

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
COMMISSION ON CARE

1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Commission on Care
2. AUTHORITY: The Commission on Care established as required by section 202 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), Public Law 113-146, and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.
3. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES: The Commission on Care (the "Commission") is established to examine the access of Veterans to health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and strategically examine how best to organize the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), locate health care resources, and deliver health care to Veterans during the 20-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of VACAA, August 7, 2014.
4. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION:
 - A. Evaluation and Assessment: In accordance with section 202(b)(1), the Commission shall undertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of access to health care at VA.
 - B. Matters Evaluated and Assessed: In undertaking the comprehensive evaluation and assessment required by section 202(b)(1) of VACAA and paragraph (4)(A) above, the Commission shall evaluate and assess the results of the assessment conducted by the private sector entity or entities under section 201 of VACAA, including any findings, data, or recommendations included in such assessment.
 - C. Reports: In accordance with section 202(b)(3) of VACAA, submit an interim report not later than 90 days after the initial meeting of the Commission to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and a final report not later than 180 days after the initial meeting of the Commission. The reports shall include (i) the findings of the Commission with respect to the evaluation and assessment required by section 202(b)(1); and (ii) such recommendations as the Commission may have for legislative or administrative action to improve access to health care through VHA.
5. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMISSION REPORTS: The Commission reports to the President, through the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

VA is responsible for ensuring the reporting requirements of Section 6(b) of the FACA are fulfilled.

6. OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR THE COMMISSION: VHA is responsible for providing support to the Commission.
7. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF-YEARS: Annual operating cost for the Commission is estimated at \$3,600,000 per year, including compensation of members and staff, in accordance with section 202(d) of VACAA. All members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Commission. Approximately 15 FTE are anticipated.
8. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER: The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) or an Alternate DFO, full-time or permanent part-time VA employees, will be present at all meetings, including subcommittee meetings. The DFO will work with the Commission Chair to schedule the meetings and develop meeting agendas. 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 Commission will meet at the call of the Chair for the duration of the Commission. The Commission may hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, and take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out its duties under section 202 of VACAA. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.
10. DURATION: The Commission is subject to the termination date as specified below in section 11.
11. TERMINATION: The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits the final report required by section 202(b)(3)(B) of VACAA.
12. MEMBERSHIP: The Commission shall be composed of 15 voting members who are appointed as Special Government Employees and described in paragraph (A) below for the life of the Commission and have the qualifications described in paragraph (B) below:
 - A. APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY:
 - i. Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at least one of whom shall be a Veteran.
 - ii. Three members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, at least one of whom shall be a Veteran.

- iii. Three members appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom shall be a Veteran.
- iv. Three members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, at least one of whom shall be a Veteran.
- v. Three members appointed by the President, at least two of whom shall be Veterans.

B. QUALIFICATIONS: Of the members appointed under 12(A) –

- i. At least one member shall represent an organization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of Veterans under 38 U.S.C. 5902;
- ii. At least one member shall have experience as senior management for a private integrated health care system with an annual gross revenue of more than \$50,000,000;
- iii. At least one member shall be familiar with government health care systems, including those systems of the Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service, and Federally-qualified health centers (as defined by in section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(1)(2)(B));
- iv. At least one member shall be familiar with VHA but shall not be currently employed by VHA; and
- v. At least one member shall be familiar with medical facility construction and leasing projects carried out by government entities and have experience in the building trades, including construction, engineering, and architecture.

C. CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON: The President shall designate a member of the Commission to serve as Chairperson of the Commission. The Commission shall select a Vice Chairperson from among its members.

D. VACANCIES: If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

13. SUBCOMMITTEES: The Commission is authorized to establish subcommittees, with DFO approval, to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with its mission. The Commission Chair shall notify the Secretary, through the DFO, of the establishment of any subcommittee, including its function, membership, and estimated duration. Subcommittees will report back to the Commission.

14. RECORDKEEPING: Records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26 or other approved agency records disposition schedules. Those records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 5, U.S.C. 552.

15. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:  Date 7/15/15
Robert A. McDonald
Secretary of Veterans Affairs