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June 1, 2026

The Honorable Douglas A. Collins
Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you to your team for appearing as a witness before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Oversight for the hearing titled "Expanding the Mission: The Future of the National Center for Warrior Independence in West LA" that was held on May 13, 2026.

As a follow-up to the hearing, I request the Honorable John J. Bartrum, Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, respond to the attached questions for the record.

The Committee requests a written response no later than June 23, 2026, so it may be made part of the hearing record. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Nicholas West, Chief Clerk, on my staff via email at Nicholas.West@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



MIKE BOST
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

cc: The Honorable Mark Takano, Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Enclosures: Questions for the Record submitted by Ranking Member Mark Takano

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Oversight Hearing

“Expanding the Mission: The Future of the National Center for Warrior Independence in West LA”

Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 10:15 AM

360 Cannon House Office Building

QUESTIONS

Non-Disclosure Agreements

- a. Which specific individual and office at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed, drafted, and directed the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) for projects related to VA?
- b. Did the Secretary approve the use of NDAs? For which projects and/or programs did the Secretary approve the use of NDAs? Does the Secretary know that NDAs have been used for the West LA projects?
- c. Who at VA made the decision to not allow signers to have a copy of the NDAs, or to prevent them from reviewing it with their attorney before they signed it?
- d. The final section of the NDA VA provided to Committee staff states “VA reserves the right to take disciplinary action for violations of this Agreement”. What disciplinary action does VA plan to take against non-VA employees who violate the NDA?
- e. What criteria were used to determine that work on the West LA project included access to information sensitive enough to warrant the use of an NDA?
- f. What criteria were used to determine which individuals, including non-VA employees, would be required to sign an NDA to participate in meetings or access information related to the West LA project?

Intensive Case Management

- a. How many veterans living in housing on campus are currently enrolled in the Mental Health Intensive Case Management program, which provides comprehensive and recovery-oriented care for veterans with serious, persistent mental illness?
- b. How many veterans living in housing on campus are eligible for MHICM?
- c. Is VA adequately staffed to enroll veterans who are found to be eligible for MHICM on-demand?
- d. How many veterans on the by-name list are eligible for MHICM?
- e. How many psychiatrist vacancies are there currently at GLA? How many psychiatrists, social workers, and nurses does GLA need to hire to expand access to MHICM to every veteran who needs it?
- f. How many veterans residing at West LA receive care through an Assertive Community Treatment model?
- g. How many veterans residing at West LA receive care through Critical Time Intervention practices?
- h. How many case managers or social workers with specialized training in substance use provide care to veterans in the housing buildings at West LA?
- i. Please provide a details as to how VA is expanding use of these evidence-based practices to serve veterans residing on the West LA campus.

Domiciliary Care

- a. How many vacancies does the West LA campus currently have for each of its Domiciliary Programs?
- b. What is the staff turnover rate for each of the West LA Domiciliary Programs?

- c. How many new hires are in the pipeline for West LA Domiciliary Program positions?
- d. There is currently a 43% occupancy rate for the Domiciliary for Homeless Veterans and 68% for the General Domiciliary. Please provide details as to the factors leading to these occupancy rates.

LSV-A Grants

The Isakson-Roe Act from 2021 provided authority for VA's Homeless Programs Office (HPO) to grant funding to eligible organizations to coordinate or provide legal services to Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. One of these legal services for veterans grants is called colloquially the "LSV-A" grant because it is intended to serve veterans with assistance accessing their VA benefits, including through discharge upgrades.

- a. Is VA issuing a NOFO in 2026 or 2027 for the LSV-A grants?
- b. Please provide details related to VA's decision to issue or not issue a NOFO for the LSV-A grants.
- c. How many LSV-A grants were previously awarded to the organizations in Los Angeles area? How many veterans were served under these grants?
- d. How many veterans nationwide will be affected if VA no longer offers these grants?

Narcan Availability

Committee staff have heard there have been at least 6 overdose deaths on campus, but veterans who live at West LA report there have been even more overdoses, but these deaths haven't always been coded as such by the medical examiner. In many cases, narcotic overdoses can be preventable.

- a. Do veterans residing on campus have access to naloxone, or Narcan, in every residential building?
- b. How has VA decided that some veterans may have access to this medication whereas others do not? What does a veteran have to do to access Narcan from VA?
- c. Has VA done an analysis of the buildings where Narcan may be most effective for veterans based on reports of drug use and overdoses?
- d. Are employees working in, visiting, or responding to incidents in these buildings, whether they are clinical professionals, police officers, or case managers, trained and able to administer Narcan when necessary?

Veteran Community Oversight & Engagement Board

Subsection 2(i) of the West LA Leasing Act requires VA establish a Veterans Community Oversight and Engagement Board, or VCOEB to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary on the Master Plan and how to improve services and outcomes for veterans. The VCOEB has not met since August 2025. HVAC staff were told during their visit to West LA in April that there “is no V-C-O-E-B right now”. We have heard from multiple former members of the VCOEB who termed out of their role that VA told them that the White House would be vetting their social media and online presence if they chose to pursue renewing their membership. In response to a question from my staff, VA has stated that individuals are not being excluded from consideration for VCOEB due to their social media.

- a. Has VA reviewed the social media and online presence of any member or potential member of the VCOEB? If yes, who at VA performed that review?
- b. Who at VA directed that person to perform that review? What were they told to look for?

- c. Was any individual disqualified from membership on the VCOEB because of their social media presence?

Security responsibility / Staffing

On my staff's most recent trip to West LA they were told that there are only 5 VA police officers on patrol at one time for the entire Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System catchment area.

- a. How many officers have left VA to go work for ICE or other law enforcement departments in Los Angeles? How many officers have left VA over issues of pay and/or advancement opportunities in Los Angeles? How many officers have left VA to go work for ICE across the VA enterprise?
- b. How is VA going to compete to recruit and retain enough VA police to protect veterans who live at the National Soldiers' Home?

What is the status of VA and OPM's efforts to downgrade VA Police Officers?

How many veterans have died (of any causes) in EULs on campus since January 1, 2025? Please provide details on these losses, how these deaths were coded by the medical examiner or coroner, and if VAPD responded to these reports.

- a. What policies, unofficial or official, does OCLA currently have in place for the notification of veteran deaths both on and off campus, at any VA facility, if any? Do these policies differ for campuses that contain leased space, like the West LA VA Medical Center campus or Regional Offices?

The current contract between GLA and Surveillance Security, Inc. Holds that contracted security personnel maintain a responsibility to "assist [VAPD] with evacuating buildings, locking down buildings, and crowd control."

What role in the response to reported deaths (overdoses, natural causes, etc.) does GLA's contracted security play in securing rooms and buildings?

- a. In the hearing, Mr. Bartrum noted that VA had just awarded "an additional security contract for some additional security." Will these security personnel be stationed within EULs, or will they be patrolling/static personnel on the campus in outdoor areas?

Funding

Section 2(c) of the President's executive order for West LA states that VA is to coordinate with the Secretaries of HHS and HUD to ensure that funds spent on housing and other services for undocumented immigrants is redirected to construct, establish, and maintain the National Center for Warrior Independence.

- a. Has VA received any funds for the National Center for Warrior Independence from HUD or HHS?
- b. Please detail any discussions between Secretaries Collins, Turner, and/or Kennedy regarding reprogramming or transferring funds to VA for the purposes of the National Center for Warrior Independence.

Security Jurisdiction

It is unclear what VA's operational posture is for its police force in regards to its jurisdiction and authority in enhanced use lease housing on the West LA campus. In some cases, VAPD can enter these buildings when they are called by veterans reporting disturbances, but are not able to patrol otherwise; at other times, VA police have been barred from entering these buildings entirely. The current contract between Greater Los Angeles and Surveillance Security, Inc. holds that contracted security personnel maintain a responsibility to assist VAPD with evacuating buildings, locking down buildings, and crowd control. Veterans have shared stories that their friends and neighbors have died from overdoses, and then, due to the lack of a secure unit, their belongings have been stolen.

- a. What is the current operational posture for VA police for their ability to enter leased housing building on the West LA campus when responding to a call?
- b. What entity is responsible for securing housing units on the West LA campus when a veteran has died?
- c. If a veteran has been ruled to have died of "natural causes," what guidance is VAPD or contracted security given regarding securing the unit of the deceased veteran?
- d. What trainings, guidance, or policies do the VA Police Officers at the West LA VA Medical Center campus receive regarding the handling of potential crime scenes involving deceased individuals? Please provide full, unredacted copies of these policies, trainings, and/or guidance documents.
- e. How are these officers instructed to interact with LAPD, LA Fire Department, or other emergency responders that may have concurrent jurisdiction?

Building 212

VA has requested to reprogram \$98 million to renovate Building 212 to create Sober-Living transitional housing.

- a. Why is VA choosing to operate this is transitional housing versus permanent housing?
- b. Does VA envision this building being managed through the Grant and Per Diem program?
- c. Since by definition the GPD program is a grant program, has VA targeted a provider to run Building 212? Please provide details, including the model that will be used and how a provider will be selected to operate Building 212.

Supply/Demand

The President's executive order calls for VA to house up to 6,000 veterans at West LA. There was extensive debate during the Powers v. McDonough trial as to the appropriate number of housing units on campus and the types of housing that should be built.

- a. What is the current and projected demand for permanent supportive housing on campus?
- b. What is the current and projected demand for affordable permanent housing for veterans?
- c. Is VA considering affordable workforce or student veteran housing in its next phase of development, if so please describe and detail the veteran demand for those types of units?

- d. Part of the President's executive order calls for veterans outside of the area to be moved to West LA for treatment. If veterans are transferred to LA for services and treatment, what is VA's plan for ensuring they can return to their home community to reintegrate?

Reductions in Homelessness

Last year, VA housed over 52,000 veterans, which exceeds the number of veterans identified in the point-in-time count, which was around 32,000 in January 2024. VA is clearly excelling at getting veterans into housing, but cannot control inflow. That inflow can be attributed to the soaring cost of living and the lack of affordable housing across the country. These issues become even more acute for the many disabled veterans who are on a fixed income. HUD-VASH voucher utilization is at an all time high with over 94,000 veterans under lease with a voucher across the country at the end of FY25. Yet we understand that Secretary Turner is still considering time-limiting HUD housing subsidies.

- a. Has Secretary Collins asked Secretary Turner to exempt HUD-VASH from any plans to put time-limits on vouchers for veterans?
- b. What about the hundreds of thousands of veterans who receive other types of HUD assistance – has Secretary Collins asked that all veterans be exempt from time limits for subsidies?

Executive in Charge

- a. Who is the VA official who is the executive-in-charge of developing, executing, and overseeing plans for West LA?
- b. Who is VA's expert on homelessness assigned to the West LA project?

Project-Based Vouchers

The Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) will reach its project-based voucher cap by the end of 2027. This will potentially impede future development on campus since project-based vouchers are used to help developers secure funding and provide a reliable stream of rental income, reducing risk.

- a. Has Secretary Collins met with Secretary Turner about this issue? What is the plan to resolve it?
- b. If LACDA runs out of project-based vouchers, how will development of permanent housing on campus continue?

Town Center/Community Amenities

Over the last few years before the Trump Administration came in, there was a very public debate about the development of a Town Center at West LA. Veterans living on campus need things to do and access to essentials. Proposals for Town Center include amenities like a grocery store, cafeteria, arts studio, barber shop, and hair salon. VA and the principal developer sought veteran input for what they want to see in the Town Center through a survey and campus listening sessions.

- a. Has VA changed the plan for the Town Center since the end of 2024? What amenities will be provided in the Town Center?
- b. VA has been analyzing its authority to operate a grocery store on campus through the veteran canteen service for nearly 3 years now. Please describe the current status of this project and VA's authority to operate a grocery store and other amenities on campus.

Project Safe Harbor

- a. How many veterans across the country have been referred for guardianship since January 1, 2025? Please provide a detailed breakdown of veteran location, referral source, number of veterans referred, and number of homeless veterans referred.
- b. Please provide detailed data broken down by location and veteran homelessness status (i.e. homeless versus non-homeless) for the following metrics:
 1. Number of veterans engaged in Safe Harbor Program (not necessarily completed);
 2. Number of veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness evaluated/assessed for guardianship and other state-specific legal needs;
 3. Number of veterans who are inpatient boarding at a VA facility awaiting guardianship;
 4. Number of veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness with completed guardianship application packets submitted to vendor/contractor/court;
 5. Number of veterans on inpatient VA units and awaiting evaluation/guardianship, including number of days they have been awaiting evaluation;
 6. Number of veterans who completed program and received guardianship;
 7. Number of veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness placed in housing once guardian appointed; and
 8. Number of veterans who are stable and transition out of program.

- c. How many VA attorneys have been appointed under the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Justice to serve as special assistant U.S. attorneys? How many VA attorneys have been trained to serve as special assistant U.S. attorneys? Please provide a full, unredacted copy of all training materials.
- d. Will homeless veterans from other parts of the country who VA petitions the court for guardianship be moved to Los Angeles for treatment at the National Center for Warrior Independence? Please provide a detailed description of the legal processes VA will use to carry out this initiative.