



In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum 11-35, *Eliminating Excess Conference Spending and Promoting Efficiency in Government*, issued September 21, 2011, and OMB Memorandum 12-12, *Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations*, dated May 11, 2012, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prepared the attached FY 2014 report on covered conference events over \$100,000. During FY 2014, VA incurred expenses of approximately \$26 million for the 68 covered conference events.

Continuous workforce training and development is absolutely critical to delivering the timely, quality VA care and services our Veterans have earned and deserve. Our senior leaders across the Department are focused on transforming procedures for conference and training events that build accountability at every step. VA has improved our procedures by implementing senior-level review of proposed budgets and expenditures, reviewing internal processes and controls, and maintaining strict oversight of all reportable conference expenses.

The report is posted at: [http://www.va.gov/about\\_va/va\\_notices.asp](http://www.va.gov/about_va/va_notices.asp)

Veterans Affairs FY 2014 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Event Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)-Leading from the Front and RN Boot Camp (2323)	\$ 253,963	Online	8/6/2013	1/31/2014	44	To engage leaders at all levels in leadership methods, tools and strategies that enable successful Patient Aligned Care Team implementation, effective partnerships with other healthcare staff, and personalized, proactive patient-driven care.
Requirements Gathering and Testing Qtr1	\$ 185,360	Washington, DC	10/1/2013	12/21/2013	59	The purpose of the session is to elicit, document, and decompose the business requirements necessary to describe the VBMS system and deliver those requirements to the OI&T.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1401	\$ 832,796	Little Rock, AR	10/14/2013	12/6/2013	89	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.
Challenge Training 2014-1	\$ 667,364	Baltimore, MD	10/28/2013	12/13/2013	72	To provide technical training to newly hired Veteran Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country.
T21 Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Conference (1283)	\$ 159,165	Washington, DC	11/21/2013	11/22/2013	132	To provide training on integrated strategies to prevent suicide, share common findings and assist VA and DOD Suicide Prevention, as outlined in the DoD/ VA Integrated Mental Health Strategy and co-sponsored by the two departments.
Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) Case Management Training (2028)	\$ 112,096	Norman, OK	12/3/2013	12/5/2013	75	To train the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration Provider teams to compassionately, effectively and efficiently rate process and provide FPOWs with needed treatment and compassion.
Water Borne Infection Control With Emphasis on Legionella (4650)	\$ 104,825	Washington, DC	12/3/2013	12/6/2013	109	To bring together experts from Healthcare, Engineering, Infectious Diseases, Infection Prevention and Control, Public Health, Safety and Occupational Health, Clinical Operations, Environmental Programs, and the field, and external SMEs to discuss Legionella prevention.
Requirements Gathering and Testing Qtr2	\$ 154,560	Washington, DC	1/2/2014	3/21/2014	62	The purpose of the session is to elicit, document, and decompose the business requirements necessary to describe the VBMS system and deliver those requirements to the OI&T.
Challenge Training 2014-2	\$ 308,506	Baltimore, MD	1/5/2014	2/13/2014	71	To provide technical training to newly hired VSRs and RVSRs of Regional Offices across the country.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1402	\$ 691,712	Little Rock, AR	1/6/2014	2/28/2014	75	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.
Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae/Multi-Drug Resistant (2656)	\$ 170,539	San Antonio, TX	1/22/2014	1/23/2014	158	To serve as the national kick-off for the Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) Prevention Initiative.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1403	\$ 701,718	Little Rock, AR	2/3/2014	3/28/2014	74	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.

Veterans Affairs FY 2014 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Event Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
FY14 National Leadership Council Meetings (4162)	\$ 133,843	Arlington, VA	2/19/2014	9/17/2014	256	To allow the NLC's governance body to meet on a regular basis so they may effectively deliberate and serve in an advisory capacity to the Under Secretary for Health on all matters that are cross-cutting and require deliberation.
Graduate Health Administration Training Program, Veterans Affairs Center Office (3744)	\$ 106,775	Washington, DC	2/23/2014	2/27/2014	69	Face-to-face Veterans Affairs Center Office orientation to give Graduate Health Administration Training Program interns a broader perspective of the VA and provide a context for the roles they will fill as VHA healthcare administrators.
VISN 16 Leadership Development Institute (1435)	\$ 143,156	Jackson, MS	2/24/2014	9/12/2014	136	To prepare a diverse group of VISN 16 employees for leadership roles within the VA.
Transformational Leadership Supporting an Updated Leadership Development Program (3942)	\$ 265,040	Bedford, MA	2/26/2014	9/24/2014	120	To develop and implement a strategic leadership intervention that focuses on fostering the integration of ownership and leadership throughout the healthcare system.
Challenge Training 2014-3	\$ 458,236	Baltimore, MD	3/5/2014	4/15/2014	120	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country.
Increasing Access to Smoking Cessation Treatment for Veterans (3721)	\$ 126,499	Atlanta, GA	3/11/2014	3/12/2014	106	To provide "hands on" behavioral skills training to VA clinicians in evidence-based smoking cessation interventions targeted to Veterans with mental health disorders.
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	\$ 148,036	Snowmass, CO	3/30/2014	4/6/2014	65	Presented by VA and the Disabled American Veterans, this is an annual adaptive sports clinic for Veterans with severe disabilities that uses skiing and other sporting activities to enhance the total rehabilitation process.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1404	\$ 704,630	Little Rock, AR	3/31/2014	5/23/2014	75	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.
Utilization Management Conference (1361)	\$ 207,443	Dallas, TX	4/2/2014	4/3/2014	209	Provide a unified approach and will capitalize on best practices, effective communication and team work that are required among Utilization Management Reviewers, Certified InterQual instructor and Physician Utilization Management Advisors.
Challenge Training 2014-4	\$ 1,599,982	Baltimore, MD	4/7/2014	5/23/2014	205	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country.
Health Care Leadership Development Program 2014 (3758)	\$ 324,733	Cincinnati, OH	4/7/2014	9/12/2014	210	Hands-on training experience designed to prepare healthcare executives and develop leaders for facility-level executive leadership positions.
VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee 68th Annual Meeting (3626)	\$ 114,953	Cary, NC	4/23/2014	4/25/2014	76	Annual meeting of the advising body to the Secretary through the Under Secretary of Health on all matters related to VAVS operations, policy and programs in all VHA facilities.

Veterans Affairs FY 2014 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Event Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
Home Based Primary Care Competency-Based Training (1792)	\$ 100,177	Tampa, FL	4/29/2014	5/1/2014	83	To bring together HPBC leaders and administrative change agents to prepare them to implement new T21 transitional care and specialty PACT initiatives.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1405	\$ 701,952	Little Rock, AR	5/5/2014	6/27/2014	76	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.
VBA Executive Leadership Training	\$ 217,096	Atlanta, GA	5/5/2014	5/8/2014	120	To provide essential training to VBA Executive Leadership to ensure VA's transformation success, focusing on critical leadership skills, such as accountability, employee motivation, labor relations, handling media engagements, etc.
Former Prisoners of War (FPOW) (4888)	\$ 173,696	Dallas, TX	5/13/2014	5/15/2014	111	To train the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration Provider teams to compassionately, effectively and efficiently rate process and provide FPOWs with needed treatment and compassion.
Nurse Professional Standards Board Training (1293)	\$ 117,334	Portland, OR	5/13/2014	5/15/2014	61	To promote the consistency and accuracy of NPSB hiring and promotion processes through intense training and, thereby, reduce nurse turnover rates and attract the highest qualified candidates to nursing positions.
Challenge Training 2014-6	\$ 1,850,806	Baltimore, MD	5/19/2014	6/27/2014	220	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1406	\$ 715,168	Little Rock, AR	6/2/2014	7/25/2014	76	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.
Partnerships for Healing Environments (1809)	\$ 280,481	Dallas, TX	6/3/2014	6/6/2014	241	The purpose of the conference is to advance technical knowledge, administrative development.
Peer Specialist Training: Transforming to Mental Health Staff (3777)	\$ 227,363	Orlando, FL	6/4/2014	6/6/2014	201	To train Peer Specialists on their roles and responsibilities and the unique contributions they make to support VA's mission of being a Veteran-centric healthcare system.
Advanced Coaches 201 Training	\$ 1,519,005	St. Paul, MN	6/8/2014	8/30/2014	825	The training is intended to enhance knowledge of management, performance management skills, as well as knowledge in change management, human resources, labor relations, and leadership for Coaches and Assistant Coaches.
VA Senior Executive Strategic Leadership Course II (SLC II), Strategic thinking, Cohort 20	\$ 193,196	Chapel Hill, NC	6/15/2014	6/20/2014	23	To train VA senior executives on strategic thinking and leading change.
Challenge Training 2014-7	\$ 1,525,556	Baltimore, MD	6/16/2014	8/1/2014	220	To provide technical training to newly hired Veterans Service Representatives and Rating Veterans Service Representatives of Regional Offices across the country.
Women's Health Mini-Residency PC Providers/Nurses (3892)	\$ 323,555	Orlando, FL	6/17/2014	6/19/2014	189	To provide primary care providers and nurses with the knowledge, physical examination and critical thinking skills needed to provide high quality care to women Veterans.

Veterans Affairs FY 2014 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Event Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
Prevention and Management of Disruptive Behavior Trainer Recalibration (3607)	\$ 109,363	Albany, NY	6/23/2014	6/26/2014	68	To train staff in practical physical and verbal skills, as well as to re-certify PMDB trainers in the verbal and physical intervention techniques they will use to train front-line users in VA.
Veterans Service Center Managers (VSCM) 2014	\$ 210,020	Marietta, GA	6/23/2014	6/27/2014	153	To identify, discuss and improve quality service for VA's customers.
Water Safety in Healthcare Workshop/Conference (3931)	\$ 332,624	Cincinnati, OH	6/23/2014	6/25/2014	238	Kickoff meeting for focused effort in VHA to prioritize water safety in healthcare setting with current standards and practices for water safety and prevention of water-related diseases and conditions.
Partnerships for Healing Environments (5207)	\$ 246,318	Phoenix, AZ	6/24/2014	6/27/2014	187	The purpose of the conference is to advance technical knowledge, administrative development.
VISN 20 Executive Leadership Meeting FY14 3rd Quarter (3910)	\$ 102,892	Anchorage, AK	6/24/2014	6/26/2014	40	To discuss and make decisions on network cross-cutting issues and ensure key information and best practices are effectively disseminated.
28th National Veterans Golden Age Games	\$ 491,725	Fayetteville, AR	6/28/2014	7/2/2014	174	Annual rehabilitative event which offers competitive sports and recreation events to Veterans age 55 and older.
Challenge Training 2014-8	\$ 2,376,001	Baltimore, MD	7/1/2014	8/15/2014	220	To provide technical training to newly hired VSRs and RVSRs of Regional Offices across the country
PACT Clinic Design Workshop-Lean Team Based Approach	\$ 140,738	Winter Garden, FL	7/10/2014	9/11/2014	1451	To enable successful and efficient PACT implementation; effective partnerships with other healthcare staff; and personalized, proactive and patient-centered/ driven healthcare.
Partnerships for Healing Environments (5206)	\$ 318,915	Orlando, FL	7/15/2014	7/18/2014	192	The purpose of the conference is to advance technical knowledge, administrative development.
Implementing and Sustaining Tele-health Services Throughout VHA and Linking to DOD (3802)	\$ 318,307	Denver, CO	7/22/2014	7/24/2014	219	To bring together key stakeholders to share the vision, align efforts, impact the hands-on competencies and introduce new national Telehealth programs throughout VHA.
VHA Prosthetics, Contracting and Logistics Conference (4080)	\$ 161,467	Orlando, FL	7/22/2014	7/25/2014	110	To identify and provide practical strategies to partner in the development and implementation of VHA's procurement and supply chain management policies.
Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) 1407	\$ 715,554	Little Rock, AR	7/28/2014	9/19/2014	60	The training is critical for preparing newly hired VA Police Officers to serve at medical centers nationwide.
Enhancing Partnerships for Research & Care of Women Veterans (2113)	\$ 143,449	Arlington, VA	7/31/2014	8/1/2014	152	To review progress, build and sustain critical partnerships and collaborations needed to promote women's health in a gathering of VA researchers, policy, operations and clinical leaders.
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment FY14 Officer Technical Training Conference	\$ 117,889	Buffalo, NY	8/10/2014	8/15/2014	90	To provide Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Officer's with practical strategies to successfully transition service-connected Veterans or wounded or injured Service members to employment.

Veterans Affairs FY 2014 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Event Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
5-day Financial Training Session for VBA Support Services Division (SSD) Personnel	\$ 281,256	Atlanta, GA	8/11/2014	8/15/2014	160	To provide essential training in core financial and administrative competencies to key personnel in VBA Service Support Divisions.
Women's Health Mini-Residency PC and Emergency Provider (3893)	\$ 305,779	Orlando, FL	8/12/2014	8/14/2014	194	To provide primary care and emergency providers and nurses with the knowledge, physical examination and critical thinking skills needed to provide high quality care to women Veterans.
Senior Executive Strategic Leadership Course II (SLC II) Strategic thinking, cohort 21	\$ 191,446	Chapel Hill, NC	8/17/2014	8/22/2014	25	To provide senior executives with methods for critical thinking and tools to accomplish the strategic goal of improving VA business operations and leading strategic change.
Payroll Customer Service Representative Training	\$ 290,897	Indianapolis, IN	8/18/2014	8/22/2014	225	To provide Customer Service Representative's the tools, tips and references they need to create a pay record, transfer pay responsibility to another Federal Department or Agency, and to properly close out a pay record.
Blind Rehabilitation Service National Conference (3792)	\$ 248,139	Sparks, NV	8/19/2014	8/21/2014	200	To provide knowledge, skills and abilities needed for the Blind Rehabilitation Specialists to keep pace with emerging technology, practices, and supporting programs.
Safe Patient Handling Peer Leader Training (4664)	\$ 278,471	Houston, TX	8/19/2014	8/22/2014	149	To provide knowledge and techniques used in practice for medical center staff in safe handling and movement of patients.
Major Construction Project Management Training	\$ 191,883	Chapel Hill, NC	8/25/2014	8/29/2014	23	To provide major construction project managers with the knowledge and skills required as they undergo a transformational change.
2014 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic	\$ 195,350	San Diego, CA	9/7/2014	9/12/2014	72	Therapeutic event for disabled Veterans to enhance their rehabilitation process and quality of life.
Construction in Built Environment and Healthcare Infections (3939)	\$ 103,046	San Antonio, TX	9/9/2014	9/10/2014	77	Interactive train the trainer workshop to demonstrate how the built environment of exposures to pathogens, especially from air and water sources.
Former Prisoner of War Case Management Conference (3954)	\$ 155,229	Dallas, TX	9/9/2014	9/11/2014	103	To train the Veterans Health Administration and Veterans Benefits Administration Provider teams to compassionately, effectively and efficiently rate process and provide FPOWs with needed treatment and compassion.
National VA Patient Safety Managers & Officers Conference (3960)	\$ 218,173	Cherry Hill, NJ	9/9/2014	9/11/2014	174	To improve patient safety and clinical practice by addressing current patient safety issues and teaching participants how to improve their own VISN and facility patient safety program.
Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) National Training Seminar (5109)	\$ 268,290	St. Louis, MO	9/15/2014	9/17/2014	250	The training seminar affords Veterans Canteen Service the opportunity to execute strategic planning, process improvement and technology training opportunities in a hands-on interactive setting

Veterans Affairs FY 2014 Sponsored Conferences in excess of \$100,000

Event Title	Total Costs	Location	Start Date	End Date	# VA Paid Travelers	Conference Description
Local Recovery Coordinators Training (4063)	\$ 109,122	Orlando, FL	9/16/2014	9/18/2014	91	To train Local Recovery Coordinators on changes in policies, updating clinical skills needed for the provision of personalized, proactive, Veteran-driven and recovery-oriented care, and strategies for maximizing the evolving and increasing collaboration of VA services, depts., and community providers.
Women's Health Field Leaders (WHFL) Training (6974)	\$ 365,710	Orlando, FL	9/16/2014	9/18/2014	298	To provide Women Veterans Program Managers and Women's Health Medical Directors with the most current knowledge and practical skills needed to coordinate and provide care.
Transforming Care of Veterans with Chronic Hepatitis C (3723)	\$ 156,405	San Antonio, TX	9/17/2014	9/18/2014	140	To train VISN teams on new HCV drugs and system re-design to improve HCV care and treatment capacity across VISNs and individual facilities.
National VHA Environmental Programs Service Training Conference (3926)	\$ 234,244	Tampa, FL	9/20/2014	9/21/2014	132	To effect an improved primary care setting which is characterized by effectiveness, safety, access, efficiency, high patient satisfaction and contributions to healthy communities.
Quality & Safety Institute: Transforming Veteran Health Care (1906)	\$ 202,893	Denver, CO	9/23/2014	9/25/2014	155	To train Chief Residents in Quality and Patient Safety & VA Quality Scholars.