



**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Advisory Committee on Women Veterans (ACWV)
Hybrid Meeting VA Central Office
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420**

June 5-6, 2024

The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans (ACWV) met at VA Central Office and via video-teleconference, Wanda Wright, Chair, presiding.

ACWV Members Present:

COL Wanda Wright, USAF, Ret., Chair
COL Nestor Aliga, USA, Ret.
Dr. Jacquelleen Bido, USN Veteran
Delise Coleman, USMC Veteran
MG Sharon Dunbar, USAF, Ret.
COL Wistaria Joseph, USAF, Ret.
CAPT Dr. Cynthia Macri, USN, Ret.
SFC Centra Mazyck, USA, Ret.
Sandra Miller, USN Veteran
MSG Lachrisha Parker, USAR, Ret.
Kathryn Smith, USAF Veteran

ACWV Ex-Officio Members Present:

Dr. Sally Haskell, Office of Women's Health (OWH), Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
Faith Hopkins, Office of Engagement and Memorial Innovations, National Cemetery Administration (NCA)
Kristina Messenger, Operations, Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Center for Women Veterans (CWV) Staff Present:

Lourdes Tiglao, CWV Executive Director/ Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Mary Bradford, CWV Deputy Director/ Alternate DFO
Shannon Middleton, Committee Manager/ Alternate DFO
Ana Claudio
Missina Schallus

Other VA Staff:

Michael Park	Jeff Moragne
Jelessa Burney	Yashica Best

Public Guests:

Adrian Atizado	Julianna Holt
Christina Rost	Kerby Stracco
Jackson Haney	Melissa Harcrow

Jason Passabet

Wednesday, June 5, 2024, VA Central Office, Room 230

Opening Meeting/Introductions

Wanda Wright (Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Retired), Chair, ACWV

Chair Wright opened the meeting with short introductions from the committee members, ex-officio members, advisors, and CWV staff.

Public Comments

The Chair opened the floor to receive comments from the public. Following the public comment period, the briefings resumed.

VA Leadership Video

The Honorable Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Secretary McDonough expressed gratitude for advisory committees' work and stressed the importance of their role in making impactful recommendations to help VA meet the needs of Veterans, especially women Veterans and underserved Veterans populations.

ACWV Discussion

The full committee engaged in general discussion about past briefings and reports, and prepared for their respective subcommittee working sessions.

Thursday, June 6, 2024, VA Central Office, Room C-7

Opening Meeting/Introductions

Wanda Wright (Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Retired), Chair, ACWV

Chair Wright opened the meeting with short introductions from the committee members, ex-officio members, advisors, and CWV staff.

Discussion on 2024 Report Recommendations

The full committee deliberated on recommendations for the 2024 report, voted on recommendations to be included in the report, and prepared for their respective subcommittee working sessions to refine language for the final selection of recommendations based on input.

The committee voted to include recommendations for VA to address the following issues:

- Women Veterans Call Center:
 - Providing additional resources to enhance advertising for the call center to increase awareness of VA's services.
- Homeless Women Veterans/Medical Billing Challenges;
 - Examining the correlation between medical billing challenges and homelessness in women Veterans.
- Reproductive Health:

- Capturing utilization of in vitro fertilization to identify ways to better serve women Veterans.
- Women Veterans Journey Map:
 - Disseminating the Women Veterans Journey Map to promote better awareness of women Veterans' barriers to accessing VA's benefits and services, and promote more utilization.
- Women Veterans Only Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Facility:
 - Establishment of a women's only facility to address MST.
- Tailored Communications to Women Veterans:
 - Routine VISN-specific dissemination of information to women Veterans regarding outreach, local resources, programs and events focused on women's health.
- Feasibility Study for the Center for Women Veterans (CWV):
 - Examination of CWV's resources to ensure that CWV can efficiently carry out the statutory, regulatory, and implied duties and functions in a timely manner.

Meeting Adjourned
Chair, ACWV

/s/

Colonel Wanda Wright, USAF, Ret.
Chair, Advisory Committee on Women Veterans

/s/

Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd
Current Designated Federal Officer, Advisory Committee on Women Veterans