

Date: March 22, 2021

From: Marisue Cody, Ph.D., Extramural Funding Subcommittee Designated Federal Officer (14RD)

Subj: Establishment of Extramural Funding Subcommittee under the National Research Advisory Council (NRAC) (VIEWS 4099533)

To: Secretary (00)

1. This memorandum provides notice that the National Research Advisory Council (NRAC) is establishing a Extramural Funding Subcommittee. The NRAC is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Federal Advisory Committee. Pursuant to Paragraph 13 of the Council's Charter, the NRAC is authorized to establish subcommittees to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with the Council's mission, with the approval of the Designated Federal Officer and notice to the Secretary.

2. In support of the Council's mission, the Extramural Funding Subcommittee of the NRAC will address the recommendations in GAO-20-570, July 2020, Opportunities Exist to Strengthen Partnerships and Guide Decision-Making with Nonprofits and Academic Affiliates:

Recommendation 1: The Under Secretary for Health should ensure its key offices, such as Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) and Office of Research and Development (ORD), provide VA medical centers with examples of successful practices for strengthening research relationships with academic affiliates and that such information reflect the lessons learned from VA medical centers that have successfully cultivated these relationships, and

Recommendation 2: The Under Secretary for Health should ensure ORD, in consultation with the field, develops tools, such as a decision tree and successful practices, to help local VA medical center officials decide which entity – Non-profit Corporations (NPC) or Academic Affiliates – should administer extramural funding based on providing optimal support for research.

3. The Council shall oversee and guide the Subcommittee's activities. The Subcommittee shall report only to the Council, and shall not report to VA or any other entity. Not less than once a year, the Subcommittee shall submit a report to the Council detailing its activities, findings, and recommendations, and may submit such other reports and recommendations to the Council as the Subcommittee considers appropriate.

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4. Members will be selected from knowledgeable VA and Non-VA experts and VA will strive to develop a Committee membership that represents members with diverse professional and personal qualifications: experience in military service, military deployments, working with Veterans, committee subject matter expertise, and working in large and complex organizations. The Committee shall represent, to the extent possible, Veterans or diverse eras and branches of service, as well as diversity in race/ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, and geographical background. The subcommittee will be comprised of at least ten but not more than twenty members.

5. There are no budget requirements for this Subcommittee. Meetings will be held virtually. The Subcommittee will be discontinued when the key deliverables (white paper and toolkits) are completed and implemented in the field, no longer than 1 year.

6. Should you need further information, please have a member of your staff contact Dr. Marisue Cody, Designated Federal Officer, Office of Research and Development at 202-443-5681 or Marisue.Cody@va.gov.

Marisue Cody, Ph.D.
Designated Federal Officer
National Research Advisory Committee