

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

VA Puget Sound
Health Care System

Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council (JAIVAC)

FACTS

The VA Puget Sound Health Care System (VAPSHCS) is dedicated to providing quality health care to all eligible Veterans. VAPSHCS respects and recognizes the tribes (federally recognized and non-recognized) as the source for the cultural and spiritual customs of their people. The existence and establishment of the Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council (JAIVAC) represents an effort to have consultation in health matters for the Native American Indians (to include Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians). The JAIVAC will make recommendations to the VAPSHCS for enhanced health care delivery to eligible Native Americans/Alaskan and Hawaiian Veterans. This council acts as liaison between the medical center and the Native American communities. JAIVAC topics include but are not limited to:

- a. Enhance communication between the VAPSHCS and Tribal Veterans Representatives (TVRs)/tribal leaders.
- b. Promote, educate and increase awareness of VAPSHCS medical center staff to the traditional cultural needs (spiritual, medical and dietary) of Indian Veteran patients and provide appropriate access to those resources.
- c. Encourage VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Indian Health Service (IHS), and Tribal Health Programs (THP), to enter into Direct Care Reimbursement Agreements.

The Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council will meet on a quarterly basis. Council members volunteer to host committee meetings at their choice of location. The Minority Veterans Program Coordinator (MVPC) or designee will facilitate the quartering meetings and ensure the agenda and minutes are prepared and distributed to all council members on a quarterly basis, in concert with the Tribal Co-chairs.

The Joint American Indian Veterans Advisory Council elects two Tribal Co-Chairs to serve a term of two (2) years. They are responsible for assisting the MVPC in preparing the meeting agendas, coordinating the presenters, maintaining the council membership, and facilitating the quarterly meetings in the absence of the MVPC or designee.

Point of Contact:

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