
Welcome from the VA OTGR Director



Welcome to the first edition of the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) National Monthly Newsletter. This newsletter was inspired by regional newsletters initiated by our specialists Peter Vicaire (based in Minneapolis, MN) and Terry Bentley (based in Roseburg, OR). We hope you will find stories of interest, announcements, great information and updates on issues affecting Veterans all across the country. The goal of the OTGR is to facilitate increased access to care and benefits for our Veterans in Indian Country, promote economic sustainability and implement the VA Tribal Consultation policy. This has been a busy spring for the OTGR team, we wrapped up three successful Veterans training summits held in Rapid City, SD, Pala, CA and Cherokee, NC and are looking forward to more this summer. We continue to refine and make improvements to the OTGR website and encourage you to check back often. The 2012 VA Tribal Consultation Report should be made available this summer in addition to the OTGR Strategic Plan, and we are working closely with the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Loan Guaranty Office to ramp up outreach efforts focused on increasing Native American Direct Loan (NADL) MOUs with tribes, with the ultimate goal to make the dream of home ownership a reality for our Veterans and their families living on trust lands.

On the health care front, we have been very excited to see the implementation of the National Reimbursement Agreement between the VA and Indian Health Service (IHS). Signed in December 2012, the first 10 phase 1 sites are completed and the remaining IHS sites are scheduled to go “live” in June. Additionally, as of this writing, VA continues to receive letters of interest from many tribes seeking to establish reimbursement agreements with local VA Medical Centers. In a nutshell, the reimbursement agreements offer eligible, VHA enrolled American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans the choice to receive direct health care services from their local IHS or tribal health program (and have the IHS or tribal health programs reimbursed by the VA) or receive care from their VA Medical Center or Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The agreements also open doors for potential expanded partnerships and collaborations between tribes, the IHS and the VA which offers more services and access points for our Veterans living in tribal communities.

If you have any questions about how to strengthen your community’s working relationships with the VA or would like to connect with our office, don’t hesitate to email us at: tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov. We are passionate about the work we do and are honored to serve our Nation’s heroes. Thank you to all of our Veterans for your service. We very much look forward to visiting and working with you in the days ahead...Happy reading and Warm Regards – Stephanie

May 2013 - National News



A Historic Honor for a Native American Veteran *By Gary Taylor, Reporting for SCTCA TANF*

Cynthia Tyrene Sullivan doesn't think of herself as a historical figure. But she is. On Memorial Day, Sullivan – a retired United States Army veteran and member of the Pala Band of Mission Indians – will accompany President Barack Obama as he lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

Sullivan will become the first female veteran since the Civil War to participate in the traditional ceremony honoring America's war dead. And she will do so as a Native American who served 21 years in the U.S. Army, including deployment during the Persian Gulf War. "I am in awe – it's a feeling you can't imagine," she said, shaking her head at her selection for the wreath-laying ceremony. "Never in my wildest thoughts did I ever think something like this could happen. The pride that we are going to do this, the honor that will come to Native Americans and our tribe in Pala – it's a once in a lifetime honor."

Sullivan will attend the ceremony with several other tribal veterans and Pala Chairman Robert Smith. The veterans will wear black slacks, white shirts and black vests listing their military units and service. They will also bring Pala's tribal flag. Sullivan said she enlisted in the Army in 1974 when she was just 17. "My mother had to sign a waiver for me to enlist," recalled Sullivan, who speaks softly but firmly. "I graduated high school at 16. I was too young to get hired for a job and there really wasn't anything here for me. So I decided to go into the Army."

She said the most difficult period of her Army career was deciding to deploy to the Middle East in 1990 during Desert Shield, which was the U.S. and Allied build-up after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. She had the choice not to deploy because her husband was a Marine who could have also been deployed - and they had children. Sullivan decided to deploy with her unit, the 507th Maintenance Company, 2/7th Air Defense Artillery.

"It was an extremely difficult decision," she acknowledged. "I was given a mission, a task - and I decided to fulfill my commitment." And, as it turned out, her husband was not deployed. When Desert Shield became

Desert Storm in January of 1991, Sullivan found herself in the Persian Gulf War combat zone, where she served during the entire operation.



Remembering those days, Sullivan became somber. “Before we had deployed to the Gulf, I had made a promise to the spouses of those men and women (under my command) that I would bring them all home safely,” she said. “That’s not a promise you should make going into combat. But every soldier did make it home safely, and I am very thankful, very proud of that.” As Memorial Day nears, Sullivan admitted she is getting slightly nervous about the ceremony. She realizes it is a solemn event witnessed by millions of Americans on television and covered extensively in newspapers across the country. But Sullivan said she is focusing only on representing the men and women who have served their country. Laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in memory of all those who died is not only her honor, she said, but her duty.

Reaching Out to Native American Veterans ***By Gary Taylor, Reporting for SCTCA TANF***



Terry Bentley has been working for the United States Veteran’s Administration for nearly three decades. She has the title to prove it - Tribal Government Relations Specialist, Western Region, for the VA’s Office of Tribal Government Relations. The region covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California and Alaska.

Bentley has worked at the VA for 27 years, including positions in Portland and Roseburg, Oregon. She was at the Pala Indian Reservation in early April, coordinating the Western Region Veterans Benefits Summit. The two-day summit at the Pala Casino Spa Resort included presentations on a wide range of issues, including Native American veterans’ access to health care, benefits, services and compensation.

There were also group discussions on such difficult topics as the suicide rate among Indian veterans.

But the soft-spoken Bentley – a member of the Karuk Tribe of California – does not come across as a distant, office-bound government bureaucrat. She smiles broadly and often when she talks about her work. It's clear she cares about Native American veterans. "My father was a vet, my grandfather was a World War II vet – I grew up around vets," Bentley said, smiling easily. "I love working with veterans – I love working for them. I've been able to witness some passionate testimony from the men and women who have served this nation."

That testimony has come from men and women, those who have suffered physical wounds and those who endured psychological trauma, non-Natives and Native Americans. "To me a vet is a vet is a vet," she declared. "I really don't make a distinction between Native American vets and non-Native vets. They have all served our nation." Still, she acknowledged, over the years she has noticed there is something different about Native American vets.

"Native American vets are especially gracious, kind, very humble," Bentley said. "They don't really ask for much. They've served in such high numbers over the years but among all veterans they seek services the least. It should not be that way. Native American vets should seek VA services. They are entitled to any benefits they can get. They have sacrificed for their country." Bentley – who is married with five children – said Native Americans have historically served in the military in disproportionate numbers compared to the rest of America's population. Why is that?

"A tribal elder once explained it to me this way," she said, clasping her hands together. "He told me, 'We think of this country as our land, and we will always fight for our land – it has been ours from the beginning.'" She also said the elder pointed out Native Americans have had a "warrior culture" for centuries. "He told me, 'Before the white man came, there were tribal rivalries. Warriors came from many tribes, and they knew how to fight. There was honor in this warrior culture.' That hasn't changed."

But that doesn't mean Indians have much faith in the government to take care of them after they have served as warriors. Bentley acknowledged the dismal history of U.S. government treatment of Native Americans has caused some Indian vets to defer or even dismiss any help from the VA.

“There has been some hesitancy among some veterans to come to the VA,” she admitted. “Some of it is the history. Some of it is the Native American culture. We take care of ourselves and then we look to our families to take care of us. So a lot of Native Americans may not look to the VA for anything. But the VA is making an effort to reach out to Native Americans – we are establishing a different culture.”

Which is one of the reasons the veteran’s summit was held on the Pala Indian Reservation, Bentley said. “It’s important for the VA to come into Indian Country to help Native American vets. We need to reach out to rural Indians.” It’s important, she said, because many Native American vets – especially those who live on reservations – are usually far from any VA medical facilities. “Most of our facilities are in urban locations,” Bentley noted. “If you’re an Indian vet living on the reservation, you’ve got to go to the city and it’s quite a distance to travel. No vet should feel forgotten.”

Bentley said even though she’s worked for the VA for many years, she doesn’t intend to slow down in her efforts to reach out to Native American veterans. “I hope to connect Native American veterans with other veterans (and) connect all of them to the right people at the VA,” she said. “Once we do that, vets can begin to get access to health care and other services and eventually some form of compensation. Veterans need to know they can’t lose hope.” Bentley hasn’t – even after nearly 30 years. Of the Pala summit, Bentley declared “If I can help even a handful of Indian veterans gain access to services and benefits they didn’t have before, or didn’t know existed, I would consider that a great success.” Bentley said this with a determination born of experience that comes from years of listening to all those who have served their country with honor, courage – and as warriors.



“Assisting American Indian Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Cope with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder: Lessons from Vietnam veterans and the Writings of Jim Northrup” by Lawrence W. Gross

Click [here](#) for an interesting and useful article from the American Indian Quarterly, Volume 31, Number 3, Summer 2007, pp. 373-409



Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Families Reintegration Program

The Department of Labor (DOL) has posted the PY13 Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Families (HFVWWF) Reintegration Program Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) on www.grants.gov. The HFVWWF **SGA will close COB June 14th**. DOL Office of Public Affairs will announce the PY13 HFVWWF competition via press release. All inquiries regarding the HFVWWF SGA or the competition should be directed to the DOL grant officer, Cassandra Mitchell, phone: 202-693-4750, email: Mitchell.Cassandra@dol.gov.

Funding availability for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations



The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has published a FY 2013 discretionary [Notice of Funding Availability for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program](#) (Tribal Transit Program). This discretionary competition makes \$5 million available for Fiscal Year 2013. The Notice includes FTA's response to comments solicited in the November 9, 2012 [Federal Register Notice](#), and program structure for both the formula and discretionary program. Proposals for the discretionary competition must be submitted by Monday, July 8, 2013. FTA will hold a webinar in early June covering program changes, as well as training on application submission.

Tribal Veterans Courts

The University of Arizona (NativeNet Professional Development Series) has put together a useful paper on the implementation of Veterans Courts within Tribal Courts. "A veterans court is a specialized court that allows veteran participants charged with a criminal offense to voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan. These courts serve veteran participants who suffer from a serious mental health disease and/or substance abuse. In most such programs, once a veteran participant pleads guilty or no contest to at least one charge, he or she is diverted to a treatment program. His or her progress is monitored throughout the duration of the program by regular appearances in court. Successful completion of the treatment program results in dismissal of charges or reduced charges." Click [here](#) – to get the paper. VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations (OTGR) has also put together a Tribal Veterans Courts Guide, available online soon.



Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Native American Veterans – Storytelling for Healing

The ANA offers a free DVD - “Native American Veterans: Storytelling for Healing” which can be ordered by emailing the ANA Helpdesk at ANAComments@acf.hhs.gov or calling: (877) 922-9262. For more information, on the DVD, click [here](#). If you want to order more than one copy, call Native American Services Management, Inc., toll free. At 1-888-221-9686 or 1-571-323-5635



Matthias Voigt, a PhD student, is writing a thesis on American Indian war veterans and civil rights activists of the 1960s and 1970s. He is looking to travel out to Indian Country this summer and meet with veterans and civil rights activists who are interested in sharing their stories. He is looking to discuss their personal background, wartime experiences and whether/how they carried on tribal traditions through their military service. Interviews will be videotaped and then used as part of his dissertation thesis and may be copied so the veteran interviewee can receive a copy for private purposes. For more information, you can contact Matthias directly at mv1977@ymail.com or matt.voigt@web.de or you can call him at 202-300-8016.

SAIGE - Society of American Indian Government Employees Training Conference



On June 3-7, 2013, at the Northern Quest Hotel and Casino, Spokane, WA, VA will be presenting during the Wednesday’ Veteran Track, during the Cultural/Warrior Panel Session and during the SAIGE Staff training sessions. Registration and event information can be found at <http://saige.org/>

National Veteran Small Business Conference August 6-8, 2013 in St. Louis



The National Veterans Small Business Conference, the government’s premier event for Veteran-owned small businesses, is coming to St. Louis’ America’s Center, on Aug. 6-8, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced today. “VA is committed to bringing more Veteran-Owned Small Businesses into a public-private partnership to help them grow and succeed,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This event is a unique opportunity for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses to

connect directly with government procurement decision makers and business partners.”

Veteran-owned business owners will receive information, tools, tips, techniques and how-to instructions to start, build and expand a small business idea into a life-changing reality. Veterans will be able to attend a wide variety of classes on business operations with more than 200 breakout sessions on how to start and grow a business and successfully compete for federal contracts. They will also have the opportunity to discuss business and contracting issues with key procurement decision makers from the federal government and private sector.

Finally, Veterans will learn how to get the Veteran-owned business certification needed to compete for federal contracts; outreach to veteran communities; and target networking to discuss government procurement and contracting requirements. There are 26 million small businesses in the United States. Of these, 3.6 million are Veteran and Service Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses. Together they employ over 1.8 million workers and generate over \$1.6 trillion in revenue. VA assists Veteran-owned businesses with everything from small business start-ups to large defense contracts.

The VA St. Louis VA Health Care Systems (VASLHCS) provides inpatient and ambulatory care in medicine, surgery, neurology and rehabilitation, as well as over 35 subspecialty areas. The medical center has approximately 10,000 inpatient admissions per year and over 625,000 outpatient visits each year. It is a two-division facility that serves Veterans and their families in east central Missouri and southwestern Illinois providing ongoing care to over 57,000 veterans each year. The VASLHCS is the tertiary referral center for VA Medical Centers in Marion, Ill., and Poplar Bluff, Mo., providing inpatient acute care as well as outpatient care. VA invites all interested persons and businesses to attend. More information is available at www.nationalveteransconference.com and www.va.gov/OSDBU.



VA Launches Hotline to Answer Questions on VA Healthcare and Benefits for Women Veterans

Call: 1-855-VA-WOMEN or 1-855-829-6636.



SSA Announces Mobile Site for Smartphone Users

Social Security Announces New Mobile Site for Smartphone Users
Agency Leverages Technology to Meet Customer Service Expectations.

Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, today announced the agency is offering a new mobile optimized website, specifically aimed at smartphone users across the country. People visiting the agency's website, www.socialsecurity.gov, via smartphone (Android, Blackberry, iPhone, and Windows devices) will be redirected to the agency's new mobile-friendly site. Once there, visitors can access a mobile version of Social Security's Frequently Asked Questions, an interactive Social Security number (SSN) decision tree to help people identify documents needed for a new/replacement SSN card, and mobile publications which they can listen to in both English and Spanish right on their phone. "We are committed to meeting the changing needs of the American people and the launch of our new mobile site helps reinforce our online presence and adaptability to advances in technology," Acting Commissioner Colvin said. For more information, please go to: www.socialsecurity.gov (thanks Alan Edwards for sharing)



Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement (CDC-RFA-OT13-1303)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces availability of funds to strengthen and improve the infrastructure and performance of tribal public health agencies and tribal health systems through the provision of capacity building and quality improvement.

The Priority Area 1 awardees are expected to achieve applicant-identified outcomes from the following: improve capacity and infrastructure to support the health of the community and/or target populations, increase ability of individual community members and public health workers to serve as advocates for health improvement, disseminate lessons learned, and decrease burden of disease among AI/AN. The Priority Area 2 awardee is expected to achieve applicant-identified outcomes from the following: assess Priority Area 1 awardees' projects, evaluate tribal public health capacity building among Priority Area 1 awardees, disseminate lessons learned in order to improve tribal public health efforts for future improvements to the health of tribal populations, and provide technical assistance to Priority Area 1

awardees. In order to reduce health concerns within AI/AN populations in federally recognized tribes, the program strategies for Priority Area 1 are: (1) to develop disease interventions; (2) to strengthen and build organizational infrastructure; and, (3) to cultivate community partnerships. Under Priority Area 2, the program strategy is to conduct monitoring and evaluation for all Priority Area 1 awardees for quality improvement, and to disseminate lessons learned. Initiating tribal-specific programs will allow awardees to accelerate and expand the reach and health impact of tribal public health infrastructure. CDC/OSTLTS/Tribal Support Unit will fund federally recognized tribes in Priority Area 1 to develop disease interventions, build public health infrastructure, and cultivate community partnerships, and will fund a project evaluator in Priority Area 2 to conduct a program evaluation project. Once initial awards are made, awardees may be eligible to compete for additional funding over the course of the program. Cost sharing and matching funds are not required for this program. To be eligible to apply for this FOA, applicants must demonstrate significant experience and expertise in effectively and efficiently working in tribal communities to build tribal public health capacity (Priority Area 1) or evaluate program effectiveness (Priority Area 2).

[Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement \(CDC-RFA-OT13-1303\)](#)

Document Type: Grants Notice

Funding Opportunity Number: CDC-RFA-OT13-1303

Opportunity Category: Discretionary

Posted Date: May 10, 2013

Creation Date: May 10, 2013

Original Closing Date for Applications: Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline (submit via email): June 17, 2013 [Optional]

Application Deadline: July 15, 2013,
11:59 p.m. (EST), on www.grants.gov.

Current Closing Date for Applications: Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline (submit via email): June 17, 2013 [Optional]

Application Deadline: July 15, 2013,
11:59 p.m. (EST), on www.grants.gov.

Archive Date: Aug 14, 2013

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative Agreement

Category of Funding Activity: Health

Category Explanation:

Expected Number of Awards: 6

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$2,925,000

Award Ceiling: \$100,000

Award Floor: \$85,000

CFDA Number(s): 93.098 -- Tribal Public Health Capacity Building and Quality Improvement

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Eligible Applicants: Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification)

Additional Information on Eligibility:

1. Eligible Applicants:

- Priority Area 1 – Tribal Public Health Capacity Building Projects:
 - American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments (federally recognized)
 - American Indian/Alaska Native tribally designated organizations, such as:
 - Tribal health systems
 - Tribal epidemiology centers
 - Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Priority Area 2 – Program Evaluation Project:
 - American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments (federally recognized)
 - American Indian/Alaska Native tribally designated organizations
 - Alaska Native health corporations
 - Colleges
 - Community-based organizations
 - Nonprofit with 501(c)(3) IRS status (other than institution of higher education)
 - The applicant must provide evidence of federally assigned 501(c)(3) IRS status designation by submitting a copy of the current, valid IRS determination letter. Evidence can be submitted by uploading this documentation in Grants.gov under "Other Attachment Forms." The document should be labeled "Proof of Nonprofit Status"
 - Research institutions (that will perform activities deemed as non-research)
 - Tribal epidemiology centers
 - Universities
 - Urban Indian health organizations
 - Other: Tribal Colleges and Universities

2. Special Eligibility Requirements: All eligible applicants must be able to demonstrate the following: 1) have demonstrated a record of effectively working with AI/AN populations for a minimum of 3-5 years, and 2) have the ability to methodically and efficiently reach tribal members in AI/AN communities.

Western Region

AIWA at the 28th annual Linda Vista Parade 2013 By Roy Cook

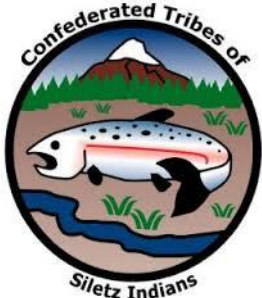


“We came, we saw, we conquered! AIWA was, on April 27, 2013 at noon in the heart of the Linda Vista mesa overlooking the San Diego bay and at the Multi-Cultural parade. It is not a long parade but it reflects the diversity of the people from the many deployments that our military have been in hostile conflicts over the world. The American Indian Warriors Association Veterans represented our Native American Tribal pride and our patriotic commitment to the USA Constitutional government. We assembled early and prepared our Honor guard flags according to the number of troops we could call upon for the event. AIWA President William Buchanan’s truck was once again pressed into service as a rolling float for the AIWA banner and a couple of veterans, Lawrence Strickland and Roy Cook, were tailgaters with flags. The rest of the troops were motivated to walk the parade route: Joaquin Sandoval, Michael Billy, Juan del Rio, Ozzie Monje and William Buchanan.



Wow! Many ethnicities and nations were very most enthusiastic with their applause and waving signs of recognition. Our group also received many hand salutes of affirmation for our military service to this country. We were just in front of the convertible that Miss Mira Mesa was riding in. There were also: school bands, Mariachi groups, martial arts demonstrators, dragons from China and various other Asian countries, star war aficionados and a wookiee, clowns, other military floats and ROTC units and the Shriners little cars weaving in and out of the rollerblade skaters. This was a great day, a short parade and a promise of festivities, food booths, carnival rides that will go into the evening’s entertainment. AIWA is happy to fulfill our participation to the urban non-Indian community in this parade. Thank you all for being there today. Also big thanks to KUSI for the TV coverage, also Bayside Community Center and AIWA members for a great time!”

Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR) Training

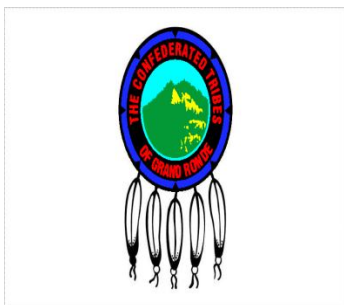


The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the VA Office of Tribal Government Relations, along with the Oregon State Department of Veterans Affairs is hosting a **2-day Tribal Veterans Representative (TVR) training** to be held at the Chinook Winds Casino during **August 6-7, 2013 (2-full days of training)**. We have a limited number of slots for this training, which is targeted towards beginner TVR's, so if you are interested, please contact me at 541-440-1271 or email me terry.bentley@va.gov. Slots are available on a first come/first serve basis. TVR's would have to travel on their own travel funds, however, there is no cost for the training. TVRs work closely with all agencies in the community to help Veterans obtain needed services to information and assistance completing paperwork for healthcare enrollment, claims benefits, education benefits, and home loan benefits.



American Indian Veterans Association – State Conference

The American Indian Veterans Association will be hosting their state conference from September 17-20, 2013, at the Tachi Palace (17225 Jersey Ave.) in Lemoore, CA 93245. You can book room reservations at (559) 924-7751. For more information, call Jesse at 559-736-6049 or email him at jessahumadajr@gmail.com



Native Veterans Summit – Grand Ronde

On July 9-12, 2013, Grand Ronde and the Native Wellness Institute will be hosting an event for Native Veterans. For more information, click [here](#) to see the flyer and to register online. Meals will be provided and it is free to all veterans, families of Veterans, and service providers. Lodging arrangements can be made for Spirit Mountain Casino and Resort by calling 503-879-2350. It will be a drug and alcohol free event and will include: workshops; talking circles; AA meetings; health/dental care; veteran benefit information and coordination; a healing village; and traditional games.

2013 Ceremonial Honor Dance and Blessing – VA Long Beach, 5901 E. 7th St. Long Beach, CA



This event will honor all veterans and their families through an intertribal Gourd Dance Ceremony and Blessing. Guest Speakers will be: Ms. Eleanor McDaniel (President of Women Veterans of Oklahoma Lawton Fort Sill Chapter, Director of Native American Cultural Studies (NACS) Program; Ms. Dorothy WhiteHorse DeLaune, Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma Storyteller, Singer, Historian, Friend; Tommy SpottedBird, USMC Veteran. It is open to the public – for more information, call Pershing Yeahquo at 405-274-2426

Southern Plains and Southeast Region

Homeless Veterans Stand Down



Oklahoma City VA will be hosting a Stand Down on May 17, 2013 from 8:00-4:00 at 704 SW D. Avenue, Lawton, OK. Breakfast is at 6:30 and lunch at 11:30. They will be offering: Meals; Clothing; Haircuts; Toiletries; Shelter Assistance; Housing Assistance Veterans Benefits Assistance; Employment Assistance; Dental Screening; Medical Screening/Referral; Mental Health treatment information; Substance abuse treatment information; Oklahoma DHS assistance; IRS; Legal assistance; Child Support assistance. For more info, call Tammy at 580-678-0232 or Dave at 405-456-3195



Native American Veterans Stand Down, Shawnee, OK

On Thursday, June 27, there will be an intertribal stand down at the Gordon Cooper Technology center, One John C. Bruton Blvd. in Shawnee, OK for homeless Native American Veterans or those in overcrowded situations. Breakfast (6:30) and lunch (11:30) will be served and the event will run from 8:00-4:00

Services provided: Help with accessing VA; Benefits & services; Housing assistance for homeless or overcrowded Veterans; Counseling & substance abuse referrals; Emergency shelter & other social services; Legal services; Health screening; Employment services; Haircuts. Giveaway items will include: Personal care products; Clothing; Surplus items, blankets, boots, etc; Breakfast and lunch; Pick-up locations available. Please bring ID (VA card or DD14) is available

Collaboration of services for homeless Native American Veterans within a 50 mile radius. First ever collaboration of services between 7 Tribal Nations, VA, State Office of Department of Veterans Affairs, HUD, and local communities. This will also be the first time the Oklahoma Homeless Program has done a homeless stand down an area closer to the rural homeless veteran population.



Oklahoma City Diversion Court Program and Tulsa Veteran Court Program

June 5-6, 2013, 26th Annual Oklahoma Sovereignty Symposium: Skirvin-Hilton Hotel, presented by the Oklahoma Supreme Court, Indian Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the University of Tulsa College of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, Oklahoma City University School of Law and the Sovereignty Symposium. VA will be presenting on the Oklahoma City Diversion Court Program and the Tulsa Veteran Court Program. Registration and event information at www.thesovereigntysymposium.com

National Indian Health Board



The Red Feather Of Hope And Healing

National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Public Health Summit, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel, Hollywood, FL June 17-19, 2013

VA will be presenting at the Summit. The tentative agenda will include information on Tele-health, Mental Health and the VA-IHS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). You can find registration and event information at www.nihb.org



Statewide (OK) Education Seminar: Ethical Dilemmas in Meeting Mental Health Care Needs and Cultural Competency in Oklahoma City – May 31, 2013

The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is hosting this event, which is open to state employees as well as the public. Upon completion of the training, you will receive 3 Ethics hours and 3 CEU hours. This series will be held on Friday, **May 31, 2012** at the ODMHSAS Training Institute-Shepherd Mall located at 2401 N.W. 23rd Street, Suite 1F, OKC, OK. 73107. For more information, call Human Resources at 405-522-8300



Understanding and Reducing Behavioral Health Disparities Webinar (OK) – May 30, 2013

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) will be providing this free webinar, which will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2013 from 1:00-2:30 PM (CST). The webinar will provide an overview of the causes and impacts of health disparities and will discuss strategies to increase the availability of culturally-competent care for under-served groups. In addition to discussing disparities in behavioral health, they will also touch on linkage with efforts to enhance broader health equity. To register, visit the website by clicking [here](#). To Register, please visit the site by clicking [here](#).

Central and Northeast Region

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Job Vacancies



Teacher/Cannon Ball Center, 0-5 Programs; Early Head Start Teacher, 0-5 Programs; Assistant Cook, Fort Yates A/B Center, 0-5 Programs; Custodian/Maintenance I; Contract Representative/Property & Vehicle Insurance Coordinator; Director – Tribal Roads Maintenance Department; Director – Tribal Transportation Planning Department; Director – Child Protection Services. Visit www.standingrock.org for online employment application and instructions - P.O. Box D Fort Yates, ND 58538 Phone (701) 854-3826 Fax (701) 854-8533

Southwest Region



On June 19-20, 2013, VA's Office of Tribal Government Relations will host the Southwest Region Veterans Benefits Summit for tribal leaders, Veterans, Veterans Service Providers, and Tribal Health Directors, in Tuba City, Arizona at the Moenkopi Legacy Inn, an enterprise of the Moenkopi Village Development corporation, on the Hopi Reservation. This Summit provides an opportunity to network with and hear updates from VA leadership and subject matter experts, share best practices and network with others who serve Veterans in Indian Country. More than twenty speakers and program representatives will impart information that serves as an education session on VA benefits and services. For more info, please visit the website at www.va.gov/tribalgovernment. If you have questions regarding this upcoming Summit, please contact LoRae HoMana Pawiki, Tribal Government Specialist – Southwest Region, at Lorae.Pawiki@va.gov or 928-776-5306.