§ 318. Center for Women Veterans

(a) There is in the Department a Center for Women Veterans. There is at the head of the Center a Director.

(b) The Director shall be a career or noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service. The Director shall be appointed for a term of six years.

(c) The Director reports directly to the Secretary or the Deputy Secretary concerning the activities of the Center.

(d) The Director shall perform the following functions with respect to veterans who are women:

1. Serve as principal adviser to the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting veterans who are women.

2. Make recommendations to the Secretary, the Under Secretary for Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and other Department officials for the establishment or improvement of programs in the Department for which veterans who are women are eligible.

3. Promote the use of benefits authorized by this title by veterans who are women and the conduct of outreach activities to veterans who are women, in conjunction with outreach activities carried out under chapter 77 of this title.

4. Disseminate information and serve as a resource center for the exchange of information regarding innovative and successful programs which improve the services available to veterans who are women.

5. Conduct and sponsor appropriate social and demographic research on the needs of veterans who are women and the extent to which programs authorized under this title meet the needs of those veterans, without regard to any law concerning the collection of information from the public.

6. Analyze and evaluate complaints made by or on behalf of veterans who are women about the adequacy and timeliness of services provided by the Department and advise the appropriate official of the Department of the results of such analysis or evaluation.

7. Consult with, and provide assistance and information to, officials responsible for administering Federal, State, local, and private programs that assist veterans, to encourage those officials to adopt policies which promote the use of those programs by veterans who are women.

8. Advise the Secretary when laws or policies have the effect of discouraging the use of benefits by veterans who are women.

9. Publicize the results of medical research which are of particular significance to veterans who are women.

10. Advise the Secretary and other appropriate officials on the effectiveness of the Department’s efforts to accomplish the goals of section 492B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289a–2) with respect to the inclusion of women in clinical research and on particular health conditions affecting women’s health which should be studied as part of the Department’s medical research program and promote cooperation between the Department and other sponsors of medical research of potential benefit to veterans who are women.

11. Provide support and administrative services to the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans established under section 542 of this title.

12. Perform such other duties consistent with this section as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(e) The Secretary shall ensure that the Director is furnished sufficient resources to enable the Director to carry out the functions of the Center in a timely manner.
(f) The Secretary shall include in documents submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support of the President’s budget for each fiscal year—

(1) detailed information on the budget for the Center;

(2) the Secretary’s opinion as to whether the resources (including the number of employees) proposed in the budget for that fiscal year are adequate to enable the Center to comply with its statutory and regulatory duties; and

(3) a report on the activities and significant accomplishments of the Center during the preceding fiscal year.


Prior Provisions

Prior sections 321, 322, and 331 to 335 were renumbered sections 1121, 1122, and 1131 to 1135 of this title, respectively.


Prior sections 337, 341, and 342 were renumbered sections 1137, 1141, and 1142 of this title, respectively.


Prior sections 351 to 355 were renumbered sections 1151 to 1155 of this title, respectively.


Prior sections 357 to 363 were renumbered sections 1157 to 1163 of this title, respectively.

Prior sections 401 and 402 were renumbered sections 1301 and 1302 of this title, respectively.


Prior sections 404, 410 to 418, and 421 to 423 were renumbered sections 1304, 1310 to 1318, and 1321 to 1323 of this title, respectively.

Amendments

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104–275, § 501(a), inserted “career or” before “noncareer”.

Subsec. (d)(10). Pub. L. 104–275, § 501(d), substituted “(42 U.S.C. 289a–2) with respect to the inclusion of women in clinical research and on” for “(relating to the inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research) and of”.

Assessment of Use by Women Veterans of Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services

Pub. L. 104–262, title III, § 323, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3196, provided that:

“(a) Reports to Under Secretary for Health.—The Center for Women Veterans of the Department of Veterans Affairs (established under section 509 of Public Law 103–446 [enacting this section and section 317 of this title and repealing former section 317 of this title], in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, shall assess the use by women veterans of health services through the Department of Veterans Affairs, including counseling for sexual trauma and mental health services. The Center shall submit to the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs a report not later than April 1, 1997, and April 1 of each of the two following years, on—
“(1) the extent to which women veterans described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1710 (a) of title 38, United States Code, fail to seek, or face barriers in seeking, health services through the Department, and the reasons therefor; and

“(2) recommendations, if indicated, for encouraging greater use of such services, including (if appropriate) public service announcements and other outreach efforts.

“(b) Reports to Congressional Committees.—Not later than July 1, 1997, and July 1 of each of the two following years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing—

“(1) the most recent report of the Center for Women Veterans under subsection (a);

“(2) the views of the Under Secretary for Health on such report’s findings and recommendations; and

“(3) a description of the steps being taken by the Secretary to remedy any problems described in the report.”

NB: This unofficial compilation of the U.S. Code is current as of Jan. 4, 2012 (see http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscp.html).