health care opportunities, and challenges or barriers to access. The Committee will meet as necessary to discuss programs and policies that impact the provision of VA health care to Veterans in rural areas. The Committee may adopt recommendations designed to enhance or improve VA rural health care services for Veterans, and the Committee may submit such reports as it deems necessary to describe its activities, deliberations, and findings.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports. The Committee will report to the Secretary through the Under Secretary for Health.

6. Office Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support for the Group. The Office of Rural Health, Veterans Health Administration, VA, is responsible for providing support to the Committee.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years. Estimated annual operating costs for the Committee are \$180,000 and 0.8 staff years. All members 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. Designation 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 he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings. The Committee is expected to meet at least two times annually.

10. Duration. Continuing.

