

**Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Meeting
February 19 - 20, 2009
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington DC 20420
Room: 730**

The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans met on February 19 - 20, 2009 at 810 Vermont Ave. NW Room: 730.

Committee Members Present:

Chairman George Basher, Roosevelt Thompson, Sam Galbreath, Ralph Cooper, Joseph Smith, Kathy Spearman, Craig Burnette, Joseph Autry, Sandy Miller, John Hilgert, Beryl Love
Carlos Martinez, Leslie Lightfoot Paul Moore (special consultant)

Committee Members Absent:

Charles Battaglia

Peter Dougherty, the Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO) was present

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Chairman George Basher called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM. Briefed members on meeting priorities and reviewed the agenda.

Pete Dougherty briefed members on new legislative bills and departmental activities such as the proposal to terminate the Multifamily Transitional Housing Loan Guarantee Program.

Committee members received their annual ethics briefing.

After the briefing the meeting continued with a VHA overview

Mr. Paul Smits, Associate Chief Consultant, Homeless and Residential Treatment Programs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Provided an update of VA's Homeless Programs presentation:

Grant Per Diem program.

Mental Health issues and successes.

OIF/OEF statistics

Women Veteran issues

HUD/VASH statistics and issues

Supportive Services

Secretary Shinseki

Gave brief remarks and answered questions of concern from committee members

Jim Sullivan, Deputy Director Asset Enterprise Management and Ed Bradley, Director, Investment and Enterprise Development

Gave overview on Enhanced Lease Program

Ex-Officio Reports

Mark Johnston, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Special Needs Assistance Program (HUD)

Briefed on stimulus package, Pilot Homeless prevention program, supportive services, HUD/VASH

Gordon Burke, Director of Operations, Office of Grants and Transition Programs Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) (DOL)

Discussed priority service of veterans measures, to grant awards early, VRA revitalizing, and a formal roll out of Assistant Secretary of Labor Technical assistance video.

Bryant Monroe, Project Manager Office of Economic Adjustment (DoD)

Discussed ratings of BRAC

Gave descriptions of surplus land on military bases

Commented on swapping land for land or cash for homeless concerns

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 PM

Friday, February 20, 2009

Chairman George Basher called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

Ex-Officio Report

Bradford Underwood C&P Service, Veterans Services Chief, Outreach Staff (VBA)

Outreach Claims presentation

The Honorable Michael J. Kussman MD, Under Secretary for Health

Gave brief remarks and answered questions of concern from committee members

Working Groups

Committee broke away in Working Groups to develop recommendations for annual report on following subject:

Permanent Housing: Multifamily money reallocated, rental guarantees, enhance use lease on VA campuses, foreclosure forbearance, GPD Centralized inspection safety

Economics: Performance indicators, check list, better coordination and collaboration, Pilot project

VBA Claims: Accountability, Web Advertising, Call Center, Contingency

VHA/MH Handbook, screening, DoD on TBI screens, outreach advertising, Integration DoD and VA best practices, Seamless transition, common disability rating

The Committee adjourned at 4:00 pm.