

prosthetics service, priority for Chapter 31 clients to receive medical care, and the pilot program of rehabilitation outcome measurements. On January 15, the Committee will discuss recreation therapy, the new Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor position, and future meetings and agenda items.

The meeting will be open to the public. For those wishing to attend, please contact Dianna Murphy at (202) 273-7419. Interested persons may attend, appear before, or file statements with the Committee. Statements, if in written form, may be filed before the meeting. Oral statements will be heard at 9 a.m. on January 15, 1998.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-34123 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration, gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463, that a meeting of the Scientific Review and Evaluation Board for Health Services Research and Development Service will be held at the Clarion Hotel, Bay View, 660 K Street, San Diego, CA, January 11, 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., and January 12 through January 13, 1998, from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. The purpose of the meeting is to review research and development applications concerned with the measurement and evaluation of health care systems and with testing new methods of health care delivery and management. Applications are reviewed for scientific and technical merit. Recommendations regarding their funding are prepared for the Chief Research and Development Officer (12).

This meeting will be open to the public at the start of the January 11 session for approximately one half-hour to cover administrative matters and to discuss the general status of the program. The closed portion of the meeting involves discussion, examination, reference to, and oral review of staff and consultant critiques of research protocols and similar documents. During this portion of the meeting, discussion and recommendations will deal with the qualifications of the personnel conducting the studies (the disclosure of

which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), as well as research information (the premature disclosure of which would be likely to frustrate significantly implementation of proposed agency action regarding such research projects). As provided by the subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, closing portions of these meetings is in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B).

Due to the limited seating capacity of the room, those who plan to attend the open session should contact Mr. E. William Judy, MSHA, Review Program Manager (124F), Health Services Research and Development Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, at least five days before the meeting. For further information, he can be reached at (202) 273-8254.

Dated: December 19, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-34122 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Poverty Threshold

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the weighted average poverty threshold established for 1996 for one person (unrelated individual) as established by the Bureau of the Census. The amount is \$7,995.

DATES: For VA determinations, the 1996 poverty threshold is effective September 29, 1997, the date on which it was established by the Bureau of the Census.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We published a final rule amending 38 CFR 4.16(a) in the **Federal Register** of August 3, 1990, 55 Fed. Reg. 31,579. The amendment provided that marginal employment generally shall be deemed to exist when a veteran's earned annual income does not exceed the amount established by the Bureau of the Census as the poverty threshold for one person. The provisions of 38 CFR 4.16(a) use the poverty threshold as a standard in

defining marginal employment when considering total disability ratings for compensation based on unemployability of an individual. We stated we would publish subsequent poverty threshold figures notices in the **Federal Register**.

The Bureau of the Census recently published the weighted average poverty thresholds for 1996. The threshold for one person (unrelated individuals) is \$7,995.

Dated: December 22, 1997.

Hershel W. Gober,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 97-34035 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Privacy Act of 1974; Amendment of System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is adding new routine uses to the system of records entitled "Personnel and Accounting Pay System—VA" (27VA047) as set forth in the **Federal Register** 40 FR 38095 (8/26/75) and amended in 48 FR 16372 (4/15/83), 50 FR 23009 (5/30/85), 51 FR 6858 (2/26/86), 51 FR 25968 (7/17/86), 55 FR 42534 (10/19/90), 56 FR 23952 (5/24/91), 58 FR 39088 (7/21/93), 58 FR 40852 (7/30/93), 60 FR 35448 (7/7/95), and 62 FR 41483 (8/1/97). This system of records contains information on current salaried VA employees.

Pursuant to Pub. L. 104-193, the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996," VA is required to disclose data from 27VA047 to the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services for use in its Federal Parent Locator System (FPLS) and Federal Tax Offset System, DHHS/OCSE No. 09-90-0074. Information on this system was last published at 62 FR 41483, August 1, 1997.

FPLS is a computerized network through which States may request location information from Federal and State agencies to find non-custodial parents and/or their employers for purposes of establishing paternity and securing support. Effective October 1, 1997, the FPLS will be enlarged to include the National Directory of New Hires, a database containing information on employees commencing employment, quarterly wage data on

private and public sector employees, and information on unemployment compensation benefits. Effective October 1, 1998, the FPLS will be expanded to include a Federal Case Registry. The Federal Case Registry will contain abstracts on all participants involved in child support enforcement cases. When the Federal Case Registry is instituted, its files will be matched on an ongoing basis against the files in the National Directory of New Hires to determine if an employee is a participant in a child support case anywhere in the country. If the FPLS identifies a person as being a participant in a State child support case, that State will be notified of the participant's current employer. State requests to the FPLS for location information will also continue to be processed after October 1, 1998.

When individuals are hired by VA, we may disclose to the FPLS their names, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, dates of hire, and information identifying us as the employer. We also may disclose to FPLS names, social security numbers, and quarterly earnings of each VA employee, within one month of the end of the quarterly reporting period.

In addition, names and social security numbers submitted by VA to the FPLS will also be disclosed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement to the Social Security Administration for verification to ensure that the social security number provided is correct. The data disclosed by VA to FPLS will also be disclosed by the Office of Child Support Enforcement to the Secretary of the Treasury for use in verifying claims for the advance payment of the earned income tax credit or to verify a claim for employment on a tax return.

We are proposing these routine uses in accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3)). The Privacy Act permits the disclosure of information about individuals without their consent for a routine use where the information will be used for a purpose which is

compatible with the purpose for which the information was originally collected. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has indicated that a "compatible" use is a use which is necessary and proper. See OMB Guidelines, 51 FR 18982, 18985 (1986). Since the proposed uses of the data are required by Pub. L. 104-193, they are clearly necessary and proper uses, and therefore "compatible" uses which meet Privacy Act requirements.

An altered system of records report and a copy of the revised system notice have been sent to the House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(r) and guidelines issued by OMB (59 FR 37906, 37916-18 (7/25/94)).

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions, or objections regarding the proposed changes to the system of records of the Director, Office of Regulations Management (02D), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Room 1154, Washington, DC 20420. All relevant material received before January 30, 1998. All written comments received will be available for public inspection at the above address in the Office of Regulations Management, Room 1158, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

If no public comment is received during the 30-day review period allowed for public comment, or unless otherwise published in the **Federal Register** by VA, the new routine uses are effective January 30, 1998.

Approved: December 22, 1997.

Hershel Gober,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO SYSTEM OF RECORDS

In the system of records identified as 27VA047, "Personnel and Accounting

Pay System—VA," as set forth in the **Federal Register** 40 FR 38095 (8/26/75) and amended in 49 FR 16372 (4/15/83), 50 FR 23009 (5/30/85), 51 FR 6858 (2/26/86), 51 FR 25968 (7/17/86), 55 FR 42534 (10/19/90), 56 FR 23952 (5/24/91), 58 FR 39088 (7/21/93), 58 FR 40852 (7/30/93) 60 FR 35448 (7/7/95), and 62 FR 41483 (8/1/97), the system is revised as follows:

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Routine uses of records maintained in the system, including categories of users and the purpose of such uses:

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30. The names, social security numbers, home addresses, dates of birth, dates of hire, quarterly earnings, employer identifying information, and State of hire of employees may be disclosed to the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services Federal Parent Locator System (FPLS) for the purpose of locating individuals to establish paternity, establishing and modifying orders of child support, identifying sources of income, and for other child support enforcement actions as required by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (Welfare Reform Law, Pub. L. 104-193).

31. Information from this system of records may be released to the Social Security Administration for verifying social security numbers in connection with the operation of the Federal Parent Locator System (FPLS) by the Office of Child Support Enforcement.

32. Information from this system of records may be released to the Department of the Treasury for purposes of administering the Earned Income Tax Credit Program (Section 32, Internal Revenue Code of 1986) and verifying a claim with respect to employment in a tax return.

[FR Doc. 97-34125 Filed 12-30-97; 8:45 am]

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