

CCD Veterans Task Force Annual Report 2020

Brief Task Force Description *

Because veterans with disabilities are people with disabilities, the CCD Veterans Task Force seeks to draw particular attention to cross-cutting issues affecting this population as part of the broader community of those with disabilities in addition to highlighting issues directly affecting veterans with disabilities, both service-connected and non-service-connected.

First of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2020 *

Implementation of the DOL VETS Disabled Veterans Outreach Program - the task force led the effort to create this program which was authorized in 2019. The aim of the VETS DVOP is to leverage all of DOL's workforce programs as well as those of other federal agencies to focus on the particular employment challenges and needs of veterans with disabilities - service-connected as well as non-service connected. The task force monitored progress in staffing the program and received a briefing late in the year from VETS officials about the status of the program and plans for next year.

Second of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2020 *

CHAMPVA Childrens Protection Act - this legislation seeks to rectify the omission of dependents of disabled veterans receiving coverage from CHAMPVA from the ACA provisions covering dependents up to age 26. The task force partnered with The Military Coalition and LCCHR in pressing for passage of this legislation in veterans omnibus measures and the NDAA. Unfortunately, those efforts were unsuccessful.

Third of Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2020 *

Permanent authorization of fertility services for service-connected disabled veterans - the task force wrote letters of support for the Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act that, among its provisions, would make procreative services a permanent part of the medical benefits package at VA. Although unsuccessful this year, the bill is likely to return in the 117th and the task force plans to work with allies in the veteran and military communities to press for its passage. A positive step forward was language included in the large veterans omnibus bill passed at the end of the session that requires a study on infertility services furnished by VA for eligible veterans.

First of Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2021 *

DOL VETS Disabled Veterans Outreach Program implementation - as many veterans with disabilities, like their civilian counterparts, bear the brunt of economic dislocations from COVID-19 and face increasing challenges to their employment, the work of the VETS DVOP will be increasingly important. The task force intends to work with other CCD task forces focused on employment to ensure that DOL and its many agencies includes the work of this program in their outreach to people with disabilities.

Second of Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2021 *

Employment challenges facing veterans with disabilities - beyond the work of the VETS DVOP, numerous programs serve veterans with disabilities and their work will be critical to fostering employment opportunities for these veterans. WIOA will need to be reauthorized in the near future and there were numerous provisions affecting veterans with disabilities in its last reauthorization that need to be reviewed for their effectiveness and improved if necessary. Initiatives to improve federal hiring and retention of people with disabilities under Sec. 501 and compliance with federal contracting rules must include veterans with disabilities in any reforms. The task force expects to coordinate with other CCD task forces that focus on employment of people with disabilities to assist in amplifying their efforts

Third of Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2021 *

Health Care and Benefits for Veterans with Disabilities - There are several health care related issues affecting veterans with disabilities that the task force expects to follow next year. Among these are the impact of toxic chemical exposures and their identification as contributing to service-related disabilities and conditions, health care services for women veterans with disabilities and continuing need for improvements in mental health services. The task force may also work with allied organizations in amplifying the needs of veterans with disabilities in compensation, pension and other benefits issues.

Task Force Meeting Day

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First Week of the Month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Second Week of the Month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Third Week of the Month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fourth Week of the Month	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Task Force Meeting Time *

Time

10 : 00 AM ▼

Task Force Co-Chairs (list for 2021, if known; otherwise, list for 2020) *

Kenneth Greenberg, Vets First and Susan Prokop, PVA