

or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: February 11, 2003.

Carol Savage,

Program Analyst.

[FR Doc. 03-3863 Filed 2-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Chiropractic Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Chiropractic Advisory Committee will meet Tuesday, March 25, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Wednesday, March 26, 2003, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 230, Washington, DC 20420. The meeting is open to the public.

The purpose of the Committee is to provide direct assistance and advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the development and implementation of the chiropractic health program. Matters on which the Committee shall assist and advise the Secretary include protocols governing referrals to chiropractors and direct access to chiropractic care, scope of practice of chiropractic practitioners, definitions of services to be provided and such other matters as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

On March 25, the Committee will receive an update on the status of the

chiropractic occupational study and discuss the scope of chiropractic services, services to be provided in the VA chiropractic program, and protocols governing direct access and referrals to chiropractors. On March 26, the Committee will continue discussions on the items listed above and, at the end of the day, discuss the agenda for the next meeting and plan meeting dates for FY 2004.

On March 25, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Committee will provide time for oral statements from the public on the issues under discussion. Members of the public who wish to make a brief oral presentation at this meeting must contact Ms. Sara McVicker, Committee Manager, in writing via fax at (202) 273-9148 or via e-mail at sara.mcvicker@mail.va.gov no later than noon eastern time Friday, March 21, 2003, in order to have time reserved on the agenda. Requests to be scheduled for oral presentations should not be mailed via United States Postal Service due to delivery delays resulting from security measures. Opportunities for oral comments will be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per speaker and no more than 90 minutes total. Persons who wish their oral statement to become part of the Committee's records and available to the public on the Committee's internet site must submit a written or electronic copy of the statement at the time of the meeting. Persons making oral statements are requested to bring 13 copies of their statement for the Committee and an additional 20 copies for other members of the public.

Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting is requested to contact Ms. McVicker, RN, MN, at (202) 273-8558 by noon eastern time on March 21, 2003, in order to facilitate entry to the building.

The Committee will accept written comments from interested parties on issues under discussion and other matters relating to the development and implementation of the chiropractic health program within the Veterans Health Administration. It is preferred that such comments be transmitted electronically to the Committee at sara.mcvicker@mail.va.gov or comments may be mailed to: Chiropractic Advisory Committee, Primary and Ambulatory Care SHG (112), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: February 10, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-3827 Filed 2-14-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Research Service Merit Review Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs gives notice under the Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the subcommittees of the Medical Research Service Merit Review will meet from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. as indicated below:

Subcommittee for	Date(s)	Location
Alcoholism & Drug Dependence	March 17, 2003	Holiday Inn Central.
Immunology & Dermatology	March 17-18, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Neurobiology-D	March 20-21, 2003	Hotel Washington.
Infectious Diseases	March 20-21, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Surgery	March 24, 2003	Hotel Washington.
Oncology	March 24-25, 2003	Hotel Washington.
Mental Health & Behav Sciences	March 25-26, 2003	Hotel Washington.
Cardiovascular Studies	March 27, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Epidemiology	March 28, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Gastroenterology	March 31-April 1, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Respiration	April 1, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Endocrinology	April 3-4, 2003	Marriott Residence Inn.
Nephrology	April 7, 2003	Hotel Washington.
General Medical Science	April 8, 2003	Hotel Washington.
Hematology	April 11, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Clinical Research Program	April 15, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Neurobiology-C	April 25, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Aging and Clinical Geriatrics	April 25, 2003	Holiday Inn. Central.
Medical Research Service Merit Review Committee	June 5, 2003	Marriott Residence Inn.

The addresses of the hotels are:
 Holiday Inn. Central., 1501 Rhode
 Island Avenue, NW., Washington., DC

Hotel Washington., 515-15th Street,
 NW., Washington., DC

Marriott Residence Inn. (Thomas
 Circle), 1199 Vermont Avenue, NW.,
 Washington., DC

These subcommittee meetings are for the purpose of evaluating the scientific merit of research conducted in each specialty by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) investigators working in VA Medical Centers and Clinics.

The subcommittee meetings will be open to the public for approximately one hour at the start of each meeting to discuss the general status of the program. The remaining portion of each subcommittee meeting will be closed to the public for the review, discussion, and evaluation of initial and renewal projects.

The closed portion of the meetings involves discussion, examination, reference to and oral review of site

visits, staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the subcommittee meetings, discussion and recommendations will deal with qualifications of personnel conducting the studies, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, as well as research information, the premature disclosure of which could significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects.

As provided by subsection 10(d) of Public Law 92-463, as amended by Public Law 94-409, closing portions of these subcommittee meetings is in

accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). Those who plan to attend or would like to obtain a copy of minutes of the subcommittee meetings and rosters of the members of the subcommittees should contact LeRoy G. Frey, Ph.D., Chief, Program Review Division, Medical Research Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC, (202) 408-3630.

Dated: February 7, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggin,

Committee Management Officer.

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