

on June 1, 2015 and in other documents in the FHWA project records. The CE and other project records are available by contacting Caltrans at the addresses provided above. This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions as of the issuance date of this notice and all laws under which such actions were taken.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

**Authority:** 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

Issued on: June 18, 2015.

**Gary Sweeten,**

*Team Leader North, Project Delivery, Federal Highway Administration, Sacramento, California.*

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**BILLING CODE 4910-22-P**

## UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

### Proposed Priorities for Amendment Cycle

**AGENCY:** United States Sentencing Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice; Request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** As part of its statutory authority and responsibility to analyze sentencing issues, including operation of the federal sentencing guidelines, and in accordance with Rule 5.2 of its Rules of Practice and Procedure, the United States Sentencing Commission is seeking comment on possible priority policy issues for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2016.

**DATES:** Public comment should be received on or before July 27, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments should be sent to the Commission by electronic mail or regular mail. The email address is [pubaffairs@ussc.gov](mailto:pubaffairs@ussc.gov). The regular mail address is United States Sentencing Commission, One Columbus Circle NE., Suite 2-500, South Lobby, Washington, DC 20002-8002, Attention: Public Affairs—Priorities Comment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jeanne Doherty, Public Affairs Officer, 202-502-4502, [jdoherthy@ussc.gov](mailto:jdoherthy@ussc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the United States Government. The Commission promulgates sentencing guidelines and policy statements for federal sentencing courts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(a). The

Commission also periodically reviews and revises previously promulgated guidelines pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(o) and submits guideline amendments to the Congress not later than the first day of May each year pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(g), the Commission intends to consider the issue of reducing costs of incarceration and overcapacity of prisons, to the extent it is relevant to any identified priority.

The Commission provides this notice to identify tentative priorities for the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2016. The Commission recognizes, however, that other factors, such as the enactment of any legislation requiring Commission action, may affect the Commission's ability to complete work on any or all of its identified priorities by the statutory deadline of May 1, 2016. Accordingly, it may be necessary to continue work on any or all of these issues beyond the amendment cycle ending on May 1, 2016.

As so prefaced, the Commission has identified the following tentative priorities:

(1) Continuation of its work with Congress and other interested parties on statutory mandatory minimum penalties to implement the recommendations set forth in the Commission's 2011 report to Congress, titled *Mandatory Minimum Penalties in the Federal Criminal Justice System*, including its recommendations regarding the severity and scope of mandatory minimum penalties, consideration of expanding the "safety valve" at 18 U.S.C. 3553(f), and elimination of the mandatory "stacking" of penalties under 18 U.S.C. 924(c), and to develop appropriate guideline amendments in response to any related legislation.

(2) Continuation of its multi-year examination of the overall structure of the guidelines post-*Booker*, possibly including recommendations to Congress on any statutory changes and development of any guideline amendments that may be appropriate. As part of this examination, the Commission intends to study possible approaches to (A) simplify the operation of the guidelines, promote proportionality, and reduce sentencing disparities, (B) appropriately account for the defendant's role, culpability, and relevant conduct, and (C) encourage the use of alternatives to incarceration.

(3) Continuation of its multi-year study of statutory and guideline definitions relating to the nature of a defendant's prior conviction (e.g., "crime of violence," "aggravated felony," "violent felony," "drug

trafficking offense," and "felony drug offense") and the impact of such definitions on the relevant statutory and guideline provisions (e.g., career offender, illegal reentry, and armed career criminal), possibly including recommendations to Congress on any statutory changes that may be appropriate and development of guideline amendments that may be appropriate.

(4) Implementation of the directive to the Commission in section 10 of the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, Public Law 111-220 (enacted August 3, 2010) (requiring the Commission, not later than 5 years after enactment, to "study and submit to Congress a report regarding the impact of the changes in Federal sentencing law under this Act and the amendments made by this Act").

(5) Continuation of its study of the guidelines applicable to immigration offenses and related criminal history rules, and consideration of any amendments to such guidelines that may be appropriate in light of the information obtained from such study.

(6) Continuation of its comprehensive, multi-year study of recidivism, including (A) examination of circumstances that correlate with increased or reduced recidivism; (B) possible development of recommendations for using information obtained from such study to reduce costs of incarceration and overcapacity of prisons; and (C) consideration of any amendments to the *Guidelines Manual* that may be appropriate in light of the information obtained from such study.

(7) Continuation of its multi-year review of federal sentencing practices pertaining to imposition and violations of conditions of probation and supervised release, including possible consideration of amending the relevant provisions in Chapters Five and Seven of the *Guidelines Manual*.

(8) Continuation of its work with Congress and other interested parties on child pornography offenses to implement the recommendations set forth in the Commission's December 2012 report to Congress, titled *Federal Child Pornography Offenses*.

(9) Implementation of the USA FREEDOM Act of 2015, Public Law 114-23, and any other crime legislation enacted during the 114th Congress warranting a Commission response.

(10) Study of animal fighting offenses and consideration of any amendments to the *Guidelines Manual* that may be appropriate.

(11) Resolution of circuit conflicts, pursuant to the Commission's continuing authority and responsibility,

under 28 U.S.C. 991(b)(1)(B) and *Braxton v. United States*, 500 U.S. 344 (1991), to resolve conflicting interpretations of the guidelines by the federal courts.

(12) Consideration of any miscellaneous guideline application issues coming to the Commission's attention from case law and other sources.

The Commission hereby gives notice that it is seeking comment on these tentative priorities and on any other issues that interested persons believe the Commission should address during the amendment cycle ending May 1, 2016. To the extent practicable, public comment should include the following: (1) A statement of the issue, including, where appropriate, the scope and manner of study, particular problem areas and possible solutions, and any other matters relevant to a proposed priority; (2) citations to applicable sentencing guidelines, statutes, case law, and constitutional provisions; and (3) a direct and concise statement of why the Commission should make the issue a priority.

**Authority:** 28 U.S.C. 994(a), (o); USSC Rules of Practice and Procedure 5.2.

**Patti B. Saris,**

*Chair.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Notice of amendment to system of records.

**SUMMARY:** The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552(e)(4)) requires that all agencies publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of the existence and character of their systems of records. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending the system of records, known as "Health Care Provider Credentialing and Privileging Records-VA" (77VA10Q) as set forth in the **Federal Register** 73 FR 16097 dated 3/26/08. VA is amending the system notice by revising the paragraphs on System Number, System Location, Categories of Individuals Covered by the System, and Routine Uses of Records Maintained in the System. VA is republishing the system notice in its entirety at this time.

**DATES:** Comments on the amendment of this system of records must be received

no later than July 27, 2015. If no public comment is received, the new system will become effective July 27, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning the proposed amended system of records may be submitted by: mail or hand-delivery to Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; fax to (202) 273-9026; or email to <http://www.Regulations.gov>. All comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Please call (202) 461-4902 (this is not a toll-free number) for an appointment.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Privacy Act Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20420, (704) 245-2492.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The system number is changed from 77VA10Q to 77VA10A4 to reflect the current Organizational alignment. The System Location section is being amended to include the name change to the office maintaining the electronic records to the VHA Office of Quality, Safety and Value (OQSV).

The Categories of Individuals Covered by the System is being amended to add registered kinesiotherapists.

Routine use 6 is amended to allow the disclosure of information to academic affiliates. Routine use 17 and 18 are being amended to remove the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPD). Routine use 24 was added in response to the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 which requires VA to make publicly available on and through VA home pages physician information to include the name of the facility at which each physician underwent residency training in addition to the health care provider's name, gender, name of professional school, State of licensure, and board certification.

The Report of Intent to Amend a System of Records Notice and an advance copy of the system notice have been sent to the appropriate Congressional committees and to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) (Privacy Act) and guidelines issued by OMB (65 FR 77677), December 12, 2000.

**Signing Authority:** The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this

document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert L. Nabors, II, Chief of Staff, approved this document on May 27, 2015, for publication.

Dated: June 1, 2015.

**Kathleen M. Manwell,**

*VA Privacy Service, Office of Privacy and Records Management, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

### 77VA10A4

#### SYSTEM NAME:

Health Care Provider Credentialing and Privileging Records—VA.

#### SYSTEM LOCATION:

Records are maintained at each Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care facility. Address locations for VA facilities are listed in VA Appendix 1 biennial publication of VA system of records. In addition, information from these records or copies of records may be maintained at the Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420 and/or Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) Offices. Records for those health care providers who are contractors in a VA health care facility, or to VA for the delivery of health care to veterans and are credentialed by the contractor in accordance with Veterans Health Administration (VHA) policy, where credentialing information is received by VHA facilities, it will be maintained in accordance with this notice and VHA policy. Electronic copies of records may be maintained by VHA Office of Quality, Safety and Value (OQSV), a component thereof, or a contractor or subcontractor of VHA/OQSV. Back-up copies of the electronic data warehouse are maintained at off-site locations.

#### CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS COVERED BY THE SYSTEM:

The records include information concerning health care providers currently or formerly employed or otherwise utilized by VHA and individuals who apply to VHA for employment and are considered for employment or appointment as health care providers. These records will include information concerning individuals who through a contractual or other agreement may be, or are, providing health care to VA patients.

This may include, but is not limited to, audiologists, dentists, dietitians, expanded-function dental auxiliaries, licensed practical or vocational nurses, nuclear medicine technologists, nurse