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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Office of Tribal Government Relations Newsletter ~ February 2015

Note from the Director

Greetings and welcome to the February edition of the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations newsletter. It has been quite a cold and snowy winter out east but that hasn't slowed down our meetings with tribal leaders, Veterans and service providers engaged in discussions regarding how to be responsive to the priorities of our Veterans living in Indian Country. Here in DC, we welcomed several tribal delegations who came in for the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) Impact Week meetings and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Winter Session. We also participated in the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) meeting and were very pleased that Alaska's own Verdie Bowen, Director, Alaska Office of Veterans Affairs, was honored by VA Secretary Bob McDonald with a Pillar of Excellence Award in recognition of his support in advancing VA Reimbursement Agreements with the Alaska Native Health Consortium and Alaska Native health entities which serve as important access points for health care needed by Alaska's Veterans. Congratulations Verdie and thank you for your tireless work on behalf of Veterans as well as your commitment to working collaboratively and in partnership with tribal governments.

We've also continued the series of technical assistance calls with VISNs/IHS Area Offices and Tribal Health Programs who have established Reimbursement Agreements with the VA. The schedule of hour long calls provides a forum for IHS and Tribal Health Program sites to ask questions, share best practices, and to connect with important VA points of contact that can help with strengthening implementation of the agreement process. We are happy to report that VA has reimbursed IHS and Tribal Health Programs almost \$18 million dollars for care of 4800 Veterans. That is up from November of 2013 when VA had reimbursed \$1.3 million for care of 400 Veterans. We are looking forward to assisting more Tribal Health Programs with coming "online" to the Reimbursement Agreement process in 2015. If you have questions, don't hesitate to email: tribal.agreements@va.gov and you will receive a response back right away.

Our specialists out west were also busy this month. I accompanied Mary Culley, OTGR Southern Plains Tribal Government Relations Specialist to a briefing with the Oklahoma legislatures' Native American Caucus. We provided an overview of the VA Reimbursement Agreement process, outreach activities and also shared the VA Geographical Distribution Index data which shows the amount of VA revenue/expenditures flowing to every county in the United States. If you're curious to know how much in VA funding flows to counties within your tribal community, please email us: tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov and we can quickly provide this information. Tribal leaders are especially interested, so please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Mary has also been busy supporting collaboration with the Oklahoma City Inter-Tribal Health Board, the Department of Labor and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans to host a technical assistance training for tribes interested in applying for the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) grant. The training will be held in Oklahoma City, OK March 5-6, 2015. For questions regarding the training, or if you can't attend but would like copies of the presentation information, contact Mary: Mary.Culley@va.gov.

Over in the Western Region, Terry Bentley, Tribal Government Relations Specialist, briefed tribal leaders during the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI – a consortium of 57 tribes from the Northwest) Winter Convention held at the Chinook Winds Casino in Lincoln City, Oregon (hosted by the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians). Several key senior VA and governmental leaders joined Terry as part of a panel presentation focused on Veterans services. Terry was joined by the Director, Portland VA Medical Center, Director, Portland Veterans

Benefits Administration Regional Office and the Director of the Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs. On the horizon for the Western Region is the 2015 Western Region Veterans Summit, which will be held in Anacortes, Washington April 17-18, 2015. The summit is being organized in collaboration with the Swinomish Indian Community, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs along with other federal, state and community partners. This will be the 20th Veterans Training Summit VA OTGR has helped to coordinate since 2012. We are thankful to the tribes for their leadership in this effort and to all of our key partners who make these events possible. These events serve as critical points of outreach, information sharing and relationship building opportunities for tribal leaders, Veterans and those who serve Veterans.

Over in the Central Region, Peter Vicaire, Tribal Government Relations Specialist, presented information on the THP reimbursement program, tribal veteran cemetery grant program, tribal veteran's courts, and the Native American Direct Home Loan (NADL) program, to tribal leaders at a United Tribes of Michigan meeting. He will attend an upcoming signing ceremony with the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe in Bowler, Wisconsin, to celebrate their signing of the tribal health reimbursement agreement – the second tribe in Wisconsin to do so. He is then planning to travel east to Fort Benning, Georgia, to present information on Native Veterans and Tribal/Veterans Courts to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This will be followed by a presentation to the Midwest Association of Sovereign Tribes (MAST) on the issue of illegal state taxation of reservation-domiciled servicemembers (now Veterans) at a meeting that will be held in DC the week of March 9, 2015. Lastly this month, he will also present information on Tribal/Veterans courts to the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals. Peter has also been busy coordinating intergovernmental site visits with tribes located in his region. You'll hear more about the site visits in our next newsletter, and if your tribe is interested in learning more about what these entail, please contact us at tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov

In the Southwest, Homana Pawiki attended the 70th Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Flag Raising gathering held in Arizona and is busy preparing for additional tribal engagements. In March, she is scheduled to attend the ceremonial signing of the Ute Indian Tribe's MOU with VA for the Native American Direct Loan. This MOU will open doors for Veterans living on the Ute Indian Reservation in Utah to submit applications for VA mortgages and achieve the dream of home ownership. We are very excited to see this happen and watch as this program expands. We plan to post the list of MOUs VA has with tribal governments on the VA OTGR website in the very near future.

If you have contributions or information to submit to this newsletter, please email our editor, Peter Vicaire, at Peter.Vicaire@va.gov. We look forward to hearing from you as we transition into the spring.

Happy Reading – Stephanie



Stephanie E. Birchwell



U.S. Department of Justice ~ Veteran Treatment Court Funding Available for Tribal Courts

Need funding for your Drug Court, DWI Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Co-Occurring Court, or Tribal Healing to Wellness Court? **Deadline: April 16, 2015**



Now is the time to apply for DOJ funding. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has released its [2015 solicitation for the Drug Court Discretionary Grant program](#). This grant is available to State, Local and Tribal Governments and Courts. [The National Drug Court Institute](#) in partnership with BJA will host a webinar on March 5th at 2pm to provide an overview of the solicitation and answer your questions. [Sign up today](#) as space is limited!

[This grant](#) includes three categories:

1) Implementation: \$350,000 ~ 36 months

Jurisdictions that have completed a substantial amount of planning and are ready to implement an evidenced-based program.

2) Enhancement: \$200,000 ~ 24 months

Jurisdictions with a fully operational programs wanting to:

- expand the number of participants served that meet the existing target population description;
- expand the target population description and serve additional participants who meet the expanded description;
- enhance court operations;
- enhance court and/or supervision services; or
- enhance recovery support services

3) Statewide Enhancement ~ 36 months

- Applicants may request up to \$200,000 to improve, enhance, or expand drug court services statewide by encouraging adherence to the evidence-based program principles.
- Applicants may request up to \$1,300,000 to financially support drug courts in local or regional jurisdictions which do not currently operate with BJA Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program funding.

Special Announcement for Veterans Treatment Courts

There are two funding streams at DOJ for Veterans Treatment Courts:

Type A: No prohibition on violent offenders participating
Type B: Prohibits violent offenders from participating as defined on page 4 of the solicitation. It is critical that you carefully review the solicitation to determine which funding stream you are applying under. Limited funding is available for Type A. See page 15 of the solicitation for further information.



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant Opportunity for Substance Abuse Treatment/Veterans Courts

Here's a grant opportunity for tribes and tribal courts to expand substance abuse treatment capacity, including treatment of veterans. **The deadline is March 27, 2015.** The 47 page Request for Application can be found here on the [SAMHSA website](#). Below are some excerpts from that document.

“Eligible applicants are tribal, state and local governments with direct involvement with the drug court, such as the Tribal Court Administrator, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Single State Agency for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the designated State Drug Court Coordinator, or local governmental unit such as county or city agency, federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribes and tribal organizations, individual adult treatment drug courts, and family dependency treatment drug courts. For the purposes of this RFA, eligible adult drug court models include Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)/Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Courts, Co-Occurring Drug and Mental Health Treatment Courts, Veterans Treatment Courts, and Municipal Drug Courts that adhere to the drug court 10 key components.

Eligible Family Drug Court Programs provide services to parents with substance use disorders or substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders involved with the family dependency court as a result of child abuse and neglect issues. The programs should provide services to the children of the parents in the program as well as to the parents.

Over two million men and women have been deployed to serve in support of overseas contingency operations, including Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Individuals returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are at increased risk for suffering post-traumatic stress and other related disorders. Experts estimate that up to one-third of returning veterans will need mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and related services. In addition, the family members of returning veterans have an increased need for related support services. To address these concerns, SAMHSA strongly encourages all applicants to consider the unique needs of returning veterans and their families in developing their proposed project and consider prioritizing this population for services where appropriate.”



Feds Acknowledge Tribal Sovereignty With Consultations On Homeless Vets

Here's an article by Mark Fogarty that originally ran in [Indian Country Today](#) on February 6, 2015.

“The federal government will consult with tribes on the best way to implement a new program aimed at giving supportive housing assistance to homeless American Indian veterans.

A series of six consultations with tribes will begin with one in Phoenix in February, according to Ophelia Basgal, a regional administrator for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which is running the program jointly with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

What will be discussed is a new set aside for 2015 of \$4 million for housing vouchers for homeless Native veterans for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program (HUD-VASH). The details of the program, such as which data sets to use and how to allocate the money, will be worked out in consultation with tribes, Basgal said.

Previously tribes had been shut out of the HUD-VASH program, which has been routed through public housing agencies (PHAs) in its seven years of existence. The new set aside, which was announced in Phoenix on January 30 by HUD Secretary Julian Castro, is an effort to extend the program to Indian Housing Authorities (IHAs) and tribally-designated housing entities (TDHEs) and to serve vets on or near tribal lands. Basgal said some Native vets have been served through the PHAs but did not have the numbers served.

How it works currently is through case management at VA health facilities. VA officials who determine a vet is homeless or in danger of becoming so refer the vet to the PHA, which issues the voucher for rental housing.

Basgal said HUD expects 650 Native homeless vets will get housing vouchers through the program. With \$4 million in funding that would average out to about \$6,000 per homeless vet.

The program is “very much tailored to the needs of the specific vet,” said Basgal, meaning they could end up living in a supportive housing facility or living independently.

She said she expects “robust and fruitful conversations” with tribes on the nature of



Indian Country
TODAY MEDIA NETWORK

Native homelessness in cultures where hospitality is widespread. “They may be overcrowded but they take people in,” she said.

Tribes can also provide written comments to HUD, with a deadline for comments to tribalhudvashcomments@hud.gov by February 25.

The announcement was at the Phoenix office of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, with Castro set to be joined by Maria Dadgar, executive director of the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona and Diana Yazzie Devine, president of Native American Connections, also based in Phoenix.

Since 2008, HUD and VA have awarded more than 59,000 HUD-VASH vouchers and served more than 74,000 veterans experiencing homelessness. Rental assistance and support services provided through HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among veterans, said HUD.

Basgal said the two federal agencies have cooperated smoothly on running the program.

Meanwhile, the Veterans Administration also guarantees home loans made to Native veterans. In fiscal 2013, according to the agency, there were 10,111 mortgages made to Native veterans, for a total of \$3 billion. The average amount of the loan was \$303,000. DVA guarantees 25 percent of the loan, meaning it took on \$763 million in loan guarantees for Native vets, averaging \$75,000.

Native loans amounted to 1.8 percent of the agency’s volume for the year.

Almost all of the VA’s Native volume comes through its general program, available to all veterans. But it also runs a much smaller direct loan program to help Native vets finance the purchase of homes on federal trust land.

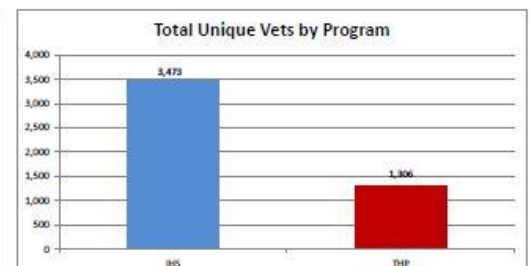
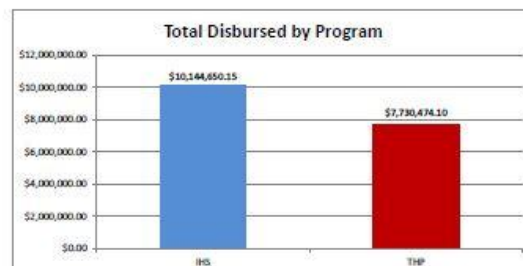
VA said it has entered into memorandums of understanding with 84 participating Native American tribes to participate in the direct loan program. During FY 2013, VA closed 28 loans under this program. Since its inception, VA has made 953 direct loans to Native American Veterans, the agency said.”



VA/Tribal Health/IHS Reimbursement Program Reimburses Almost \$18 Million

Tribal health clinics interested in entering into a Reimbursement Agreement with VA for serving veterans should send an email: tribal.agreements@va.gov

National Data				
Total Disbursement for entire IHS/THP Program - Agmt Date to FYTD	Total Disbursement by Program - Agmt Date to FYTD			Total Unique Veterans for entire IHS/THP Program - Agmt Date to FYTD
\$17,875,124.25	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	4,753
	IHS	\$10,144,650.15	3,473	
	THP	\$7,730,474.10	1,306	
Total Disbursement - Out of System Retropayments (only)	Total Disbursement of Out of System Retropayments (only) - payments are included in above totals			Total Unique Veterans - Out of System Retropayments (only)
\$7,535.00	Program	Total Disbursed	Total Unique Vets	258
	IHS	\$3,228.00	175	
	THP	\$4,307.00	83	



Tribal Veteran Cemetery Grant



This U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs program can provide qualifying tribes with 100% development costs in providing gravesites for Veterans in those areas where VA's national cemeteries cannot fully satisfy their burial needs. Grants may be used to establish, expand or improve Veterans cemeteries. Tribes must put 10% of the amount of the grant they are seeking, which is then fully reimbursed upon awarding of the grant. Operating and maintaining the cemetery will be solely done by the tribes' funds.

Over the last three years, VA has granted over \$20 million to six tribes in South Dakota, California, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Next year, four additional grant proposals may exceed \$5 million more for tribes in Montana, Oklahoma, California, and South Dakota.

For more information, here's the [Grants.gov webpage](https://www.va.gov/grants.gov) and here is the [VA Veterans Cemetery Grant Program page](#).



HUD-VA PROGRAM THAT SERVES HOMELESS VETERANS TO EXPAND INTO NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES FOR THE FIRST TIME



HUD-VASH vouchers in Indian Country will build on national effort to end Veteran homelessness - On Jan. 30, the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) announced that the HUD and U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) program that helps homeless veterans find permanent supportive housing will, for the first time, expand directly into Native American communities.

This support for veterans is provided through the *HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program* which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. The HUD-VASH program will now be opened to tribes so they may directly serve Native American veterans living on or near tribal lands. To expand the HUD-VASH program, \$4 million will be invested specifically to support Native American veterans experiencing homelessness by providing them with secure housing and connecting them with clinical services and case management. This groundbreaking new effort will expand opportunity for approximately 650 veterans who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Expanding the HUD-VASH program will inform and improve how HUD serves Native American veterans, as well as further the goals of ending homelessness in tribal communities more broadly. While there is a need for the program in Indian Country, HUD is calling on both national and regional Native American leaders, associations and communities to offer insight into the design of the expansion, including ways that tribes estimate homelessness, what criteria HUD should establish in allocating funding, what medical providers are offering care to veterans, and how HUD can target program assistance in ways that encourage the creation of new housing. To expedite the program expansion, HUD has requested tribal responses through its Office of Native American Programs within 30 days.



VA Program Helps Beneficiaries Stricken With Spina Bifida

Here's an article by Walt Bonora, VA Chief Business Office Purchased Care

When Evelyn Castro sees herself in a wheelchair she doesn't think of herself as disabled. Instead, she has turned her disability into something positive. Born with spina bifida, a debilitating spinal disorder that happens when a baby is in the womb and the spinal column doesn't close all the way, Evelyn, 33, has refused to let her condition stand in her way and was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Washington of 2014. Her platform was "Acceptance through Diversity." "Don't let society or circumstances dictate your life," says the Washington state resident and native of California. In Colorado, Dick and Cindy Koons care for their daughter, also stricken with spina bifida and wheelchair bound.



Evelyn Castro
Miss Wheelchair Washington

What they and others like them share in common is the [Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program](#), a federal program that covers health care considered medically necessary and appropriate for people with spina bifida (excluding spina bifida occulta.) It is managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Chief Business Office Purchased Care in Denver, Colo. The beneficiaries are the birth children of Vietnam Veterans, and the children of certain Veterans who had served in Korea along the demilitarized zone, who have been diagnosed with the disorder as a result of the Veteran's exposure to Agent Orange. For Evelyn, a make-up artist, the program has been a godsend. "I can't thank the VA enough, which has never refused me a thing," she said. "Every five years I get a new wheelchair, among other services, and I can't tell you how much that helps. Knowing they have my back relieves a lot of stress from my family and allows me to focus on my work."

For Dick and Cindy, the program has given their daughter, Melinda Marie, the opportunity to lead a quality life. "When Melinda was born forty years ago," Dick said,

“we were told that if she lived, she would probably be mentally retarded and we should consider institutionalizing her. Of course, we had no intention of giving up. We were committed to loving her and giving her a chance to thrive.” The medical support provided by the program, including regular physical therapy and new wheelchairs when she needs one, gave the Koons’ a tremendous sense of relief.



Cindy and Dick Koons with
their daughter Melinda Marie

“Without their help, it would not have been possible for her to maintain her physical well-being,” Dick’s wife Cindy added. Approximately 1,300 people have enrolled in the program enacted by Congress in 1997 once lawmakers were advised there was a connection between Agent Orange and spina bifida. Today, it has evolved into a case management climate where the VA is looking at better ways to help people stricken with the disorder get the care they need.

Case management is a process that allows a manager to assist in facilitating the beneficiaries’ health care with a local medical provider and the program. Ira King, a case management liaison at the Chief Business Office Purchased Care in Denver, Colo., explains that they provide numerous services for the beneficiaries. “We connect them to local case management agencies,” he notes. “We find a full range of services in their local areas that include medical and mental health providers, pharmacies, medical equipment and supplies. We also work with providers of services to make sure the spina bifida patients are not improperly billed.”

Thus far the case management liaison efforts have been successful and there is every indication that individual case management will expand further as more beneficiaries become aware of the service. Equally important is that the VA will continue outreach to those beneficiaries who may not be aware that the Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program exists. “We want them to know that we are here to help them and to provide information and education to them, their caregivers, and providers of services,” King added. For more information, visit <http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare> and click on Programs for Dependents on the left and then on Spina Bifida, or call 1-888-820-1756.



Indigenous Elder Abuse Conference

Indigenous Elder Abuse Awareness Conference

Thursday, April 30 & Friday, May 1, 2015

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel

2400 Mystic Lake Blvd Prior Lake, MN 55372

Free for Elders age 55 and Over *

**Elders attending as representatives of their employer/company will be charged the full registration fee of \$150.*

Contact your local Elder Advocate for
Registration and Hotel Information

EARLY REGISTRATION UNTIL APRIL 17, 2015. (AS SPACE ALLOWS)
REGISTRATION WILL REOPEN AT 3PM ON APRIL 29, 2015

Mail / Fax Registrations:
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
Sadie Cooper
PO Box 217
Cass Lake, MN 56633
Phone: (218) 335-8585
Fax: (218) 335-8080
Toll Free: (888) 231-7886
scooper@mnchippewatribe.org

*For more information, please
contact:*
Joanne Mulbah
Phone: (218) 335-8585
Cell: (218) 760-9307
jmulbah@mnchippewatribe.org

Presented by the Elder Abuse Awareness Conference Planning Committee



Notice For Solicitation Of HHS Advisory Committee On Minority Health Members

Here's information on HHS's solicitation for members on its Advisory Committee on Minority Health. The full solicitation can be found [HERE](#).

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH), is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee on Minority Health (hereafter referred to as the "Committee or ACMH"). In accordance with [Public Law 105-392](#), the Committee provides advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health on improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups, and on the development of goals and specific program activities of OMH designed to improve the health status and outcomes of racial and ethnic minorities. Nominations of qualified candidates are being sought to fill vacancies on the Committee.

Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. EST on April 15, 2015**, at the address listed below.

All nominations should be mailed to Dr. Rashida Dorsey, Designated Federal Officer, Advisory Committee on Minority Health, Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 600, Rockville, MD 20852. Show citation box

Dr. Rashida Dorsey, Designated Federal Officer, Advisory Committee on Minority Health, Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Tower Building, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 600, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Phone: 240-453-8222; fax: 240-453-8223. Show citation box
A copy of the ACMH charter and list of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Dr. Dorsey or by accessing the Web site managed by OMH at www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov. Information about ACMH activities can be found on the OMH Web site under the heading About OMH.



Rural Outreach Benefits Counseling Program Grant

The complete Grants.gov notice can be found [HERE](#).

This announcement solicits applications for the Rural Outreach Benefits Counseling Program (Benefits Counseling Program). The Benefits Counseling Program is a community-based pilot program targeted to improve outreach and service delivery in local and regional rural communities. The purpose of the three-year Benefits Counseling Program is to expand outreach, education and enrollment efforts to eligible uninsured individuals and families, and newly insured individuals and families in rural communities. For the purposes of this grant program, benefits counseling (outreach, education and enrollment efforts) will be limited to only public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid and/or Children's Health Insurance Program), qualified health plans offered through Health Insurance Marketplace and/or private health insurance plans.

The overarching goals of this grant funding are to coordinate and conduct innovative outreach activities through a strong consortium in order to: 1) Identify and enroll uninsured individuals and families who are eligible for: public health insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program, qualified health plans offered through Health Insurance Marketplaces and/or private health insurance plans in rural communities; and 2) Educate the newly insured individuals in rural communities about their health insurance benefits, help connect them to primary care and preventive services to which they now have access, and help them retain their health insurance coverage.

OTGR Western Region

(AK; CA; ID; NV; OR; WA)



Save the Date

April 15-16, 2015 for the *Registration: \$125*

10th Annual

Native Caring Conference

A conference to learn, connect, and share

**Three Rivers Casino and Resort
Florence, Oregon**

Co-hosted by the Oregon Indian Tribes of the:



- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Coquille Indian Tribe, The Klamath Tribes
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- with additional support from AARP

Topics:

Caregiver Mind, Body and Spirit Well-being • Nutrition • Healthy Family Communication • Home Safety and Accident Prevention • Medication Management • Caregiver Hands-on • Health Issues and Concerns for Children Raised by Grandparents • Fall Prevention • Social Security Questions and Answers • Elder Abuse • Medication Management • Mental Health • Communicating Effectively with Healthcare Providers • Consumer Protection and Fraud Prevention for Elders and Caregivers

Please look for the final registration announcement by February 2015

If you have questions, please contact any one of the following:
Wilson Wewa, *Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs* (541) 553-3313
Michelle Carson, *The Klamath Tribes* (541) 783-2219 x 122
Doug Morrison, *Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians* (541) 997-6685; (866) 313-9913



OTGR Southwest Region

(AZ; CO; NM; UT)

VIETNAM 50TH ANNIVERSARY

COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATION

MARCH 20 & 21, 2015



Tempe American Legion Post 2
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.
Tempe, AZ 85282



VENDOR INFO

All Vendor Inquires are to be directed to:

Mike Ferguson
1340 S. Valley Dr.
Apache Junction, AZ 85120
480-390-5638



Hosted by: VFW Post 3632 & American Legion Post 2

For dinner reservations call 480-941-5258 Vendors, Displays and general info call 480-390-5638

Vendors Application:

Name of Business _____

Type of Vendor (Food, Sales, Info etc...) _____

Size of Space Needed _____

Contact Name _____

Address (City, State, Zip) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

10 x10 Space - \$35
All spaces are outside
No supplied Electric

If you have a Veterans information table (no sales), it will be located inside and it is free of charge.

There are a limited number of spaces & tables available. First paid gets them.

****Booth set-up time is 7:00 - 9:00 am Saturday March 21, 2015**

*A block of rooms have been reserved at the Ramada Tempe \$109.00. Mention code "VFW"
More lodging choices in the area are listed below:*

Ramada Tempe At Arizona Mills Mall 1701 W Baseline Rd. Tempe, AZ 85283 480-413-1188 2.4 miles to Post 2	Phoenix Airport InnSuites 1651 W. Baseline Rd. Tempe, AZ 85283 480-897-7900 2.3 miles to Post 2	Doubletree by Hilton 2100 South Priest Dr. Tempe, AZ 85282 480-967-1441 1/2 mile to Post 2	Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites 1520 W Baseline Rd Tempe, AZ 85283 480-831-9800 2.3 miles to Post 2	Best Western Plus Tempe by the Mall 5300 South Priest Dr. Tempe, AZ 85283 480-820-7500 2.3 miles to Post 2
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SAVE THE DATE

HOPI CODE TALKERS RECOGNITION DAY
APRIL 23, 2015

HOPI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
KYKOTSMOVI, ARIZONA
AZ HIGHWAY 264 MILE POST 375

**VETERANS, MILITARY AND THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO
COME JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S EVENT. FOR MORE
INFORMATION CONTACT HOPI VETERANS SERVICES AT
(928) 734-3461 OR E-MAIL ETalas@hopi.nsn.us.**





SAVE THE DATE



9th Annual Salt River Veterans Recognition Weekend

March 27-29, 2015

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, AZ.

All Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve Personnel, Families of Veterans, Veterans Organizations, Veterans and those that support Veterans are welcome to participate and/or attend.

Friday Evening, March 27

Odham/Piipaash Social, Chiyer (Bird) Singing and Dance Contest

Salt River Ballfield

Saturday Morning, March 28

Veterans Recognition Parade

SR Two Waters Complex to SR Community Building

Saturday, March, 27—Sunday, March, 29

SRPMIC Veterans Recognition Pow-Wow

Salt River Ballfield

Pow-Wow info. email pacer.reina@srpmic-nsn.gov
Parade information email RedMountainRiders@yahoo.com

az HUMANITIES



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2015

Contact: Hannah Schmidl

602-257-0335 x27 / hschmidl@azhumanities.org

ARIZONA HUMANITIES OFFERS TWO VETERANS BOOK GROUPS

At Home: Veterans Read and Share Stories will take place in Mesa and Phoenix

PHOENIX, AZ – Arizona Humanities announces two new book groups open to veterans of all eras. Each week, participants will read selections from classic and contemporary authors and discuss the readings with other veterans.

At Home: Veterans Read and Share Stories programs are free and include all materials with a complimentary meal each week.

Book Group One – Female veterans from all eras invited to attend

Dates: February 24th and March 3, 17, 24, 2015

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Mesa Community College Building EF, Room 1W, 1833 W. Southern Ave., Mesa, AZ 85202

Facilitators: Rabbi Bonnie Koppell, Command Chaplain of the 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and Associate Rabbi at Temple Chai

Dr. Lillis Lloyd, Counselor at Mesa Community College Red Mountain Campus

Registration is required. Please contact Nancy Dallett at ASU's Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement at nancy.dallett@asu.edu or 480-965-9331.

Book Group Two – Male and Female veterans from all eras invited to attend

Dates: March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 2015

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM

Location: Burton Barr Central Library Meeting Room C 1221 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Facilitators: Dr. Dan Shilling, Vietnam veteran

Registration is required. Please contact Nancy Dallett at ASU's Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement at nancy.dallett@asu.edu or 480-965-9331.

Since 2001, over two million American men and women have been deployed in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for the first time in a generation, Americans have lived with the ongoing consequences of war. The goal of Arizona Humanities Veterans Programs is to help veterans reintegrate into the larger community while connecting with other veterans from all eras. Arizona Humanities is partnering with Arizona State University's Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement and the Arizona State University Pat Tillman Center to engage veterans in meaningful dialogue about their military service and return to civilian life through discussions of relevant readings.

For more information on Arizona Humanities Veterans Programs, visit our website www.azhumanities.org or contact Hannah Schmidl, Programs and Marketing Assistant, 602-257-0335 x27 / hschmidl@azhumanities.org.

About Arizona Humanities
<http://www.azhumanities.org>

Arizona Humanities is an independent non-profit organization and the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. We support public programming in the humanities that promotes understanding of human thoughts, actions, creations, and values. Since its foundation in 1973, nearly \$11 million has been provided to cultural and educational institutions throughout Arizona.

Mission: Arizona Humanities builds a just and civil society by creating opportunities to explore our shared human experiences through discussion, learning and reflection.

az HUMANITIES



At Home: Veterans Read and Share Stories

Veterans Book Group

Thursdays: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 23

Burton Barr Central Library - Room C
1221 North Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004



Female and Male veterans are welcome to join this FREE five-session book group, with dinner included. The group will read short stories and essays from classic and contemporary authors and talk about their own stories with other veterans.

Facilitator: Dan Shilling, Ph.D. Arizona State University and Vietnam Veteran

*All materials and a complimentary meal will be provided at each session.
Female and Male Veterans from all eras are invited to attend.*

Registration Required. Contact: Nancy Dallett

480-965-9331 • nancy.dallett@asu.edu



Free Legal Advice

For U.S. Veterans and Their Spouses

*You Need Not Be Disabled
To Obtain Legal Advice*



YUMA

Sponsored by
Arizona Disabled American Veterans and Arizona Disabled Veteran Foundation

We Will Provide Help In The Following Legal Areas

**Divorce/Custody/Child Support
Debt Counseling /Bankruptcy
Employment
Landlord/Tenant Issues**

**Basic Estate Planning Documents
Will Be Provided On-site.
(Simple Wills, Medical Powers
of Attorney, Financial Powers of
Attorney)**



Saturday, April 11, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

DAV Facility

954 S. 13th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364



A financial need requirement applies. However, most veterans will qualify.

To schedule an appointment and receive forms needed for clinic contact:

Appointments will have priority over walk-in clients.

John Tokarz Legal Clinic Director
480.363.6880 or vetlegalclinic@gmail.com
<http://www.azvetcivilaw.org/>

DISCLAIMER: VA assumes no responsibility for the professional ability or integrity of the organizations whose names appear on this list. This referral does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA.

OTGR Central Region

(IA; MI; MN; MT; ND; NE; SD; WI; WY)



Here's information on an opportunity at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center



Would you like to participate in research to test

SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUPS for Veterans who are Trauma Survivors?

The VA Medical Center is doing research to find out if spiritual support groups are helpful to veterans.

- Groups will be at religious and community centers and will last 8 weeks.
- You may be assigned to either spiritual or standard support groups.
- Groups will be led by specially trained clergy.
- You may be paid up to \$200 for participating in assessments related to this study.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in a group, please call:

Rachel Dubke (612) 467-5737



OTGR Southern Plains Region

(KS; OK; TX)



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

NAMI Family-to-Family is a **FREE**, 12-session education program for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness. The course is designed to help all family members understand and support their loved one living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. **The course includes information on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions.** Thousands of families describe the program as life-changing. The program is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness. We think you will be pleased by how much assistance the program offers. We invite you to call for more information.

Thursdays 6:00-8:30 pm,
January 8th to March 26th
Del City Offices
3701 S.E 15th Street, Del City, OK

*To register call with the following information: Your name, address, phone number, email address (if available), and the family member with a mental illness (i.e. your son, sister, wife, father, good friend).

NAMI Edmond North OKC (405)-408-0886

Registration required.

This NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program is sponsored by NAMI Edmond North OKC and is funded by NAMI Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



**Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 604**

Presents

Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting
Information on Agent Orange Exposure from Service in
Vietnam & other locations

**Sunday March 8, 2015
1:00pm to 3:00pm**

**Prairie Band Casino & Resort
12305 150th Road
St Lawrence Conference Room
Mayetta, Kansas**

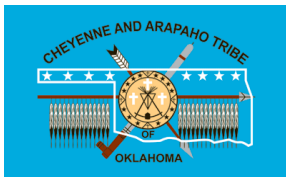
All Veterans, Family, Friends Welcome

Contact Persons

Thomas Wabnum 785-966-4016

Roland Mayhew 785-249-4517

Blas Ortiz 785-554-3949



Mental Health Conference

WHO'S PUTTING IT ON:

The Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes
METHAMPHETAMINE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION INITIATIVE
in conjunction with the Substance Abuse Program

WHEN & WHERE:

March 4th, 2015
Frisco Center, Clinton Oklahoma
Time of the Conference: 9am to 4pm
Sign up time: 8:30am to 9:00am
Lunch will be provided

WHAT:

- Suicide Awareness
- Trauma informed
- Substance abuse prevention

RSVP to Kateri Fletcher @ 580-614-1402
kafletcher@c-a-tribes.org

This is a free event!, Everyone welcome!!!



FAMILY-TO-FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAM

NAMI Family-to-Family is a **FREE**, 12-session education program for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness. The course is designed to help all family members understand and support their loved one living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. **The course includes information on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions.** Thousands of families describe the program as life-changing. The program is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness. We think you will be pleased by how much assistance the program offers. We invite you to call for more information.

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Registration required.

This NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program is sponsored by NAMI Edmond North OKC and is funded by NAMI Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

SAVE THE DATE

SMVF Resource Speed Sharing

(Service Members, Veterans & Families)

Thursday, May 21, 2015
Great Plains Technology Center
4500 W. Lee Blvd. Lawton, OK 73505
Building 100 Room 118
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

A half-day event inviting resources across Oklahoma to participate and share information about their organization specific to assistance for Oklahoma Service Members, Veterans, and Families offered at NO COST!

- Interested participants will be given 3 minutes to share what their organization has to offer SMVF.
- All registrants will also be provided a resource table for networking following the sharing.
- A resource list with contact information of all in attendance will be distributed.

Hosted by the Veteran Peer Mentor State Network (VPMSN) as partnered agencies, & the Great Plains Technology Center.

For information contact Kerry.Mucker@odmhsas.org (405) 365-7549



NVTAC On-Site Training Agenda and Logistics

Date: March 5-6, 2015
Grantee: N/A
Participants:
NVTAC: John Rio, Meg Little, Baylee Crone
VA: Mary Culley
Tribal Participants: TBD

Location: Wyndham Garden Hotel Conference Room
6200 N. Robinson, OKC, OK 73119
1-405-286-4777

Agenda March 5, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.:	Introductions and Overview of day 1
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.:	Veteran homelessness: An overview and introduction to Demographics and trends
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.:	Unpacking acronyms: The major resources from DOL, VA, HUD, and others serving veterans who are homeless
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.:	Break
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:	Eligibility: Overlaps and differences between programs
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.:	Lunch/break
1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.:	Eligibility: Overlaps and differences between programs (cont.)
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.:	Grant applications introduction
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.:	Break
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.:	Planning for Day 2
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.:	Wrap-up and review of Day 1

March 6, 2015



8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.:	Introductions and Review of Day 1
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.:	Tribal Population Culture 101 (NGO partners included)
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.:	Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:	Meet the providers (this is where the NGO partners come in and share what they do and what their eligibility guidelines are, etc.)
12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.:	Lunch
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.:	Grant Applications: A deeper dive
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.:	Break
2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.:	Group discussions: Barriers and hurdles
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.:	Summary, wrap-up, and next steps