

CCD Veterans Task Force 2018 Priorities & Activities

The CCD Veterans Task Force advocates for policies and follows issues of concern to veterans with disabilities (service connected and non-service connected). The Task Force is open to all CCD members and meets on the second Thursday of each month.

During 2018, the Task Force plans to focus on the following areas:

- Serve as a forum to learn from and share ideas with task force members and key stakeholders, including Administration officials, congressional leaders, and veterans organizations, on issues impacting veterans with disabilities.
 - To this end, the task force plans to:
 - seek a meeting with Ondray Harris, Director of the DOL Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs concerning ongoing implementation of VEVRAA and Section 503 regulations
 - arrange for a briefing by Jim Borbely with the Bureau of Labor Statistics on employment of veterans with disabilities
 - arrange for a briefing by the TRICARE for Kids Coalition upon release of an expected report concerning military dependents served by Medicaid
- Follow, and act upon as needed, legislative efforts to ensure high quality health care for veterans with disabilities and their families by maintaining the integrity of the VA system and protecting their access to other health care programs, including those that provide specialized access to community-based care and supports. In particular, the task force will:
 - Support expansion of the VA's comprehensive family caregiver program to eligible veterans of all-eras;
 - Support including post-9/11 veteran caregivers (who receive a VA caregiver stipend) in proposed Social Security Caregiver Credit legislation;
 - Support protection of access to VA's specialized health care services, such as spinal cord injury/disease care, blinded care, poly-trauma care, and mental health care.
 - Support making protection and advocacy services available to veterans with disabilities to ensure they receive proper VA assistance in the areas of mental health and substance use.
 - Seek to improve access to the supports that allow veterans with disabilities to successfully reintegrate into their families and communities by supporting expansion of the veteran directed home and community based services program
 - Oppose efforts that threaten access of veterans with disabilities to Medicaid and non-discriminatory health insurance coverage
- Promote increased employment opportunities and supports for veterans with disabilities by:
 - Monitoring implementation of key employment policies and initiatives (such as Section 503/VEVRAA; WOTC) aimed at increasing employment of veterans with disabilities.
 - Seeking reauthorization of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.
 - Undertaking an initiative to direct the DOL's Veterans Employment and Training Service to prioritize employment for veterans with disabilities through a dedicated staff member or specialized outreach.

In addition, the Task Force will plan for and engage in other activities as needs and opportunities arise.

Adopted April 2018