

the use of other forms of information technology.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Titles:** VHA Homeless Programs, Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900–NEW, (VHA Homeless Programs, Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups)).

**Type of Review:** New collection.

**Abstract:** In 1993 the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans in response to Public Law 102–405 which required VA to make an assessment of the needs of homeless Veterans in coordination with other Federal departments, state and local government agencies, and nongovernmental agencies with experience working with homeless persons. Since 1993, VA has administered a needs assessment in accordance with guidance in Public Law 103–446 and Public Law 105–114.

This collection of information is necessary to ensure that VA and community partners are developing services that are responsive to the needs of local homeless Veterans, in order to end homelessness and prevent new Veterans from experiencing homelessness. Over the years data from CHALENG has assisted VA in developing new services for Veterans such as the Homeless Veteran Dental Program (HVDP), the expansion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development–VA Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH) Program, the Veterans Justice Programs and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). In addition community organizations use CHALENG data in grant applications to support services for homeless Veterans; grant applications are for VA, other Federal, local government, and community foundation dollars, which maximizes community participation in serving homeless Veterans.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 1,650 burden hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 5 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Annually.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 15,000.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Kathleen M. Manwell,**

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

[FR Doc. 2015–25432 Filed 10–6–15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

##### **Policy and Implementation Plan for Public Access to Scientific Publications and Digital Data from Research Funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This **Federal Register** Notice announces an opportunity for public review and comment on the Policy and Implementation Plan for Public Access to Scientific Publications and Digital Data from Research Funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by VA on or before November 6, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be submitted through <http://www.Regulations.gov>; by mail or hand delivery to the Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273–9026. Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to “Policy and Implementation Plan for Public Access to Scientific Publications and Digital Data from Research Funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.” Copies of 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. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System at <http://www.Regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tom Puglisi, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Research Oversight (10R), 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington DC 20420, Telephone: 202–632–7676 (this is not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** VA’s policy and implementation plan for increased public access to the results of its research was developed in response to White House initiatives on federally funded scientific research. In its

February 22, 2013, memorandum, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) directed each federal agency with over \$100 million in annual expenditures for the conduct of research and development to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of research funded by the federal government, including digital data sets and results published in peer-reviewed scholarly publications arising directly from federally-funded research (OSTP, Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research, February 22, 2013).

In implementing policies on public access to research publications and digital research data, VA must first remain cognizant of its ethical and legal obligations to safeguard the privacy of Veterans (and VA’s other research subjects) and the confidentiality of their private information, while promoting the highest quality science. VA also recognizes that Veterans and the public at large have a substantive interest in accessing the results of the research that VA conducts. VA’s responsibility precludes unlimited public access to private information about individual research subjects. With this in mind, VA has carefully weighed the public benefits versus the risks of harm to Veterans and other research subjects in establishing the requirements.

VA is committed to ensuring that the final study results, including peer-reviewed publications and digital data from VA-funded scientific research, are made available to the scientific community, industry, and the general public with the fewest constraints possible, while protecting the privacy of the Veterans (and others individuals) about whom research data are obtained and safeguarding the confidentiality of their data.

Requirements for public access to scientific publications will apply to all peer-reviewed publications reporting results of research that are either funded by the VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) or conducted, supported, or sponsored by any Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Program Office.

Requirements for public access to digital data will apply to the final research data underlying all peer-reviewed publications reporting results of research that is either funded by the VA ORD or conducted, supported, or sponsored by any VHA Program Office. VA proposes to begin sharing digital research data through controlled public access mechanisms and move toward open public access to the extent that the protection of Veterans’ identifiable private information can be ensured.

**Availability:** Persons with access to the Internet may obtain the document at: [http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/Plan\\_for\\_Access\\_to\\_Results\\_of\\_VA\\_Funded\\_Rsch\\_02\\_14\\_2014.pdf](http://www.va.gov/ORO/Docs/Guidance/Plan_for_Access_to_Results_of_VA_Funded_Rsch_02_14_2014.pdf).

Alternatively, the document may be obtained by mail or by calling ORO at (202) 632-7676 (this is not a toll-free number).

#### 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, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on September 30, 2015, for publication.

Dated: October 1, 2015.

**Michael Shores,**

*Chief Impact Analyst, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2015-25448 Filed 10-6-15; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[OMB Control No. 2900-NEW]

### Agency Information Collection (Evaluation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services) Activities Under OMB Review

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment.

The PRA submission describes the nature of the information collection and its expected cost and burden and includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed collection of information should be received on or before November 6, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov), or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer; 725 17th St. NW., Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to [oira\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oira_submission@omb.eop.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW (Evaluation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services) in any correspondence. During the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the FDMS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Crystal Rennie, Enterprise Records Service (005R1B), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 632-7492 or email [crystal.rennie@va.gov](mailto:crystal.rennie@va.gov). Please refer to "OMB Control No. 2900-NEW (Veterans, Researchers, and IRB Members Experiences with Recruitment Restrictions)" in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the PRA of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13; 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. This request for comment is being made pursuant to Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA.

With respect to the following collection of information, VHA invites comments on: (1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of VHA's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of VHA's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the

quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Titles:** Evaluation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Services.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900-NEW.

**Type of Review:** New Collection Request.

**Abstract:** This is a congressionally-mandated research study to evaluate mental health services provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Congress directed the VA to conduct a survey of veterans with assistance from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies. Attachment 1 contains the authorizing legislation, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, Section 726.

Following the large number of deployments and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of military members with mental health problems has been rising. All Veterans who need mental health services do not seek them or receive them from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system. This study is to assess barriers to receiving mental health care services among veterans.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or Households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:** 5,192 burden hours.

**Estimated Average Burden per Respondent:** 35 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Annually.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:** 8,900.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Kathleen M. Manwell,**

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

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