LTSS in Our Community

A monthly webinar on designing and accessing services for elders and people with disabilities in Indian Country
VA Office of Tribal Government Relations and VA Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training
Part 3 of Veterans and LTSS Series

- **Part 1** – Overview of VA and Long-Term Care Services
- **Part 2** – VA Health Care on Native Lands
- **Part 3** – VA Office of Tribal Government Relations and VA Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training

Past webinars are archived on the LTSS Technical Assistance Center on cms.gov.
The VA Geriatric Scholars Program: Rural Interdisciplinary Team Training

B. Josea Kramer, PhD, MS, MA
Director, VA Geriatric Scholars Program Associate Director for Education/Evaluation
Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System GRECC
Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
Team Training in Care of Elders

Port Gamble S’kallam Tribe
Key Topics in Care of Elders

- Working as a team: clinicians and non-clinicians
- Normal aging & Geriatric syndromes
- Issues of concern: Warning signs and red flags
- Challenges of transitions in care
- Recognition and assessment of dementia
- Team’s action plan to improve care for elders

For more information, contact:
Eve.Gottesman@va.gov
718-584-9000 ext. 3813
VA Office of Tribal Government Relations

Stephanie Birdwell
OTGR Director
Washington, DC
VA Office of Tribal Government Relations

- Part of the VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
- Based in Washington, DC
- Established more than 6 years ago
- The Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) advises the VA Secretary on VA’s relationships with tribal governments
OTGR’s Areas of Focus

• Facilitating tribal consultation
• Facilitating access to health care and benefits for Veterans
• Promoting economic sustainability for Veterans living in Indian Country

We believe that working to ensure Veterans access to benefits they have earned through their service will improve the overall quality of life for our Veterans, their families, and their communities.
Tribal Consultation: Priorities for Veterans

Tribes’ Priorities for Serving Veterans

Respondents ranked their priorities from 1 through 5. The graph shows which priorities received the highest ranks compared to other priorities. To determine the top five priorities, some similar items were combined, such as housing and homelessness.

* Starred priorities are culturally specific items relevant to American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and Veterans. VA recognizes the importance of culturally specific efforts in their relationships and work with tribal nations.
Access to Care: Applying the VA-IHS MOU in Communities

- Working with VA Office of Rural Health
- Implementing VA-IHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - The MOU is a "book" with many possible "chapters" of collaboration
OTGR Regions & Regional Specialists

**Stephanie Birdwell**  
Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations (Brown)  
Email: StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov  
Phone: 202-461-7400  
Washington, DC

**Clay Ward**  
Program Analyst, Office of Tribal Government Relations (Brown)  
Email: David.Ward@va.gov  
Phone: 202-461-7445  
Washington, DC

**Terry Bentley**  
Regional Specialist  
Pacific Region (Green)  
Email: Terry.Bentley@va.gov  
Phone: 541-440-1271  
Roseburg, OR

**Regions:**
- **Washington, DC**
- **Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington**
- **Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas**
- **Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah**
- **Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming**

**Mary Culley**  
Regional Specialist  
Continental, Midwest, and Southeast Regions (Orange)  
Email: Mary.Culley@va.gov  
Phone: 405-456-3876  
Oklahoma City, OK

**Homana Pawiki**  
Regional Specialist  
Pacific and Continental Regions (Blue)  
Email: LoRae.Pawiki@va.gov  
Phone: 928-445-4860 x5306  
Prescott, AZ

**Peter Vicaire**  
Regional Specialist  
Continental, Midwest, North Atlantic and Southeast Regions (Yellow)  
Email: Peter.Vicaire@va.gov  
Phone: 651-405-5676  
Minneapolis, MN
Demographics and Economic Sustainability

Total Expenditures in Ten Counties of Navajo Nation (AZ) FY 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counties</th>
<th>Compensation/Pension</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Medical</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apache (AZ)</td>
<td>$15,641,000</td>
<td>$1,681,000</td>
<td>$10,448,000</td>
<td>$71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconino (AZ)</td>
<td>$22,300,000</td>
<td>$5,904,000</td>
<td>$19,497,000</td>
<td>$332,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navajo (AZ)</td>
<td>$25,623,000</td>
<td>$2,013,000</td>
<td>$22,173,000</td>
<td>$294,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernalillo (NM)</td>
<td>$272,873,000</td>
<td>$32,296,000</td>
<td>$266,270,000</td>
<td>$59,982,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cibola (NM)</td>
<td>$9,741,000</td>
<td>$393,000</td>
<td>$9,877,000</td>
<td>$152,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McKinley (NM)</td>
<td>$19,832,000</td>
<td>$1,632,000</td>
<td>$17,023,000</td>
<td>$256,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Arriba (NM)</td>
<td>$14,388,000</td>
<td>$449,000</td>
<td>$9,371,000</td>
<td>$163,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandoval (NM)</td>
<td>$68,402,000</td>
<td>$6,623,000</td>
<td>$43,339,000</td>
<td>$957,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan (NM)</td>
<td>$26,790,000</td>
<td>$2,767,000</td>
<td>$17,838,000</td>
<td>$413,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Juan (UT)</td>
<td>$1,355,000</td>
<td>$132,000</td>
<td>$2,489,000</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Expenditures: $979,515,000

- Compensation/Pension: $476,945,000
- Education: $53,890,000
- Medical: $418,325,000
- Other: $30,355,000

105,462 Veterans in area
Average expenditures per Veteran: $9,287.84*

*Denotes estimated value
Trends and Priorities

What trends do you see in your region for serving Veterans?

What priorities or concerns for Veterans do you hear most frequently in your region?

Colville Color Guard at Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR) Training and Summit
Building Partnerships

How do you build or support collaborations in your region?

How is partnering with state Departments of Veterans Affairs important?

Terry Bentley with Alfie Alvarado (Director) and Steve Gill of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs
Best Practices and Successes

Are there best practices from your region that you want to spread the word about?

What’s a success story in VA-tribal collaboration from your region?

Mary Culley and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel at 4th Annual Inter-Tribal Homeless Veterans Stand Down
Questions and Comments

**Washington, DC**

**Stephanie Birdwell**  
Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations  
Email: StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov  
202-461-7400

**Clay Ward**  
Program Analyst, Office of Tribal Government Relations  
Email: David.Ward@va.gov  
202-461-7445

**Alaska, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington**

**Terry Bentley**  
Regional Specialist Pacific Region  
Email: Terry.Bentley@va.gov  
Phone: 541-440-1271

**Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas**

**Mary Culley,**  
Regional Specialist Continental, Midwest, and Southeast Regions  
Email: Mary.Culley@va.gov  
405-456-3876

**Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah**

**Homana Pawiki,**  
Regional Specialist Pacific and Continental Regions  
Email: LoRae.Pawiki@va.gov  
Phone: 928-445-4860 x5306

**Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming**

**Peter Vicaire**  
Regional Specialist Continental, Midwest, North Atlantic and Southeast Regions  
Email: Peter.Vicaire@va.gov  
Phone: 651-405-5676
Resources for Connecting with VA in Indian Country

• Access the materials in the Resources box at right.

• Download **VA Programs Contact Info** for eligibility, LTSS, VA-IHS collaboration, RITT, and OTGR information:

• Watch past LTSS webinars, including Part 1 and Part 2 of the Veterans and LTSS series:

• Email us at [ltssinfo@kauffmaninc.com](mailto:ltssinfo@kauffmaninc.com) with questions.