

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations



Quarterly Board Meeting

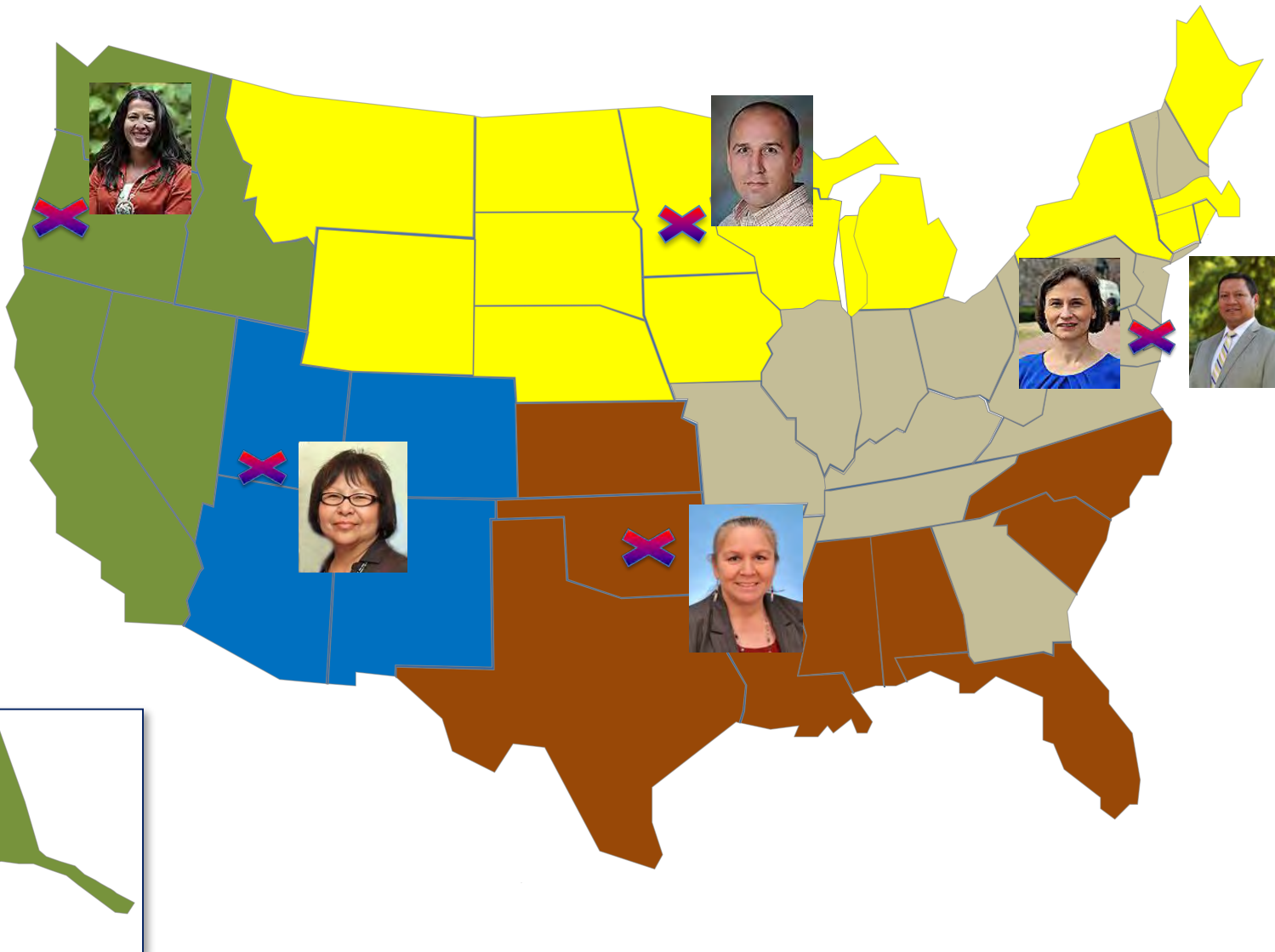
Swinomish Casino Resort

April 16, 2019





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Our Administrations



Where are VA facilities?

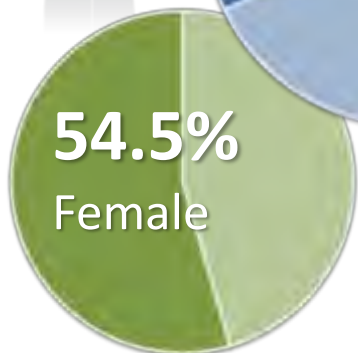
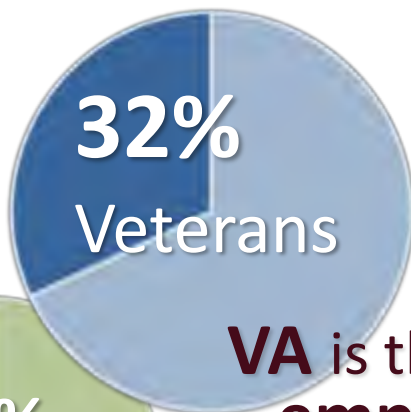
- United States
- Puerto Rico
- American Samoa
- Guam
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Philippines



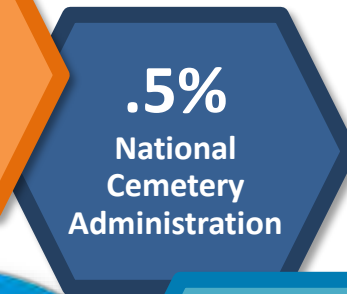
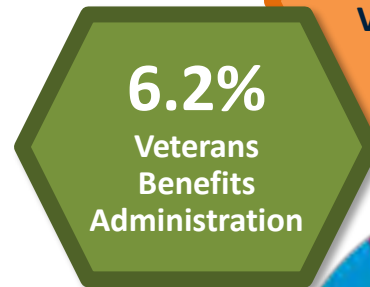
Who We Are



356K
EMPLOYEES



VA is the largest employer of Veterans worldwide



VA is the second largest federal agency



PROJECTED U.S. VETERAN POPULATION
22.2 MILLION



VA Secretary's Five Priorities - VA's Strategic Framework

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1. Greater Choice

- Redesign the 40/30 Rule
- Build a High Performing Integrated Network of Care
- Empower Veterans Through Transparency of Information

2. Modernize Systems

- Infrastructure Improvements and Streamlining
- EMR Interoperability and IT Modernization

3. Focus Resources

- Strengthening Foundational Services in VA
- VA/DoD/Community Coordination
- Deliver on Accountability and Effective Management Practices

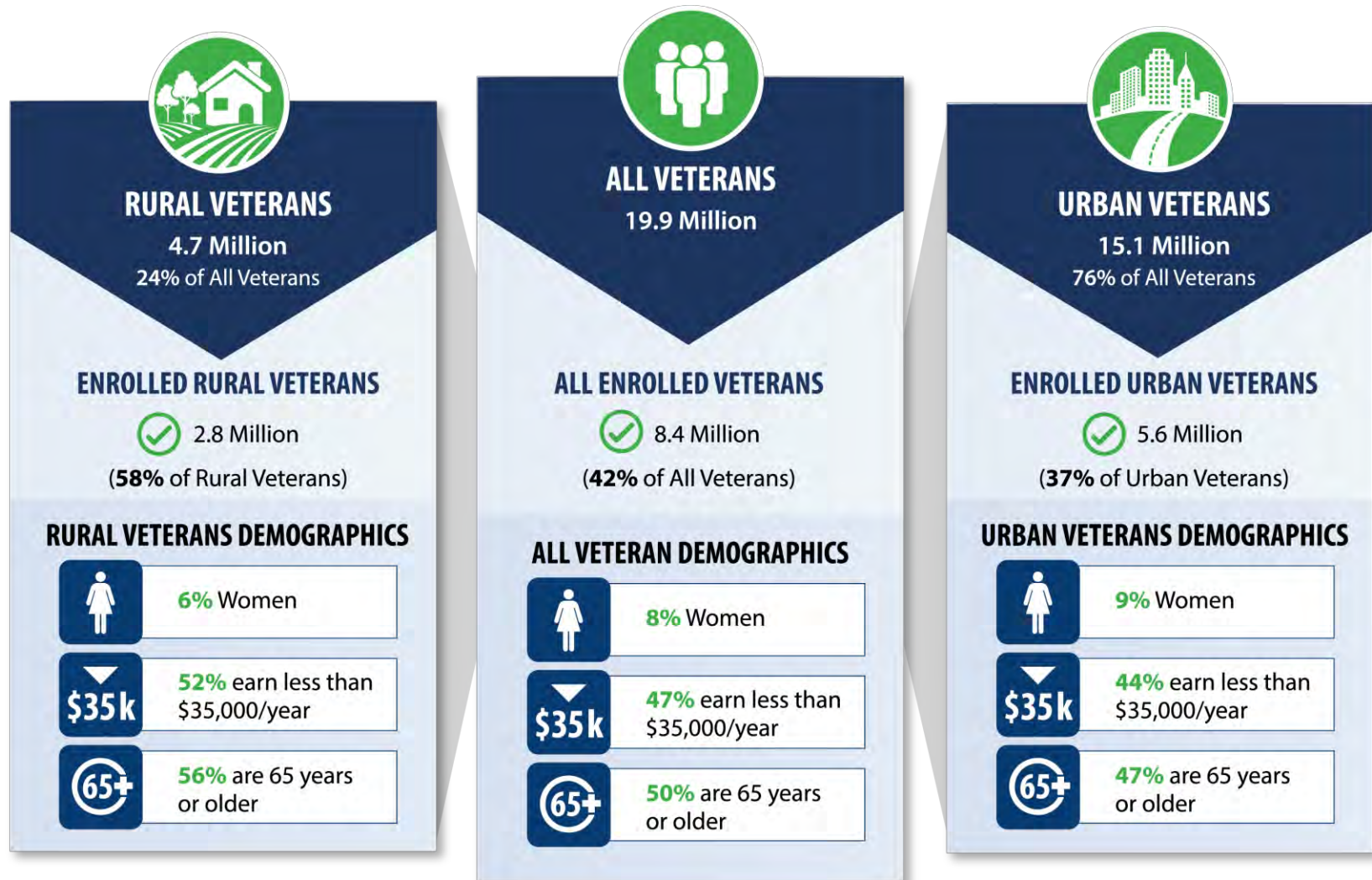
4. Improve Timeliness

- Access to Care and Wait Times
- Decisions on Appeals
- Performance on Disability Claims

5. Suicide Prevention

- Getting to Zero

snapshot of rural & urban veterans³



Data are FY 2017 VA Internal Data Sources, US Census Bureau and VHA Survey of Enrollees



Washington

Data Source End of FY 2018/Start of FY 2019 Current Enrollment with status of verified



Alaska

Data Source End of FY 2018/Start of FY 2019 Current Enrollment with status of verified



Idaho

Data Source End of FY 2018/Start of FY 2019 Current Enrollment with status of verified



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2019 Dear Tribal Leader Letters Forthcoming

- Section 106B of the MISSION Act includes a requirement for consultation with tribal government stakeholders (in addition to heads of other federal agencies, states, members of Congress, veteran service organizations, private sector representatives, academics and other policy experts). VA Deputy Secretary Jim Byrne will be releasing a DTLL seeking input from tribes regarding VA care within the next 60 days (estimated)
- The VHA Office of Community Care will be releasing a DTLL seeking tribal representatives to participate in a workgroup focused on a number of issues regarding the Reimbursement Agreement program, including care coordination. The VHA Undersecretary for Community Care, Dr. Kameron Matthews will be the signatory to this letter.



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FY2019 VA Leadership & Tribal Engagement

- November 2018 – SECVA visit to Chickasaw Nation, Oklahoma, OK
- October 2018 - SECVA site visit to Alaska Federation of Native Convention, Anchorage, AK

Access to Care

- Since FY2012 to date, VA IHS and VA THP Reimbursement Agreements provided \$92M in reimbursement for care of 10,220 VHA enrolled American Indian Veterans

Access to Medication

- In FY2018, VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy Program (CMOP) processed 840,109 prescriptions, 11% increase from FY2017. Since its inception in FY2010, CMOP has processed more than 3.6M prescriptions for VA-IHS patients



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VA OTGR & VBA Claims Clinics

- FY2018 collaborated with 24 tribal governments to facilitate 32 claims clinic events
- Estimated 1,100 Veterans served and 730 claims submitted for VA benefits
- More are planned for FY2019 across Indian Country

Housing Assistance Tribal HUD VASH

- Tribal HUD VASH program increased tribal engagement in FY18 from 23 to 26 tribes that used the program to find homes for Veterans, as a result the program found homes for 130 American Indian Veterans

FY2019 Elders/Seniors Programs

- OTGR team to engage with tribal elders/seniors programs as part of our FY2019 performance plan



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FY2019 Urban Indian Health Programs

- OTGR team to engage with Urban Indian Health Programs as part of FY2019 performance plan

2016 Tribal Consultation-Top 5 Priorities in Indian Country

- 1) Access to Medical Care; 2) Addressing housing/homelessness; 3) Treatment for PTSD and Mental Health; 4) Understanding benefits, including families; 5) Transportation

OTGR Publications

- Quarterly OTGR Newsletter; VA/OTGR Executive Summary Report; VA/OTGR Tribal Consultation Reports; A Guide for Tribal Justice Systems; VA Tribal Consultation Policy; VA Tribal Consultation Policy; VA Tribal Consultation Handbook; VA Report: American Indian and Alaska Native Servicemembers and Veterans



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VA Tribal Veterans Advisory Committee Act of 2019

- Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Tom Udall (D-NM), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) are teaming up to improve the VA's outreach, health care and benefits for Native American Veterans. The Senators introduced the bipartisan VA Tribal Advisory Committee Act to establish a VA Advisory Committee on Tribal and Indian Affairs. The Committee will facilitate communication and understanding between the VA and Tribal governments to better address the unique barriers Native American veterans face when accessing VA services. The VA Tribal Advisory Committee Act will establish a 15-member Committee comprised of a representative from each of the 12 regions of the Indian Health Service and three at-large Native American members. At least half of the Committee members must be veterans. The Committee will facilitate communication between the VA and Tribal governments, meet face-to-face with the VA Secretary to provide guidance on Tribal and Indian Affairs, and report to Congress its recommendations for legislation to improve Native American veterans' access to VA health care and benefits.



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PL 113-146, Veterans Access, Choice & Accountability Act Section 303 – VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program

- Establishes the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program (SELRP) which is intended to help VA attract physicians in medical specialties that the Secretary determines are difficult to recruit for or retain personnel in.
- Participants must have outstanding loan balances that were used to pay for the education that qualified them for specialty training (i.e. tuition, books, fees, reasonable living expenses).
- VA may give preference to applicants who are Veterans or will participate in residency programs in health care facilities that are: 1) located in rural areas; 2) operated by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, or the Indian Health Service; or 3) affiliated with underserved VA health care facilities.



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VA Section 303 – VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program

- No more than \$40,000 per year may be disbursed to awardees for a total of 4 years (\$160,000).
- Following specialty training, SELRP participants are required to serve as full-time VA clinical practice employees for 12 months for every \$40,000 in benefits received.



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VA Section 403 – Pilot Program on Graduate Medical Education

- Establish physician residency positions authorized under Public Law 113-146 (i.e. the Choice Act) at the following “covered facilities” through August 7, 2024:
 - 1) VA health care facilities;
 - 2) Health care facilities operated by a tribal organization;
 - 3) Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities;
 - 4) Federally qualified health centers;
 - 5) Department of Defense health care facilities;
 - 6) Other health care facilities deemed appropriate by the Secretary.



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VA Section 403 – Pilot Program on Graduate Medical Education

- Directs VA to consider physician specialty and geographic location shortages when determining the covered facilities where residents are placed.
- VA will determine clinical need by using the six factors identified in the statute.
- Place at least 100 residents in the following subcategories of covered facilities: 1) IHS facilities; 2) health care facilities run by an Indian tribe or tribal organization; or 3) those located in communities that VA designates as underserved using the criteria established in Section 401 of The MISSION Act.
- Allows VA to pay for the stipends and benefits of physician residents in the pilot program regardless of whether they provide care in a VA or non-VA “covered” setting.



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VA Section 403 – Pilot Program on Graduate Medical Education

- If new residencies are established in the pilot VA will reimburse the institution for the following costs:
 - 1) curriculum development;
 - 2) faculty recruitment and retention;
 - 3) ACGME accreditation expenses;
 - 4) the portion of faculty salaries attributable to the pilot;
 - 5) the expenses related to educating physician residents in the pilot.
- An extensive Congressional reporting requirement is mandated for the pilot
- For detailed information contact VA Office of Academic Affiliations at <http://www.va.gov/OAA/index.asp>



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- Working on 2018 VA Executive Summary Report regarding engagement with Indian Country which will specifically address the 2018 Nationwide Outreach Campaign in Indian Country for Veterans with Presumptive Disabilities – “Your Service, Our Mission: Bringing Benefits Home”
 - Impacting 1,100 Veterans and 730 claims for benefits
- VA OTGR continues to engage in Veteran focused events during 2019 across Indian Country: Veteran Summits, Regional or National Tribal Meetings (ATNI, NCAI, NIHB, NPIAHB, CRIHB), Tribal Veteran Trainings, Tribal Site Visits, Urban Indian Health Programs



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- VA OTGR is partnering with the State Departments of Veterans Affairs in many states to conduct Tribal Veteran Representative (TVR) Trainings throughout Indian Country. Several opportunities will occur in 2019
 - April 24-25, 2019, Lincoln City, OR
- VA OTGR Newsletter – are you signed up? News specific to VA in Indian Country (we're happy to share tribal announcements) – send Terry Bentley an email to sign up



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- National “I am Not Invisible Campaign” – seeking Tribal Female Veterans throughout Indian Country



I AM NOT INVISIBLE

There are over two million women Veterans, making up over 10% of the Veteran population and growing. Yet they continue to face significant barriers and challenges in accessing necessary health care and other services, while experiencing a lack of recognition. The I Am Not Invisible (IANI) project, developed in Oregon, aims to increase awareness and dialogue about women Veterans, as well as open viewers' eyes to the myriad of contributions, needs and experiences of women who have served in the military. In support of Women's History Month 2016, this virtual IANI exhibit celebrates and honors women Veterans who are still serving – all the participants are VA employees.



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Contact Info

Stephanie Birdwell - Director

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations:

StephanieElaine.Birdwell@va.gov

(202) 461-4851

Terry Bentley- Pacific District Regional Specialist

VA Office of Tribal Government Relations:

Terry.Bentley@va.gov (541) 440-1271

Website: www.va.gov/tribalgovernment