

# National Leadership Council

## Background

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In November 2011, the National Leadership Council was constituted as VHA's newly constituted governance structure and replaced VHA's previous governance structure, which was the National Leadership Board. The National Leadership Council's purpose is to be the deliberative and decision making body of the organization. The goal of restructuring VHA's governance structure was to create a more deliberative and decision making body. VHA's senior leaders used **The Malcolm Baldrige Criteria** to assess and identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in VHA management systems. Main goals of VHA's new governance structure is to consistently reflect key organizational goals, be transparent and inclusive, decisive, and accountable, and be small enough to be deliberative and act efficiently.



## Functions

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1. Assures the organization has a leadership forum that oversees the activities of development of strategic direction, deployment and measurement of performance, accountability, and transparency of decision making;
2. Serves as a forum for making recommendation to the Under Secretary for Health;
3. Assures organizational actions and initiatives are supportive to the vision, values and mission of the organization, and aligned with the strategic direction and goals of the VHA and VA;
4. Provides the deliberation necessary to assure all relevant elements of the organization are represented in decision making; and
5. Supports the ethical behavior of the organization.

## Policy/Directive

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The National Leadership Council serves as the key governance element for deliberation, serving in a recommendation and advisory capacity to the Under Secretary for Health. The National Leadership Council makes recommendations on all matters that are cross-cutting, discusses items that require high-level deliberation, acts on Executive Decision Memos for recommendation to the Under Secretary for Health, and assures the integration of all actions taken by the governance organizations. The National Leadership Council must be agile and responsive to needs and changes in the organization. The National Leadership Council may direct Committees to undertake a particular action and performance metric based on the needs of the organization.

## Organizational Structure/Membership

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The National Leadership Council is chaired by the Under Secretary for Health and co-chaired by the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health. The Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management and the Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Policy and Services may chair the National Leadership Council in the Under Secretary for Health or Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Health's absence. Membership of the National Leadership Council includes both key VHA senior leadership in operations and program offices.